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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA
AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



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Xu Luning

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Address:

4 Fuxing Road Beijing China

Postcode: 100860

Tel: 83907354 83907341

Fax: 83907342

http://www.cafiu.org.cn

E-Mail: cafiu@cafiu.org.cn

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E-mail our editorial team at cafiu@cafiu.org.cn or write to us at International Understanding, 4 Fuxing Road, Beijing 100860, China.

Letters may be edited for length or content.

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Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a Community with a Shared Future

Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Summit of The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Beijing, September 5, 2024

Your Excellency President Bassirou Diomaye Faye,
Your Excellency President Mohamed Ould Cheikh
El Ghazouani, Chairperson of the African Union
(AU),
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government
and Heads of Delegation,
Your Excellency Mr. Anttonio Guterres, Secretary
General of the United Nations,
Your Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat,
Chairperson of the AU Commission
Friends and Distinguished Guests,

Blossoms in spring turn into fruits in autumn, and
a bumper harvest is the reward of hard work. In
this season of harvest, I am delighted to gather
together with so many old and new friends in
Beijing to discuss grand plans for China-Africa
friendship and cooperation in the new era. On
behalf of the Chinese government and people, I
extend a warm welcome to you all!

The friendship between China and Africa
transcends time and space, surmounts mountains
and oceans, and passes down through generations.
The founding of the Forum on China-Africa

Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000 was a milestone
in the history of China-Africa relations. Over the
past 24 years, especially in the new era, China has
advanced forward hand in hand with our African
brothers and sisters in the spirit of sincerity, real
results, amity and good faith. We stand shoulder
to shoulder with each other to firmly defend our
legitimate rights and interests as once-in-a-century
changes sweep across the world. We get stronger
and more resilient together by riding the tide of
economic globalization, delivering tangible benefits
to billions of ordinary Chinese and Africans. We
share weal and woe in fighting natural disasters
and epidemics together, creating touching stories
of China-Africa friendship. We always empathize
with and support each other, setting a stellar
example of a new type of international relations.

Thanks to nearly 70 years of tireless efforts from
both sides, the China-Africa relationship is now at
its best in history. With its future growth in mind, I
propose that bilateral relations between China and
all African countries having diplomatic ties with
China be elevated to the level of strategic relations,

and that the overall characterization of China-Africa relations be elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

Modernization is an inalienable right of all countries. But the Western approach to it has inflicted immense sufferings on developing countries. Since the end of World War II, Third World nations, represented by China and African countries, have achieved independence and development one after another, and have been endeavoring to redress the historical injustices of the modernization process. As we are about to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, we are going all out to build a great modern socialist country in all respects and pursue national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization. Africa is also awakening again, and the continent is marching in solid strides toward the modernization goals set forth in the AU's Agenda 2063. China and Africa's joint pursuit of modernization will set off a wave of modernization in the Global South, and open a new chapter in our drive for a community with a shared future for mankind.

-- We should jointly advance modernization that is just and equitable. In promoting modernization, we should not only follow the general rules, but also act in light of our national realities. China is ready to increase exchanges of governance experience with Africa, support all countries in exploring modernization paths befitting their national conditions, and help ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for all countries.

-- We should jointly advance modernization that is open and win-win. Mutually beneficial cooperation is the sunny road to the betterment of long-

term and fundamental interests of all countries. China is ready to deepen cooperation with Africa in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, trade and investment, promote exemplary, high-quality Belt and Road cooperation projects, and build together a model for the delivery of the Global Development Initiative.

-- We should jointly advance modernization that puts the people first. The ultimate goal of modernization is the free and full development of human beings. China will work vigorously with Africa to promote personnel training, poverty reduction and employment, enhance the sense of gain, happiness and security of the people in the course of modernization, and ensure that all will benefit from the process.

-- We should jointly advance modernization featuring diversity and inclusiveness. Well-balanced material and spiritual advancement is a lofty objective of modernization. China will enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges with Africa, champion mutual respect, inclusiveness and coexistence of different civilizations on our way to modernization, and strive together for more fruitful outcomes under the Global Civilization Initiative.

-- We should jointly advance modernization that is eco-friendly. Green development is a hallmark of modernization in the new era. China is ready to help Africa build "green growth engines," narrow the gap in energy accessibility, adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and jointly push for the global transition to green and low-carbon development.

-- We should jointly advance modernization underpinned by peace and security. Modernization would not be possible without a peaceful and stable environment for development. China

is ready to help Africa improve its capacity in safeguarding peace and stability independently, prioritize Africa in implementing the Global Security Initiative (GSI), promote mutual reinforcement of high-quality development and greater security, and work together with Africa to uphold world peace and stability.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

China and Africa account for one-third of the world population. Without our modernization, there will be no global modernization. In the next three years, China will work with Africa to take the following ten partnership actions for modernization to deepen China-Africa cooperation and spearhead the Global South modernization.

First, the Partnership Action for Mutual Learning among Civilizations. China is ready to work with Africa to build a platform for governance experience sharing, a China-Africa knowledge network for development, and 25 centers on China and Africa studies. We will make better use of Africa's leadership academies to cultivate talents for governance, and invite 1,000 members of African political parties to China to deepen exchanges of experience in party and state governance.

Second, the Partnership Action for Trade Prosperity. China will voluntarily and unilaterally open its market wider. We have decided to give all LDCs having diplomatic relations with China, including 33 countries in Africa, zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines. This has made China the first major developing country and the first major economy to take such a step. It will help turn China's big market into Africa's big opportunity. China will expand market access for African agricultural products, deepen cooperation with Africa in e-commerce and other areas, and launch

a "China-Africa quality enhancement program." We are prepared to enter into framework agreements on economic partnership for shared development with African countries to provide long-term, stable and predictable institutional guarantee for trade and investment between the two sides.

Third, the Partnership Action for Industrial Chain Cooperation. China will foster industry cooperation growth clusters with Africa, push forward the Pilot Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation, and launch an "African SMEs empowerment program." We will build with Africa a digital technology cooperation center and initiate 20 digital demonstration projects so as to embrace together the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation.

Fourth, the Partnership Action for Connectivity. China is prepared to carry out 30 infrastructure connectivity projects in Africa, promote together high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and put in place a China-Africa network featuring land-sea links and coordinated development. We are ready to assist in the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and deepen logistics and financial cooperation for the benefit of trans-regional development in Africa.

Fifth, the Partnership Action for Development Cooperation. China is ready to release the Joint Statement on Deepening Cooperation within the Framework of the Global Development Initiative with Africa, and implement 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects. We will replenish the China-World Bank Group Partnership Facility to boost Africa's development. We support Africa in hosting the 2026 Youth Olympic Games and the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. We will work together with Africa to deliver more fruits of development

to the two peoples.

Sixth, the Partnership Action for Health. China is ready to establish with Africa a hospitals alliance and joint medical centers. We will send 2,000 medical personnel to Africa, and launch 20 programs of health facilities and malaria treatment. We will encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa's pharmaceutical production, and continue to do what we can to help Africa with epidemic response. We support the development of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to strengthen public health capacity in all African countries.

Seventh, the Partnership Action for Agriculture and Livelihoods. China will provide Africa with RMB1 billion yuan in emergency food assistance, build 100,000 mu (about 6,670 hectares) of standardized agriculture demonstration areas in Africa, send 500 agricultural experts, and establish a China-Africa agricultural science and technology innovation alliance. We will implement 500 programs in Africa to promote community welfare. We will also encourage two-way investment for new business operations by Chinese and African companies, enable Africa to retain added value, and create at least one million jobs for Africa.

Eighth, the Partnership Action for People-to-People Exchanges. China will implement with Africa more solidly the Future of Africa-Vocational Education Cooperation Plan, establish together an engineering technology academy, and build ten Luban Workshops. We will provide 60,000 training opportunities to Africa, mainly for women and youths. We will launch with Africa a Cultural Silk Road program as well as an initiative of cooperation on innovation in radio, TV and audio and visual programs. The two sides have agreed to

designate 2026 as the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges.

Ninth, the Partnership Action for Green Development. China is ready to launch 30 clean energy projects in Africa, put in place meteorological early warning systems, and carry out cooperation in disaster prevention, mitigation and relief as well as biodiversity conservation. We will create a China-Africa forum on peaceful use of nuclear technology, establish together 30 joint laboratories, and collaborate on satellite remote sensing and lunar and deep-space exploration. All this is designed to help with green development in Africa.

Tenth, the Partnership Action for Common Security. China is ready to build with Africa a partnership for implementing the GSI, and make it a fine example of GSI cooperation. We will give Africa RMB1 billion yuan of grants in military assistance, provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa, and invite 500 young African military officers to visit China. The two sides will conduct joint military exercises, training and patrol, carry out an "action for a mine-free Africa," and jointly ensure the safety of personnel and projects.

To implement the ten partnership actions, the Chinese government will provide RMB360 billion yuan of financial support through the next three years. This breaks down into RMB210 billion yuan of credit line, RMB80 billion yuan of assistance in various forms, and at least RMB70 billion yuan of investment in Africa by Chinese companies. In addition, China will encourage and support Africa in issuing panda bonds in China to enhance our results-oriented cooperation in all areas.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

The Communist Party of China held in July the successful Third Plenary Session of its 20th Central Committee, laying out systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. This will profoundly further transform China. It will also provide new opportunities and new driving forces for African countries and for our joint pursuit of modernization.

As an African proverb goes, a friend is someone you share the path with. On the path to

modernization, no one, and no country, should be left behind. Let us rally the more than 2.8 billion Chinese and African people into a powerful force on our shared path toward modernization, promote modernization of the Global South with China-Africa modernization, and write a new magnificent chapter of development in human history. Let us join hands to bring about a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress for our world.

Thank you.

The Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum Held in Hunan Province, China

From July 24 to 26, the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum were held in Hunan. With the theme of “Work Together for New Development and Modernisation: Pooling People’s Strength to Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future”, the Forum was co-hosted by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee. Li Hongzhong, Member of the Political Bureau of the 20th CPC Central Committee and

Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, attended the opening ceremony of the Forum and delivered a keynote speech. Also present at the Forum were Shen Xiaoming, Secretary of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, Mao Weiming, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee and Governor of the People’s Government of Hunan Province, Li Mingxiang, Vice-Minister of the IDCPC, Lu Kang, Vice-Minister of the IDCPC, and Li Dianxun, Deputy Secretary of the CPC



Hunan Provincial Committee. More than 300 people including Chinese representatives from the CPC Central Committee and state organs, local governments, civil society organisations, enterprises, think tanks and media, as well as incumbent and former political figures, leaders of political parties and young political leaders, representatives of NGOs and think tanks from more than 50 African countries attended the Forum.

The opening ceremony of the Forum was presided over by Lu Kang, Vice-Minister of the IDCPC. Gelase Daniel Ndiriraye, Member of the Council of the Nobles of the CNDD-FDD and President of the National Assembly of Burundi, Mohamed Sabbari, Member of the National Council of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) and First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, Shen Xiaoming, Secretary of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, and Lu Kang, Vice-Minister of the IDCPC, delivered a speech respectively. The opening ceremony had two story-sharing sessions deliberating on the principles of China's Africa policy, namely sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith. Focusing on General Secretary Xi Jinping's reply letters to the 19th Chinese medical team dispatched to the Central African Republic and to the representatives of Kenyan students and alumni at Beijing Jiaotong University, the Sino-Congolese Friendship Primary School and the China-Equatorial Guinea Friendship Primary School, and the joint actions on nature conservation of China and Africa, the two sessions presented the true and moving stories of China-Africa friendship on the stage. The opening ceremony also released the *Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity: China-Africa People-to-People Friendly Partnership Plan (2024-*

2026), which includes 89 practical cooperation projects collected by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) from Chinese social organisations, media, think tanks and enterprises. These practical cooperation projects aim to continue to build pragmatic and effective platforms and mechanisms, implement "small and beautiful" livelihood projects, and carry out rich and colourful cultural and people-to-people exchange activities in the next three years, so as to contribute to the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

During the Forum, Briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee was held to introduce in depth to the African guests attending the Forum the major measures of the Session on further deepening reform comprehensively and promoting Chinese modernisation. .

Within the framework of the Forum, nine parallel sessions were held. Among them, five were held in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province, focusing on China-Africa People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation, International Volunteer Services, China-Africa Business Cooperation and Corporate Social Responsibility, China-Africa Media and Think Tank Exchanges as well as Cooperation on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, respectively. The other four were held in Zhangjiajie, Yiyang, Chenzhou and Loudi of Hunan Province with the themes of Charitable and Public-Interests Undertakings and China-Africa Poverty Reduction Cooperation, Youth Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Green Development and Environmental Protection and New-Type Industrialisation, respectively. In each of the parallel sessions, Chinese and overseas guests held in-depth discussions on issues of

common concern, further building consensus, enhancing exchanges and cooperation, and contributing to more fruitful results of China-Africa cooperation in various fields. During the Forum, a variety of side events were held, including experiencing intangible cultural heritages, Exhibition on China-Africa Cultural Exchanges, China-Africa Networking Event for Business & Livelihood Cooperation. These various activities were highly interactive and targeted and provided great experience, hence they were widely praised by Chinese and international guests.

African participants spoke highly of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee and the great achievements and valuable experience that the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core united and led the Chinese people in the new era to gain. They highly appreciated the principles of China's Africa policy, namely sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith, proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping and the results of practical and friendly cooperation between China and Africa in various fields. They expressed that African political parties and NGOs are willing to deepen exchanges with China, strengthen unity and cooperation, promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, enhance people-to-people connectivity, and work together to contribute to the deepening of the comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership between Africa and China and the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

CNIE has made active efforts to work with relevant authorities, social organisations, enterprises, media and think tanks in preparing for hosting the Forum, dig deeply and share stories of China-Africa friendship, contribute practical achievements to the *Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity: China-Africa People-to-People Friendly Partnership Plan (2024-2026)*. CNIE also launched the *Action Plan of Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity on International Volunteer Service* together with China Volunteer Service Federation, actively promoted the delivery of fruitful and practical cooperation results between China and Africa in various fields, and gathered strengths at the civil society level to enhance China-Africa people-to-people friendship and promote common development. China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, China Volunteer Service Federation, China Disabled Persons' Federation, China Foundation for Peace and Development, China Foundation for Rural Development, China Cultural Heritage Foundation, China Association for NGO Cooperation, All-China Environment Federation, Beijing Peaceland Foundation, Amity Foundation, the Alibaba Foundation, Beijing Health Promotion Association, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China Economic Information Service under Xinhua News Agency, China North Industries Group Corporation Limited, Star Times and other member organisations and cooperation partners of CNIE broadly participated in hosting parallel sessions and side events, actively contributing to the success of the Forum.

Pooling People's Strength to Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future: the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum Held in Hunan

Themed Work Together for New Development and Modernisation: Pooling People's Strength to Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future, the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum was held in Hunan from 24th to 26th of July. More than 300 delegates including political leaders, youth leaders, representatives of NGOs, media and think tanks from China and over 50 African countries attended the Forum. Participants renewed the traditional friendship between China and Africa, discussed China-Africa cooperation in the new era, and explored ways to contribute to the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

“Bring more opportunities for Africa-China cooperation”

Co-hosted by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, this Forum was a combination of the China-Africa People's Forum and the China-Africa Young Leaders Forum for the first time. Briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee

was held before the opening ceremony of the Forum, in a bid to elaborate the major measures adopted during the Session on further deepening reform comprehensively and advancing Chinese modernisation.

The African representatives listened carefully to the briefing of the outcomes and significance of the Session given by Vice-Minister of the IDCPC and relevant experts. They said that this meeting has drawn up a new blueprint for China's economic and social development, and is a new milestone in China's path of deepening reform, which is of great significance to both China and the world.

Obert Mpofu, Secretary General of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front told the reporter that Zimbabwe pays close attention to the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, hoping to gain a deeper understanding of how the CPC will deepen reform comprehensively and advance Chinese modernisation, and looks forward to strengthening exchanges of experience on governance with China. Mpofu believes that the policy of reform and opening up has enabled China to achieve rapid

development and brought about tremendous changes in China. "I believe that the success of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee will not only inject new impetus into China's development, but also bring more opportunities for Africa-China cooperation", said Mpfu.

Ahmed Akrimi, General Secretary of the Voice of the Republic Party in Tunisia, said that he benefited a lot from attending the Briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee. Although it was his first visit to China, he was deeply impressed by the friendliness and warm hospitality of the Chinese people. "China as a good partner of African countries has helped Africa in many fields. I wish to see more achievements in deepening political party exchanges and cooperation between Tunisia and China", said Akrimi.

"I hope to bring China's experience in reform and opening up and promoting development back to Seychelles", said Marvin Fanny, Deputy Chairman of the United Seychelles Party. He believes that China has put forward many measures to improve the basic system of ecological civilisation, the ecological governance system, and the green and low-carbon development mechanism, which can serve as significant references for Seychelles to achieve sustainable economic and social development. China has outstanding advantages in the fields of photovoltaics and electric vehicles, and enthusiastically shares experience in green development with other countries, which is conducive to jointly addressing the challenges of climate change.

"Bring Africa-China friendship into the hearts of our peoples"

During the Forum, participants conducted friendly exchanges on topics such as China-Africa people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation, international voluntary services, China-Africa business cooperation and corporate social responsibility, China-Africa media and think tank exchanges and cooperation on women, children and persons with disabilities respectively, and told stories of how China-Africa practical cooperation has benefited the people of both sides.

At the Parallel Session of China-Africa Business Cooperation and Corporate Social Responsibility, stories of China-Africa cooperation such as China and Egypt cooperating to promote the localisation of glass fibre production technology and Chinese companies assisting in building a vegetable planting training base in the Democratic Republic of Congo to "teach a man to fish" were vividly presented in the form of short plays.

In recent years, the development of China-Africa relations has entered the "fast lane". Chinese enterprises, medical institutions, public welfare organisations and other non-governmental forces have made outstanding contributions in helping African countries to improve the level of industrialisation and agricultural modernisation, improve the medical and health environment, and enhance people's livelihood and welfare.

"This Forum brings Africa-China friendship into the hearts of our peoples", said Ahmed Yacoub, Member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs. This was his first visit to China. He was impressed by China's great development achievements. "This Forum has allowed African countries to understand what is happening in China and to learn from China's experience. In the future, I hope that African countries and China can

continue to deepen exchanges and cooperation, understand the culture and history of each other, and strengthen economic and trade relations," said Yacoub.

Eric Biegon, representative of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, believes that while Africa currently needs advanced technology and experience to promote modernisation, China is a reliable partner of Africa. As a developing country, China has a clear understanding of the challenges facing Africa and can provide feasible solutions to meet the challenges. China has proposed three initiatives, namely, the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialisation, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernisation and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, in a bid to support Africa's integration and modernisation, share development experience with African countries, and meet the urgent needs of African countries.

“Promote practical cooperation between Africa and China to achieve mutual benefits and win-win results”

At the parallel session of China-Africa People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation, Algerian table tennis player Melissa Nasri competed with Chinese table tennis player Zhang Yining. When Melissa participated in the "2016 ITTF World Cadet Challenge", she received guidance from Chinese athletes and coaches and learned a lot of playing techniques. Melissa said that she hopes to further improve her technical level under the guidance of Chinese coaches so that she could use table tennis as a bridge to jointly promote friendly exchanges between the peoples of Africa and China and enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two sides.

“This Forum provides opportunities for African and Chinese people to have direct communication and exchanges, which will further promote practical cooperation between Africa and China for mutual benefits and win-win results.” Khalid Boudali, Chairperson of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union believes that there is a huge potential for cooperation between African countries and China, and strengthening people-to-people exchanges is an important part of practical cooperation between Africa and China. He hopes to enhance the synergy of the education systems and talent training between Africa and China, and African and Chinese media can also build more cooperation mechanisms to jointly tell the story of cooperation in African-Chinese people-to-people diplomacy.

“This is my first time to attend the China-Africa People's Forum. I hope to know more Chinese cooperation partners and friends through this platform”, said Alhassan Garvey, Director of Eji Health and Wellness Foundation of Ghana. He hopes that Ghana and other African countries will continue to learn from China's successful experience in eliminating absolute poverty, expand and deepen exchanges and cooperation among civil society groups for greater achievements, and further enhance the friendship between the African and Chinese people while supporting Africa's modernisation and creating more job opportunities.

“We are dedicated to report on Chinese economy, analyse how the cooperation between Nigeria and China can influence our economy, and introduce the successful experience of China's development”, said Ikenna Emewu, Editor-in-Chief of Nigerian magazine Africa-China Economy. Silence

Charumbira, Managing Editor of Africa News 24 in Lesotho, said that China has considerable investment and aid projects in Lesotho to help with local development. He looks forward to carrying out skill training and business exchanges with Chinese media and making joint efforts to improve the professional level of Lesotho media, thus contributing to enhancing mutual understanding and deepening friendship between the two

countries.

“In recent years, exchanges and cooperation between Africa and China in the fields of culture, tourism and sports have become more frequent and deep-going”, said Michel Sidibé, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. “Africa-China cooperation is full of stories of success.”

Opening Ceremony

Li Hongzhong Attended the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum

On July 25, Li Hongzhong, Member of the Political Bureau of the 20th CPC Central Committee and Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress attended the opening ceremony of the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum and delivered a keynote speech.

According to Li, under the guidance of the principles of China's Africa policy championed by General Secretary Xi Jinping featuring sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith, China and Africa have constantly deepened mutual political trust and delivered fruitful results in practical cooperation in various fields. China stands ready to work together with political parties and civil society of African countries to deepen exchanges among political parties and peoples, jointly promote solidarity, development, peace and civilisation development, thus creating a sound environment for achieving our respective development goals.

The successful convening of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee has drawn a blueprint for further deepening

reform across the board to advance Chinese modernisation. China stands ready to share experience of Chinese modernisation, level up China-Africa cooperation, and jointly implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilisation Initiative, thus making new contribution to the progress of mankind, said Li Hongzhong.

The Forum was co-hosted by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee. More than 200 people including incumbent and former political figures, leaders of political parties and youth, representatives of NGOs and think tanks from more than 50 African countries attended the Forum. The participants highly commended the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee and spoke highly of the great achievements and valuable experience that the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core led the Chinese people to gain in the new era. They said African political parties and NGOs stand ready to work with their

Chinese counterparts to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, deepen exchanges of ideas, and contribute to the building of an Africa-China community with a shared future.

During the Forum, Li Hongzhong also had a group meeting with foreign participants headed by Daniel Ndirirababwaha, President of the National Assembly of Burundi.

Remarks by Gelase Daniel Ndabirabe, Member of the Council of the Nobles of the CNDD-FDD and President of the National Assembly of Burundi



The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee is a conference of great significance and an important measure taken on the path of self-reform and self-innovation. It points out the direction for establishing a new international order in the current world. The Session comprehensively summarises China's great achievements in various aspects including political, economic and social development and how these achievements are fairly and justly distributed to every Chinese people, hence the great significance of the session's achievements. The leaders of the CPC always put the people at the centre. They can precisely grasp the current internal and external

situation, comprehensively summarise the requirements, tasks and challenges we face when we enter a brand-new era, and make clear the tasks and missions they should continue to fulfil against such a background. In other words, we believe that the achievements of the Session are by no means accidental, but conform to the objective requirements of the times. It will not only promote the development and rejuvenation of the CPC and China, but also define the development requirements of the new world and the new era.

Dear leaders of the CPC, brothers and sisters, dear African brothers, there is a proverb in my country

Burundi saying, those who share the same roots live and die together. It means that all of us share a common destiny. Not a single root of one tree should be forgotten. Especially the strongest root that first sets in the soil never forgets other tender roots as it grows. In other words, the great CPC will never forget the people from all over the African continent as it leads the great China to develop. That's because these people are still trapped in the plight of colonial oppression and are seeking to get rid of it. Therefore, we highly appreciate all the efforts made by the Chinese people and the CPC. They not only shoulder the great mission of self-reform and self-innovation, but also awaken the people of fellow developing countries. They provide reference and inspiration for other developing countries, so that these countries can advance their own rejuvenation and prosperity and establish mechanisms and systems according to their own needs.

Therefore, we as representatives from African countries gather here today to share our thoughts and views, improve our understanding and reach consensus on cooperation, which allows us to further confirm that we share the same history and the same destiny. All the African participants present today come from the same colonial era. We have all endured the same difficulties in our history. Today, who can deny that the people of the Global South experienced the same history of suffering? For this reason, we should feel more grateful to our CPC brothers. With their clear mind and profound insight, they have shared with us the experience and achievements of the great China in achieving democracy, prosperity and independent development. But we know very clearly why our CPC friends share these with us. They are not forcing these on anyone. Rather, they

are sincerely sharing their thinking and strategies as a result of their own struggle for getting out of difficulties. The African countries are experiencing the same difficulties resulting from the colonial oppression imposed on us by Western countries. Such a history will never be forgotten by the people of the Global South. Faced with such a world full of destructive values, it is difficult for our young people and young leaders to form positive and correct values. The current young generation of Africans is lost in the vortex of confusion, doubt, despair and irresponsibility, which is a huge loss for our countries and our future. Our countries should be more aware of the future challenges we will face. We should combine the strength of our generation with that of our fathers and grandfathers, and build an invincible group. This is also the vision of China and the shared vision of other developing countries.

I believe, China's great reform and achievements under the leadership of the CPC and its plans for future development are the consensus of all countries in BRICS and in the Global South. As said by our friends in the Global South, especially in China, unity is strength. So today on July 25, 2024, we as representatives from African countries gather together with our friends from the CPC to express our concerns and our determination to contribute to building a new world, a world of justice, a world of good governance, a world of democracy, a world where the resources and benefits of our planet can be shared equally. Each of our countries should be committed to win-win cooperation and to an international relationship that is humane, well-balanced and people-oriented. Of course, we are also clearly aware that there are people who still insist on the order of a unipolar and old world. They are trying their best to hinder the unremitting

efforts of our youth and people of all countries to promote the multipolar transformation of the world. Therefore, the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum should be regarded as an important and truly liberating meeting for the entire African Continent and the Global South at large. We believe that such a forum will help us open a door to true independence for our people. Imperialism has long controlled the world by strangling the will of the people and completely destroying human development through wars. We are also very pleased to see that in response to the current global challenges, President Xi Jinping has put forward three important global initiatives that point out the direction to truly liberate the people of the Global South. Such a consensus will enable our young generation to establish relevant cooperation mechanisms to protect them from the misfortune

of our previous generation. It also allows them to unite more closely and build a better world that we have been longing for. Fellows of the Global South, the CPC's initiatives of common development that they call on us to achieve together and their commitments will lead us to a safer and more vibrant world where humanity will go back on the normal track of economic development. This is the new world order we have always been looking forward to.

As conclusion, I'd like to take this opportunity to express our best wishes. We wish the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum a complete success. Long live Africa-China cooperation. Long live world peace and multi-polarisation. Thank you.

Remarks of Mohamed Sabbari, Member of the National Council of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) and First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco



Africa and China boast close and long-standing relations. The Africa-China relations are the most important state-to-state relations in the new era. Over the past few decades, African countries and China have realised robust development. Our bilateral cooperation covers economic, political, social and other fields, playing a positive role in promoting our own development. Jointly proposed by China and African countries, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was established in 2000, which has made positive contributions to deepening cooperation, strengthening economic and trade exchanges between Africa and China, and shaping a more balanced bilateral relationship. In particular, it has played a pivotal

role in promoting human resources development, youth training and education, technology transfer, and achieving African industrialisation. FOCAC reflects the shared aspiration of African countries and China to build a sustainable and effective relationship, and the common expectation of shaping a more balanced multi-polar world system. Both sides are committed to building a multilateral, efficient and responsible partnership, responding to current challenges in security and development through partnership, and further strengthening the relationship between Africa and China on this basis. Empowering youth development is the core area of the most concern to both sides. African and Chinese youth are invaluable treasures, rich

in talent, energy and creativity. They represent the future and development momentum of our countries. Therefore, we must put the enhancement of youth capabilities at the core of our bilateral strategic partnership, stay committed to cultivating young leaders and young innovative talents, and jointly promote Africa's development.

Institutionalised frameworks as well as concrete and feasible initiatives are indispensable for deepening Africa-China cooperation. We can focus on the following aspects. FOCAC, as an important platform for Africa to conduct dialogues and implement specific projects to empower youth, has promoted the implementation of many African youth development projects since its founding, especially in the fields of education, vocational training and entrepreneurship. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), proposed by China in 2013, also plays an important role in empowering youth development. This Initiative aims to promote infrastructure construction, strengthen Africa-China connectivity, and deepen Africa-China cultural exchanges and cooperation. Confucius Institutes, which have been established in many African countries, provide Chinese language and Chinese culture experience and make important contributions to enhancing the connectivity between African and Chinese young people. Built with China's aid, vocational skills training centres such as the Mohammed VI Technical Skill Study Centre in Morocco provide training programmes for young people in various fields including aerospace and renewable energy. Held every two years, the China-Africa Young Leaders Forum brings together young leaders from Africa and China to discuss opportunities and challenges and strengthens the African youth cooperation network. As an emerging country in

North Africa, Morocco has played an important role in deepening Africa-China cooperation and strategic partnership. During his historic visit to China in May 2016, King Mohammed VI of Morocco and President Xi Jinping jointly announced the establishment of Morocco-China strategic partnership, which has yielded fruitful results. China has become Morocco's largest trading partner in Asia. Currently, Morocco is implementing an initiative King Mohammed VI proposed for Western Atlantic countries and Sahel countries, and is actively connecting the initiative with China's BRI, so as to build it into a multilateral strategic initiative.

We are very proud of the long-term and stable development of Morocco-China relations and look forward to further expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation to cover more emerging industries and high value-added industries. At present, the Mohammed VI Tangier Tech City project is making steady progress and moving forward to a promising future. Upholding the spirit of mutual trust, Morocco and China have set an excellent example of jointly dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. A COVID-19 vaccine canning production plant was established in Morocco in cooperation with China National Pharmaceutical Group. In this regard, Morocco highly appreciates the important achievements made by FOCAC since its establishment in 2000. Our two sides should work together to further enrich the connotation of the Forum and make it a significant platform for promoting strategic cooperation. We should uphold the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, follow the consensus of cooperation, and safeguard the common interest of the two countries under the premise of mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity. On this basis,

Morocco firmly adheres to the one-China principle, a stance that is fundamental and clear. At the same time, we are very proud of the fact that Morocco is also a model of Africa-China cooperation in empowering young people. Thanks to the cooperation between the two countries, Moroccan young people have gained many opportunities for growth in the process of national development and benefited from the cooperation between the two countries. For example, many Moroccan young people have received scholarships from China to participate in exchange programmes. China also encourages young people to set up innovative enterprises in Morocco, which helps diversify Morocco's economy and creates more job opportunities. At the same time, China also encourages cultural and sports exchanges. Africa-China cooperation helps Moroccan young people better understand Chinese culture and serves as a bridge of friendship and cooperation with Chinese friends. The results of cooperation between Africa and China are pragmatic and far-reaching, greatly benefiting the younger generation of our two countries. Both sides should continue to increase investment in human resources training and teach young people to better cope with the challenges of the 21st century. Meanwhile, although Africa-China cooperation has achieved remarkable results, it still faces some challenges that require us to pay more attention to. The details are as follows:

Vocational training should better meet the needs

of the labour market. We should advance the partnership between vocational schools and employers to ensure that trainees can learn practical skills and apply them in their work. We should especially strengthen digital, technical and skill training to help young people master the basic skills required for the development of the digital economy, and encourage lifelong learning so that young people can always keep up with the latest development in the industry. We should increase investment in youth entrepreneurship, establish a youth-specific investment fund, simplify the process of loans for small and medium-sized projects for young people, and provide more training programmes or administrative support to young entrepreneurs. We should empower young women by encouraging them to engage in various fields including education, technology, engineering, mathematics, so as to bridge the gender gap in education, and empower young women to participate in entrepreneurial plans and innovation.

To sum up, we stand ready to constantly deepen the cooperation between African countries and China in enhancing youth capacity building. Investing in youth is investing in the development of Africa and China, which will surely make positive contribution to creating a brighter future full of opportunities for both sides. Let us join hands to create a better future for African and Chinese youth! Thank you!

Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity: China-Africa People-to-People Friendly Partnership Plan (2024-2026) Released



From July 24 to 26, the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum were held in Hunan co-hosted by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee. To implement the principles of China's Africa policy featuring sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith proposed by President Xi Jinping and to promote practical cooperation between the Chinese and African people, the Opening Ceremony of the Forum released the *Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity: China-Africa People-to-People Friendly Partnership Plan (2024-2026)*. The document includes 89 representative projects

broadly collected by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) from Chinese and African civil society organisations, media, think tanks and enterprises. Focusing on important fields including youth, poverty reduction, education, technology, public health and environmental protection, these practical cooperation projects aim to continue to build pragmatic and effective platforms and mechanisms, implement "small and beautiful" livelihood projects, and carry out diversified cultural and people-to-people exchange activities in the next three years, so as to contribute to the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

Parallel Sessions

“Promoting Inter-Civilisation Exchanges for Stronger People-to-People Connectivity” China-Africa People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation Forum

On 25 July 2024, the China-Africa People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation Forum & China-Africa Cultural Exchanges Exhibition “When Oriental Charm Meets Colourful Africa” was held in Changsha, Hunan Province. As a parallel event of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum, the event was guided by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, and was hosted by China

Cultural Heritage Foundation, with an aim to deepen cultural exchanges and mutual learning between China and Africa and to promote people-to-people connectivity.

Liu Jie, Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges and President of Sichuan NGO Network for International Exchanges, Xiao Bailing, Member of the Party Leading Group and Vice-Chairperson of Hunan Provincial Committee





(Geng Jing, President of the Council of China Cultural Heritage Foundation, delivered a speech)

of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Michel Sidibé, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Temidayo Israel-Abdulai, National Youth Leader of the All Progressives Congress of Nigeria, Chen Zhenlian, Vice-Chairman of China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and Vice-President and Secretary-General of Xiling Seal Engraver's Society, and Geng Jing, President of the Council of China Cultural Heritage Foundation, attended this Forum and delivered speeches. Sha Zukang, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Geng Ying, Founding Chairperson of China Cultural Heritage Foundation delivered video speeches to congratulate the opening of the Forum.

Geng Jing on behalf of the host organisation of the Forum stated that this Forum is not only a cultural feast, but also a new starting point for the deepening of China-Africa friendship. It profoundly reflects the original intention and mission of the Foundation's purpose "Awakening, Inheritance, Protection and Promotion". We firmly believe

that cultural exchanges and mutual learning are important impetus for the progress of human civilisation, and that China and Africa have tremendous potential and broad space for cultural exchanges.

Themed on "Promoting Inter-civilisation Exchanges for Stronger People-to-People Connectivity", the Forum, focused on the exchanges and cooperation in culture, tourism, education, technology, etc. The Forum included keynote speeches by experts from universities on China-Africa overseas talent training, integration of culture and technology, and mutual learning among languages and cultures. It boasted China-Africa sports exchanges "Table Tennis Makes Dreams Come True", China-Africa cultural sofa forum "Beauty in Diversity, Beauty in Unity", case sharing of cultural exchanges between Liling City, Hunan Province and Africa in ceramics, promotion of Hunan's cultural and tourist features, and displays and discussions on media communication and integration of enterprises and schools. These activities have built a broad and in-depth cultural

exchange platform, aiming to promote friendly interactions between Chinese and African civil societies and to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

The China-Africa Cultural Exchanges Exhibition “When Oriental Charm Meets Colourful Africa”, with painting, calligraphy, photography etc. as its carriers, has promoted in-depth artistic exchanges between Chinese and African cultures. The exhibition area, centred on the themes of “China” and “Africa”, was divided into “China-Africa Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition Area” and “China-Africa Photography Exhibition Area”, with blue and red as its background colour, creating a beautiful atmosphere of Chinese style. There were abundant highlights of both exhibition areas: fifty exquisite pieces of painting and calligraphy by masters such as Geng Ying, Liu Wanming, Chen Zhenlian, etc., with profound cultural connotation and unique charm; fifty excellent photographs capturing the urban, social, cultural and natural landscapes of China and Africa, showcasing Africa’s development achievements. The specially arranged field trips brought Chinese photographers to Africa to

capture wonderful moments, adding lustre to the exhibition.

The “Oriental Charm”, as a cultural brand of China Cultural Heritage Foundation, has been carefully managed over the years with significant achievements. Multiple international cultural exchange activities in its name have been successfully held, including “Oriental Charm-Huaxia Culture India Tour” “Pakistan Tour” “the US Tour” “France Tour”. The footprints of this brand have spread across various countries and regions around the globe, which not only contributes to the deepening of mutual understanding and respect between Chinese and foreign cultures, but also helps to promote people-to-people connectivity as well as the diversity and prosperity of world culture. The successful holding of this China-Africa Cultural Exchange Exhibition “When Oriental Charm Meets Colourful Africa” once again demonstrates the Foundation’s determination to inherit and develop the splendid national culture, as well as its mission to safeguard global and Chinese cultural heritages and awaken public awareness for cultural preservation.



Cultures and civilisations become more colourful and splendid through exchanges and mutual learning. China and Africa both have long histories and profound cultural heritages. Through the exchanges and mutual learning of civilisations, we inspire each other and move forward together. The success of this China-Africa People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation Forum and

the China-Africa Cultural Exchange Exhibition will serve as a bridge to promote friendly exchanges between the peoples from China and Africa, enhance mutual understanding and friendship, and together create a more brilliant future for China-Africa cooperation.

“Volunteering for a Better Future: Enhancing International Exchanges and Cooperation on Volunteer Services to Jointly Build a Community with a Shared Future” The International Volunteer Services Forum

On 25 July, the International Volunteer Services Forum, one of the parallel sessions of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum was held in Changsha, Hunan Province. Lu Kang, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Cai Lixin, Vice-Minister of the Society Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, Wei Jianfeng, Member of the Standing Committee and Secretary of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, Joyce Banda, Former President

of Republic of Malawi, and Khalid Boudali, Chairperson of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union attended this Forum and delivered speeches.

Themed on “Volunteering for a Better Future: Enhancing International Exchanges and Cooperation on Volunteer Services to Jointly Build a Community with a Shared Future”, this Forum aims to deepen China-Africa volunteer services exchanges and cooperation through in-depth discussions and experience sharing. This Forum





also seeks to contribute volunteer efforts to foster friendship between China and Africa and build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

During the Forum, attendees from China and Africa discussed topics on enhancing international exchanges and cooperation in volunteer services. Chinese volunteer representatives shared their experiences in emergency relief, school construction, medical aid, and organising sports competitions in Africa, while their African counterparts shared stories of volunteering in China. The cast and crew of the TV series “Welcome to Milele” shared the stories of Chinese Medical Team in Africa. Relevant departments and civil society organisations introduced key achievements in international exchanges and cooperation of China-Africa volunteer service, and jointly launched

the action plan of Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity on international volunteer services.

This Forum was guided by the Society Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, hosted by the China Volunteer Service Federation, and organised by Volunteer Service Promotion Centre, China Volunteer Service Foundation, Beijing Language and Culture University, the Society Work Department of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee. Approximately 200 delegates consisting of government officials, international organisation leaders, experts, scholars, and representatives from enterprises, social organisations and media from China and African countries participated in the Forum.

“Enhancing Business Cooperation for Common Development and People’s Well-Being” China-Africa Business Cooperation and Corporate Social Responsibility Forum

On 25 July, under the auspices of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCCP), the Forum on China-Africa Business Cooperation and Corporate Social Responsibility, a parallel session of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum, was held by China North Industries Group Corporation Limited in Changsha, Hunan Province. 300 representatives from political parties, governments, enterprises and international organisations from China, Egypt, Uganda, Tanzania

and the African Union attended the Forum. They focused on the theme of “Enhancing Business Cooperation for Common Development and People’s Well-being”, and discussed the prospects of China-Africa business cooperation and social responsibilities of Chinese enterprises in Africa.

At the Opening Ceremony, Li Mingxiang, Vice-Minister of IDCCP, stated in his speech that in recent years, the China-Africa relationship has entered a fast track. Chinese enterprises, medical



institutions, and public welfare organisations have made significant contribution and achieved positive results in assisting African countries to enhance industrialisation and agricultural modernisation, simulating economic vitality, accelerating green transformation, improving medical and health management and enhancing the well-being of African people.

Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission, stated in her speech that China has maintained a long-term partnership with African countries and the African Union Commission. The joint building of China-Africa Community with a shared future reflects the common commitment of China and Africa to sustainable development, common prosperity, and good economic and cultural cooperation. The African Union is willing to continue to draw upon the experience of China, copying and sharing China's successful development experience, and hopes that both

sides can continuously deepen partnership and strengthen cooperation in the process of moving forward.

Regarding the future of China-Africa cooperation, Li believes that strengthening business cooperation is an important foundation for non-governmental forces in the joint building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, promoting common development holds the key, and improving the well-being of the people is the final goal.

Li pointed out that, China-Africa business cooperation is brimming with opportunity, and both sides should grasp the new trends, new models and new forms of industrial cooperation, upgrading the quality of China-Africa business cooperation development. Chinese enterprises should take on more responsibilities, create more long-term cooperation mechanisms, strengthen the exchanges and sharing of experiences, and inject strong momentum into building a closer community of shared interests and development



with mutual respect, mutual benefits and common development as the direction.

During the Q&A, representatives shared cases and exchanged ideas around three topics: business cooperation and common development, social responsibility and people-to-people connectivity, and health and well-being. The Forum also released the Deliverables of China-Africa Cooperation and “100 Enterprises and 1000 Villages” Blue Book: Benefits Shared with Africa by the Alliance of Chinese Business in Africa for Social Responsibilities, and signed the China-East Africa tourism alliance project, and a new batch of other China-Africa cooperation projects of culture and tourism, artificial intelligence, education, and new energy vehicles.

It is reported that focusing on local employment, green development, technological empowerment, people’s livelihoods improvement and compliant

business has become significant characteristics of Chinese enterprises in their business cooperation with Africa. According to Zhi Yulin, Deputy General Manager of China North Industries Corporation, the fulfilment of social responsibility of Chinese enterprises in Africa is not only the expectation of the African people for Chinese enterprises, but also an intrinsic need for the high-quality development of Chinese enterprises in Africa.

Currently, there are more than 3000 Chinese enterprises investing in Africa, making great contribution to African Countries’ industrialisation and improvement of African people’s livelihoods. Data show that in 2023, China-Africa trade reached a historical peak of \$282.1 billion, a year-on-year increase of 1.5%. China has maintained its position as Africa’s largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years and has become Africa’s fourth-largest source of investment.

“China and Africa: Pooling Wisdom for Better Governance”

Forum on Cooperation of China-Africa Media and Think Tank

On the afternoon of 25 July, China-Africa Media and Think Tank Exchanges Forum was held in Changsha, Hunan Province. This Forum, themed as “China and Africa: Pooling Wisdom for Better Governance”, witnessed media and think tank experts from China and Africa engaging in exchanges on topics such as “Opening a New Chapter in China-Africa Media Cooperation”, and “How Think Tank Exchanges Can Promote China-Africa Cooperation”.

As one of the parallel sessions of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum & the Seventh China-

Africa Young Leaders Forum, the China-Africa Media and Think Tank Exchanges Forum was hosted by China Economic Information Service of Xinhua News Agency and Xinhua News Agency Hunan Branch. The Forum attracted over 100 representatives from China’s mainstream media, think tanks and African think tank scholars.

Yuan Bingzhong, Vice-President and member of the Party Leading Group of Xinhua News Agency, said in his speech that, to fully leverage the favourable opportunity brought by the China Africa Economic and Trade Expo and the





pilot zone for in-depth China-Africa trade and economic cooperation, both of which are state-level platforms located in Hunan, Xinhua News Agency is working with Hunan Province in building the “China-Africa Centre for Business Cooperation and Innovation Development”. By relying on Xinhua News Agency’s advantages of its network and offices in Africa, Xinhua News Agency will empower Hunan to become a highland of reform and opening-up in the inland areas and provide support to various “going global” initiatives towards Africa.

Zhang Ming, Deputy Director-General of Department of Regional Opening-up, National Development and Reform Commission, stated at the Forum that media and think tanks are important bridges and links to enhance the people-to-people connectivity in the Belt and Road Initiative and they are crucial support for the China-Africa high-quality joint contribution of the Belt and Road Initiative.

African countries are important participants in the Belt and Road Initiative. To date, 52 African

countries and the African Union Commission have signed Belt and Road Initiative cooperation documents with China. Zhang pointed out that under the guidance of the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Africa cooperation has become increasingly close, accelerating common development in a mutually beneficial and win-win way, and setting a good example for promoting the building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.

Pan Haiping, Chairman of Xinhua News Agency’s China Economic Information Service, stated that relying on Xinhua News Agency’s global information network and “Xinhua Silk Road” – the Belt and Road comprehensive information service platform, China Economic Information Service will focus on the major needs of all parties involved in the China-Africa cooperation and carry out in-depth cooperation with more Chinese and African media and think tanks. In this regard, we will expand the circle of friends in China-Africa media and think tanks cooperation, build an information centre on China-Africa business cooperation and create a new think tank research highland on

China-Africa business cooperation.

Jiang Xiejun, President of Hunan Daily Press, stated that media exchanges are important elements of China-Africa cooperation, and a crucial platform for telling China-Africa stories and promoting China-Africa friendship. In recent years, Hunan

Daily has witnessed and recorded the rich content, fruitful outcomes and touching stories of the exchanges and cooperation between Hunan and Africa, building a more effective international communication system through diversified content creation and global communication.

“Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Development for a China-Africa Community with a Shared Future” Forum on Cooperation on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities

On 25 July, Forum on Cooperation on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, a parallel event of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum was held successfully in Changsha, Hunan Province. The Forum was guided by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, co-hosted by China Disabled Persons’ Federation and the Amity Foundation, organised by Hunan Disabled Persons’ Federation, and co-organised by Aier Eye Hospital and Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Centre. The theme of this Forum is “Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Development for a China-

Africa Community with a Shared Future”. Around 200 representatives of government departments, civil society organisations, academic research institutions, enterprises, and media from China and more than ten African countries attended the Forum. They exchanged and shared practices and experiences in the fields related to women, children and persons with disabilities, contributing to the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development for these groups and advancing China-Africa people-to-people cooperation.

Zhou Changkui, Vice-Chairman and President of the Executive Board of China Disabled Persons’



Federation, Li Jianzhong, Vice-Governor of the People's Government of Hunan Province, Li Jun, Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Qiu Zhonghui, President of the Amity Foundation, Oliver Wonekha, Ambassador of Uganda to China, and Faycal Guemaz, Member of the Central Committee of Algeria's National Liberation Front delivered speeches at the Opening Ceremony. You Liang, Vice-President of the Executive Board of China Disabled Persons' Federation, presided over the Ceremony.

Before the Opening Ceremony, children with and without disabilities jointly performed Chinese songs "Mooncake" and "Horse-riding song", as well as African song "African Alleluia", expressing their feeling of affection and closeness between Chinese and African children and the ever-lasting friendship between peoples of China and Africa, ushering in a relaxing and warm-hearted atmosphere.

A Signing Ceremony was held during the Forum, with a series of memorandums of cooperation being signed respectively between the National Paralympic Committee of China and the National Paralympic Committee of Angola, China Council of Lions Clubs and Eye Care Foundation, the Amity Foundation and Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children, which will strengthen cooperation in areas such as sports, rehabilitation and water safety. Additionally, through the Hunan Association

in Uganda, Hunan Province Association of Disabled People Rehabilitation handed over a list of material donations to the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services for Uganda.

The Forum also featured a handicraft exhibition on Chinese and Hunan stories of empowerment for women with disabilities, as well as the "Beautiful Crafts Workshop" project, which aims to increase income for disabled women through employment. Handmade items by persons with disabilities, such as knitting, embroidery, fabric art, textile printing, and button knots were displayed, receiving high praise from both Chinese and foreign guests. The image design "Youyou" by the Hunan Disabled Persons' Federation and the "Red Scarf", the first public-welfare product of Hunan "Beautiful Crafts Workshop", were also showcased at the Forum.

This is the first time that the Forum on Cooperation on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities has been established as a parallel session of the China-Africa People's Forum. The success of this Forum will further promote exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa in key areas such as education, employment and recovery for women, children and persons with disabilities. It will enhance the friendship between the peoples of China and Africa and contribute new strength to promoting the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

“Empowering Youth through Innovation and Entrepreneurship” Forum on Youth Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

On 26 July, a parallel session of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum – Forum on Youth Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship was held in Yiyang. Li Jun, Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges and former Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), Chen Jing, Secretary of the CPC Yiyang Municipal Committee, Manduwosolo Ngudle, South African National Congress Youth League Secretary-General, Zhao Bo, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Department of the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, Babacar Ndiaye, member of the National Political Bureau and Special Advisor on Youth Affairs of the Patriotes Africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'icains du Sénégal pour l (PASTEF), Jia Wenjian, President of Beijing Foreign Studies University, and Yao Yao, Secretary-General of the Alibaba Foundation, delivered speeches. Also present at the Forum was Deng Bin, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Yiyang Municipal Committee and Director-General of the

United Front Work Department of the CPC Yiyang Municipal Committee.

Li Jun stated that youth represent the future of a country. "A nation will prosper only when its young people thrive." The peaceful, robust and prosperous China and Africa will greatly promote a better future. Li noted that this Forum is an opportunity to deepen exchanges between Chinese and African youth, build a solid people-to-people foundation of China-Africa relations, and contribute to building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future. Li added that more African youth are welcome to visit China to experience the actual development of Chinese modernisation so that Chinese and African youth can enhance mutual understanding, develop friendship, strengthen cooperation, grow together through mutual learning and contribute to the shared future.

Chen Jing said in his speech that Yiyang City has been promoting innovation and entrepreneurship and empowering youth development with the

spirit of reform, openness and inclusiveness. The city has implemented a medium-and-long-term youth development plan, created Hunan's first Chinese Youth Entrepreneurship Community, and held youth innovation and entrepreneurship competitions, creating abundant opportunities for youth development. According to him, this Forum should serve as a chance to comprehensively expand mutually beneficial cooperation with African countries within the framework of China-Africa cooperation, adhering to the principle of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping. This includes expanding the scale of economic and trade investment, promoting connectivity between China-Africa youth innovation and entrepreneurship bases, and strengthening exchanges in education, healthcare and cultural fields, striving to contribute local strength to building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

Under the auspices of the IDCPC and the CPC

Hunan Provincial Committee, the Forum was co-hosted by the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the CPC Yiyang Municipal Committee, Beijing Foreign Studies University and the Alibaba Foundation with the theme of "Empowering Youth through Innovation and Entrepreneurship." More than 150 youth representatives from 23 African countries, relevant Chinese government departments, NGOs, education, technology, culture, economy, trade, and media were present at the Forum.

At the Forum, Chinese and African youth representatives engaged in discussions on topics such as "China-Africa Cooperation: Jointly Discussing Modernisation Governance", "School-Enterprise Cooperation: Promoting Economic and Social Development" and "Leading the Future: Empowering Science and Education Innovation". They shared inspiring speeches and case studies about language education empowering youth development, innovative talent cultivation models in universities, and research and practice of artificial



intelligence in precision oncology. A roundtable discussion on "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Stories: Shared Experiences of Chinese and African Youth" was also held. The Forum launched the "China-Africa Women Entrepreneurs Education Empowerment Programme" and the "Alibaba Artificial Intelligence Youth Training Programme",

and released the "China-Africa Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative". Prior to the Forum, overseas delegates visited the Yiyang Museum's intangible cultural heritage and cultural exchange exhibition and the Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Incubation Base's exchanges exhibition.

“China-Africa High-Quality and Innovation-Driven Cooperation for New-Type Industrialisation” Forum on New-Type Industrialisation

On 26 July, Forum on New-Type Industrialisation, a parallel session of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum & the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum, was successfully held in Loudi. Under the auspices of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee, this Forum was hosted by the CPC Loudi Municipal Committee. Over 100 representatives from 9

African countries, along with relevant Chinese government departments, NGOs, academic research institutions, businesses and media attended the Forum, discussing the theme "China-Africa High-Quality and Innovation-Driven Cooperation for New-Type Industrialisation" and sharing cooperation achievements while envisioning a bright future. Zou Wenhui, Secretary of the CPC Loudi Municipal Committee, addressed



the Forum.

In his address, Zou Wenhui stated that the Forum serves as a window for African countries to understand Loudi, and as a platform for Loudi to display itself to Africa. Despite the geographical distance, Loudi and African countries share strong people-to-people ties, cultural and trade connections, and have formed a collaborative development mechanism based on sister cities, utilising soccer as a bridge, and establishing platforms through cultural and sports exchanges, as well as economic and trade collaboration. He expressed his hope that African countries would continue to uphold their fine traditions and deepen economic and cultural exchanges with Loudi to solidify the foundation for friendly cooperation. He emphasised that Loudi would continue to actively promote its businesses and enterprises to "enter Africa," providing better products and services in advanced manufacturing, power engineering, and printing industry. He also urged African nations to create more favourable conditions for China-Africa cooperation, allowing more cooperative results to benefit the people in China and Africa.

The China-Africa People's Forum and the China-Africa Young Leaders Forum were both established in 2011 and till now, six sessions have been held in China and Africa, which have become major side events of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and platforms for people-to-people exchanges between China and Africa. The Forums have played an active role in promoting mutual understanding between civilisations and practical cooperation, contributing to the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future. IDCPC and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee jointly hosted the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum and the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum from July 24 to 26, 2024, with Loudi as the organiser of the parallel forum on New-type Industrialisation.

At the Forum, experts and scholars from home and abroad, along with provincial officials and business representatives, delivered keynote speeches and shared case studies on promoting China-Africa economic and trade exchanges and advancing industrialisation development in Africa.

“Join Hands for Common Development and a Brighter Future” Forum on Charitable and Public-Interests Undertakings and China-Africa Poverty Reduction Cooperation

On 26 July, Forum on Charitable and Public-Interests Undertakings and China-Africa Poverty Reduction Cooperation, a parallel session of the 7th China-Africa People’s Forum & the 7th China-Africa Young Leaders Forum, took place in Zhangjiajie. Representatives from relevant departments and organisations from China and Africa gathered to discuss the theme “Join Hands for Common Development and a Brighter Future”, sharing experiences and insights to contribute

to global poverty alleviation efforts and promote the achievement of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Expanding China-Africa Cooperation through Public Welfare Projects

Leaders from Chinese charitable projects shared experiences in building schools and poverty alleviation efforts in Africa. The story of a cup of coffee and a care package touched the hearts of



the attendees.

The care package initiative, a collaboration between Alibaba Public Welfare and China Rural Development Foundation, was launched in 2019 as part of the "International Care Package" project, where Chinese children donate gifts to their counterparts in Africa. Over five years, it has delivered gifts from "the Panda Country" to more than 1.3 million primary school students in 14 African countries.

China's poverty alleviation experiences have also taken root in Africa. Since 2011, China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) has initiated over a dozen livelihood projects, including the China-Sudan Brightness Action, disaster relief for floods in Sudan, and the construction of China-Sudan Friendship Girls' High School and China-Zambia Friendship Vocational Skills Training Classroom, "Light Up Africa", and "Happiness Fountain", with a total investment exceeding 20 million yuan (RMB).

In 2018, the Alibaba Foundation launched the African Entrepreneurs Competition, which has been held four times and attracted nearly 65,000 applicants from 54 African countries over three years.

Since 2007, China Foundation for Rural Development has been actively conducting grassroots public welfare poverty alleviation projects, investing over 114 million yuan (RMB) in funds and materials, benefiting more than 530,000 individuals.

At the Forum, quite a number of African representatives shared stories about the changes in their hometowns. Debrework Lulseged, Senior Project Officer of the Hailemariam &

Roman Foundation in Ethiopia, noted a survey showing that Ethiopian citizens have a favourable impression of China-Africa poverty alleviation efforts and expressed gratitude for China's selfless support.

Gunsham Seeborun, President of the F.A.L.C.O.N (Farmers in Agriculture, Livestock, Cooperative, Organic Network) in Mauritius, thanked China for its assistance, showcasing the results of China-Africa public welfare and poverty alleviation projects.

Exploring New Paths for Public Welfare and Poverty Alleviation, Achieving Win-Win Cooperation between China and Africa

Public welfare has become a major force in poverty alleviation in many African countries. Currently, exploring efficient, sustainable and innovative paths for China-Africa public welfare and poverty alleviation cooperation has become a key focus for both China and Africa.

"Children are our hope and our future, so poverty alleviation must start from them," said Zhao Meiling, founder of the "Silk Road Happiness" special fund of the CFPD. She noted that in April 2024, the Foundation donated resources to build "smart, green and healthy" elementary schools in 5 African countries, aiming to share the successful experience to other African nations.

Ezzeddine Jebali, President of the Tunisia-China Friendship Association, highlighted the need for a shift in poverty alleviation. He emphasised moving from simple, existing poverty alleviation relationships to cooperative and win-win partnerships. He also encouraged more international friends to visit China and understand its poverty alleviation experience.

As the host of the Forum, Zhangjiajie is well known for its tourism-based poverty alleviation model. Ou Bingbo, Director-General of the Bureau of Culture, Tourism and Sports of Zhangjiajie, shared the "Zhangjiajie Experience," explaining how, over the past 30 years, the city has employed more than 300,000 people in the tourism industry through mechanisms of mutual benefit and shared growth, creating a model of "tourism everywhere, employment at the doorstep" for poverty alleviation.

Ou expressed his hope that the Zhangjiajie Experience could assist Africa in its poverty alleviation efforts and looked forward to establishing a relationship of mutual trust and win-win cooperation in future China-Africa public

welfare and poverty alleviation initiatives.

During the Forum, the Launching Ceremony of the Democratic Republic of Congo Development Assistance Project initiated by Huayou Cobalt showcased a promising outlook for China-Africa win-win cooperation. Liu Zhenzhong, Deputy Secretary-General of the CFPD, claimed that 10 million yuan (RMB) would be invested in areas including education equity, gender equality, poverty elimination, green energy and people-to-people exchanges. He also expressed his wish to see more "ambassadors with love" to make more contribution to the continuation of friendly relations and development cooperation between China and Africa.

“Ecological Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Green Future” Forum on Green Development and Environmental Protection

On 26 July, Forum on Green Development and Environmental Protection, a parallel session of the Seventh China-Africa People’s Forum and the Seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum was held in Chenzhou, Hunan Province. Minata Samaté Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union, Maged Aboulmagd, Member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Liu Hongcai, Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and former

Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), Wu Jupei, Secretary of the CPC Chenzhou Municipal Committee, and Kan Baoyong, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Chenzhou Municipal Committee as well as Mayor of Chenzhou attended the event.

Under the theme of "Ecological Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Green Future", experts from Chinese and African think tanks shared their views on ecological environment



and sustainable development, green development and energy transition during the Forum.

Minata Samaté Cessouma said it is a great pleasure to come to this beautiful city of Chenzhou. She hoped that China and Africa would deepen their partnership through exchanges and cooperation, promote green development in an innovative way and jointly contribute to the cause of global environmental protection.

"Chenzhou is one of the most beautiful cities in the world." In his speech, Wu Jupei extended warm welcome to the African friends and guests coming from afar. He said that Chenzhou is a blessed land with beautiful landscapes, a high ground for the practice of "Two Mountains Theory", and a treasure land for green development. Adhering to the green and low-carbon development as the solution to ecological and environmental problems, Chenzhou has widened the path of transformation of "Two Mountains Theory", transformed the beautiful landscape into a development opportunity, and transformed the ecological

advantage into a development advantage. It is hoped that through this Forum, the economic and trade cooperation between Chenzhou and Africa will be further deepened and the total value of imports and exports to Africa will be increased. Chenzhou welcomes friends from all continents and looks forward to work with them towards a better future. It is hoped that through further strengthening exchanges and cooperation with all walks of life in Africa, a new bridge of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation will be built, a new picture of green development will be painted, a new future of openness and cooperation will be created.

At the Forum, an emergency capacity building plan for African countries under the new normal of climate change was released, the achievements of economic and trade cooperation between Chenzhou and Africa was displayed, and an agreement on cultural and tourist cooperation between Chenzhou and Livingston of Zambia was signed.

Side Events

Representatives from over 50 African Countries Attended the Thematic Briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Changsha

On 24 July, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee jointly held a thematic briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Changsha, mainly focusing on the major initiatives regarding further deepening reform across the board to advance Chinese modernisation. More than 200 delegates from over 50 African countries were in attendance.

The African delegates at the meeting listened attentively to the briefing on the essence and significance of the Third Plenary Session by officials from IDCPC and relevant experts. They said that this plenary session outlines a new blueprint for China's economic and social development which marks a new milestone in China's deepened reforms and holds great significance for both China and the world. The continuous advancement of





Chinese modernisation will undoubtedly bring more development opportunities and provide more references for African countries. African nations look forward to further strengthening

exchanges with CPC regarding governance experience, working together to advance modernisation efforts and jointly building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

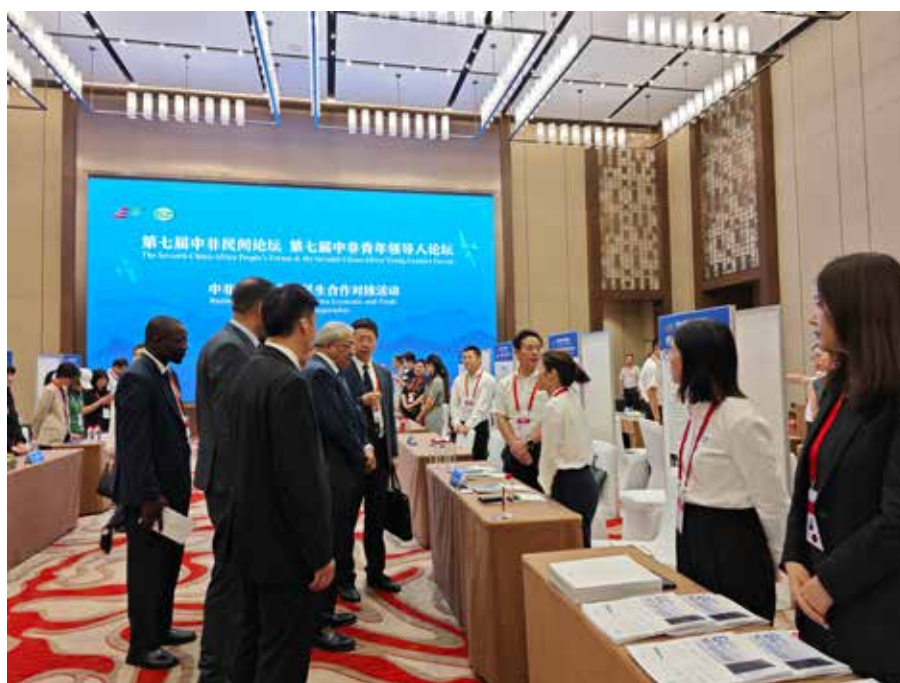
Business Matching of China-Africa Economic, Trade & Livelihood Cooperation of the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum Held in Changsha, Hunan Province

On July 24, the Business Matching of China-Africa Economic, Trade & Livelihood Cooperation of the Seventh China-Africa People's Forum was held in Changsha, Hunan Province. 50 Chinese enterprises including SANY Group, China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Co., Ltd. and Hunan Construction Investment Group set up exhibition booths to display their core products and overseas service capabilities, covering industries such as machinery

manufacturing, energy and electricity, building construction, road and bridge construction, agriculture and seed industry, information technology and e-commerce.

Confidence abound at the event

At the event, participants from African countries stopped in front of the booths to learn about the enterprises, exchange business cards, and



discuss upon the possibility of cooperation. Representatives from China and Africa gathered to conduct in-depth exchanges in the fields of economy, trade, culture and medical care, which boosted the cooperation between Hunan and Africa.

“China is a good partner of African countries who helps Africa achieve great development in many aspects. I think China is playing a leading role in industry and energy, especially renewable energy. I hope we can have more cooperation in these fields”, said Ahmed Akrimi, General Secretary of the Voice of the Republic Party in Tunisia in an interview.

Standing in front of the booth of Hunan Xiangtong Industrial Co., Ltd. showcasing local-made boxes and bags, Kenyan delegate Tembete Ekesa said, “I like these suit cases. I’ll buy one and take it back. For me, Chinese products are the best. I love them!”

Hunan Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import and Export Group Co., Ltd. displayed cashew and chili sauce from Africa. "In the process of exploring the African market, it is more important for Chinese companies to help the local people with the know-how rather than simply bringing them jobs and income. We should also bring technology, market thinking and channels and modes to build up a brand to the African people", said Wang Hui, Party Secretary and Chairman of the Group.

The Group has implemented several important industrial cooperation projects in Africa, including establishing chili base in Rwanda, importing crops such as Non-GMO soybeans, corn and sorghum, and building overseas warehouses in Kenya. It is estimated that 10 million RMB of chili will be imported from Rwanda in 2024.

Fragrance of African coffee beans all over Changsha

Along the streets in Changsha, the local coffee brand Coffee Z can be seen everywhere. The tasty coffee comes far away from Africa. “Through the platform of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, we have met many African farmers and relevant cooperation organisations, and gradually established the whole supply chain system in Africa. It is through this platform that we introduced excellent coffee beans into China”, said Jing Jianhua, founder and CEO of Hunan Coffee Z Co., Ltd. “Currently, African coffee beans account for 70% of the total consumption of this project.”

In recent years, Hunan-Africa economic and trade cooperation has surpassed mountains and rivers and started a new chapter. In 2019, China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo was held in Changsha, Hunan province. So far, this event has been held three times with 336 cooperation projects signed, which totally values \$53.3 billion. In 2020, the China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone was approved. It is one of the three strategic tasks of the China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone to build the Pilot Zone for in-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation. On June 13 this year, the China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters Building was put into use in Changsha. In less than two months, over 30 enterprises and business associations and organizations engaged in economic and trade cooperation with Africa settled down in the first phase of the project.

Coffee Z is a perfect example of win-win results in Hunan-Africa cooperation. Up to now, the brand has opened dozens of branches in eastern, southern and central China. The coffee bean farmers for the African supply chain also enjoyed

income increase and improvement of life.

Hunan medical and health industries caring for African people

In recent days, the 25th batch of China Medical Team in Sierra Leone successfully cured a local female patient. Since 1973 when the first medical team arrived in Africa, Hunan has been providing medical and health assistance to Africa for 51 years.

The angles in white from China have become envoys building up bridges of friendship between China and Africa. Beatrice Faye, Member of the Political Bureau of Pastef of Senegal, was deeply impressed by what China's medical team has done in her country. She said, "There are many elderly people in the rural area in our country who face severe health issues. It was China who provided timely assistance and allowed them to receive treatment."

Now, Arshine Group Co., Ltd. and other Hunan

medical and health enterprises are cooperating with Africa. "We are actively establishing offices in major markets in Africa. We hope to bring the products of China's health industry to Africa, so as to benefit the local people", said Long Xiaofang, Board Member and General Manager of Marketing Platform of Arshine Group.

Across the vast land of the African continent, Hunan and Africa have built up bridges of friendship. Hunan's hybrid rice and vegetable have taken root in Africa. Hunan construction companies and engineering machinery products are of great help in boosting local infrastructure industry. Looking into the future, African friends are full of expectations. Khalid Boudali, Chairperson of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union said, "There is still huge room of cooperation between China and Africa. We must strengthen communication and exchanges to meet the aspiration of African and Chinese people for a better life."

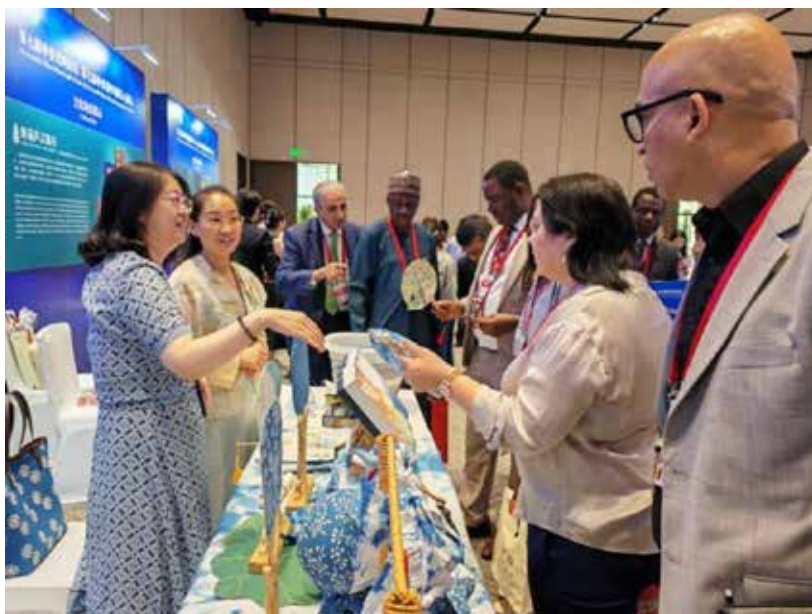
Experience the Intangible Cultural Heritage

A piece of reed, through the classifying, carving, weaving and other procedures, is magically transformed into flowers, birds, fish and insects; a fruit kernel, through the cutting, grinding, carving, polishing and other techniques, appears as various settings of life. Observing the superb intangible cultural heritage skills and exquisite handicrafts, African friends who came all the way to Changsha found it incredible and kept gasping in admiration.

From 24 to 26 July, the 7th China-Africa People's Forum and the 7th China-Africa Young Leaders

Forum were held in Changsha, Hunan Province. At the cultural exhibition held simultaneously as the side event during the Forum, 31 intangible cultural heritage projects, such as dough figurine, paper-cutting and shadow puppetry, attracted many delegates to watch and experience.

At the woodblock watermarking booth, Aroga, a Gabonese student studying in China, cheerfully learned after the Chinese master how to apply ink, place paper and press the seal. Carefully lifting up the rice paper with both hands, she now possessed





her own piece of woodblock watermarking work with both Chinese and French characters on it.

This was Aroga's first encounter with Chinese intangible cultural heritage. "These are so beautiful!" Speaking in fluent Chinese, Aroga hoped that she could bring the intangible cultural heritage works back to her country in the future to let her family and friends learn about traditional Chinese culture.

Wei Lizhong, an inheritor of the national intangible cultural heritage of woodblock watermarking, introduced the techniques to Aroga, and also learnt a few French words from Aroga. Wei Lizhong said that by focusing on cultural communication and integration, a simple piece of paper and the ink can present immersive experience of Chinese intangible cultural heritage to African friends.

Zhou Xian Yao, an intangible cultural heritage inheritor of the Hunan Liuyang chrysanthemum stone carving, also received many African friends. Although he could not speak any foreign language, he gestured with his hands while gently tapping the chrysanthemum stone with a carving knife, making a clear sound. Through this way, African friends got the subtlety of the artwork and immediately gave a

thumb up.

"Art speaks without language dialogues." Zhou Xian Yao said.

According to Zhou, more and more African institutions and enterprises purchase and collect Chinese folk art handicrafts. Some African elements have also been carved onto chrysanthemum stones, creating a link between Chinese stones and African culture.

The Forum also attracted many African media representatives, who captured the beauty of Chinese intangible cultural heritage with their lenses. Like a treasure hunter, Sirens Kalumbira, an African media delegate, wandering around the intangible cultural heritage exhibition area with his camera, was amazed by the fine Hunan embroidery and the exquisite nut carvings.

Sirens Kalumbira said that he is ready to bring back to Africa the stories of Chinese intangible cultural heritage he has covered. He hopes these fascinating intangible cultural heritage treasures will inspire curiosity and interest in China among young Africans, adding to the glory of Africa-China cultural exchanges.

The Civilisation Lecture Series on “Canal Civilisation and International Exchanges” & Youth Dialogue on Canal Civilisation Kicked Off in Shaoxing

On 22 September 2024, under the auspices of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and the World Heritage and Canal Cities Cooperation Organisation (WCCO) jointly hosted the Civilisation Lecture Series on “Canal Civilisation and International Exchanges” & Youth Dialogue on Canal Civilisation in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province. Over 100 representatives from more than 20 countries composed of renowned experts, scholars, cultural and tourist professionals, canal city representatives from China and abroad, and civil society organisations (CSOs) participated in the event.

Xu Jun, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Shaoxing Municipal Committee and Secretary of the CPC Yuecheng District Committee, delivered a welcome speech. He briefed on the local efforts, experiences and achievements in the creative transformation and innovative development of canal culture. He pointed out that deepening exchanges and cooperation with canal cities around the world would bring them closer, enhance mutual understanding, and make canal culture a truly important bridge connecting China and other

countries and facilitating communication with the world. Xu Jun expressed his expectation that by creating a series of distinctive cultural brands and tourism projects with international influence, Shaoxing would continue to polish the Grand Canal as a "golden cultural name card of the world."

Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU, noted in his speech that strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among canal civilisations would help promote understanding of different nations, countries, and social development. He hoped to further enhance historical consciousness and cultural self-confidence, vividly tell the story of the Grand Canal of China; accelerate the creative transformation and innovative development of the economic value of the canal, promote new trends, models and formats of economic and industrial cooperation to achieve high-quality economic and social development; strengthen the study of young people with different social and cultural backgrounds, deeply understand their cultural preferences and spiritual pursuits, find out the cut-in and fit-in points of canal communication, and enhance the effectiveness and depth of communication.

Ye Rizhe, Deputy Secretary-General of China Volunteer Service Federation (CVSF), believed that as a living cultural heritage, the canal not only carries a profound historical memory but also shows vitality in the new era. It is not only a symbol of material civilisation but also a bridge for ethical and cultural exchanges, facilitating multidimensional integration of science, technology, economy and culture. Today, we not only share the brilliant achievements of canal culture here but also plant seeds of understanding, friendship and cooperation, which will take root and grow vigorously in the future.

Chen Lingchun, Secretary-General of WCCO, believed that in today's world, there is an increasing consensus that strengthening exchanges, eliminating barriers, pursuing mutual benefit and win-win cooperation is the right path to a better life. We will further leverage the unique role of international CSOs, strive to hold brand activities such as the World Canal Cities Forum, extensively engage in international canal cultural exchanges and cooperation, endeavour to be the "singer" who tells the story of the protection, inheritance,

and utilisation of Chinese and foreign canals, the "walker" who serves the development, exchanges, and mutual learning of world canal cities, and the "envoy" who promotes people-to-people connectivity among world canal cities. With a more open and inclusive attitude, we will participate in global cooperation and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity among world canal cities.

Shan Jixiang, Director of the Expert Committee of the China Cultural Relics Society, Director of the Academic Committee of the Palace Museum, Honorary Chairman of Canal Walk Action Organising Committee for the World Canal Cities, made a presentation during the event. He said that since the 17th century, the Grand Canal of China has become a vibrant corridor connecting the Eastern and Western cultures. It not only transported supplies across the country to the capital but also attracted numerous foreigners who gained in-depth understanding of China through this waterway. Thanks to the canal, the economy and trade between China and the world flourished, facilitating mutual understanding





between the Chinese and Western cultures and writing a glorious chapter in the history exchanges among human civilisations. The Grand Canal is a living heritage and a flowing culture. He hoped that young people would learn and inherit the wisdom embodied in the Grand Canal.

Canal Walk Action aims to use canals as a carrier to organise activities such as canal walking, jogging, marathons, cycling, and rowing, enabling people in canal cities to better understand the canals around them, strengthen their awareness of protecting canal culture and canal ecology, and achieve the goal of harmonious coexistence between humans and canals.

Canal Walk Action Launching and Signing Ceremony was held at the event. Guests such as Cheng Hao, Chairman of the World Canal Cities Canal Walk Action Organising Committee, Zhu Yuan, Executive Deputy Secretary-General of WCCO, Gao Zhihe, Representative of Beijing Office of Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), Sun Wei, Chief Operating Officer of Xinhua News Network Corporation,

Yuan Yin, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of China Volunteer Magazine, Huang Jie, Executive Dean of the China Grand Canal Research Institute, Zhai Mo, Founder of the Zhai Mo Global Sailing Culture Centre, Wu Weiyang, Director of the Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau of Yuecheng District, Shaoxing, Yuan Xiaoyi, Deputy Director of the Culture, Sports, and Tourism Bureau of Xiangcheng District, Suzhou, and Liu Jingjing, General Manager of Nanjing Confucius Temple Cultural Tourism Group, came on stage to sign the agreement.

During the "Canals Connect the World, Youth Hearts are connected – Youth Exchanges of the Grand Canal", youth representatives from China and abroad shared their experiences of attending canal youth exchange activities. Ai Ping and Shan Jixiang awarded the Canal Youth Ambassadors.

Cheng Hao, the initiator of the event, believes that the Grand Canal is not just a river but a space. Because of the openness of the canal, the Canal Walk Action is not just for health and sports but aims to create a public cultural space for educational activities, cultural exchanges,



artistic experiences, music performances, leisure and socialising, and entrepreneurship support. In such a space, young people have the opportunity to interact with the city's culture through various forms. In the future, the Canal Walk Action will also select "The Most Beautiful Canal Walking Paths" in multiple canal cities worldwide. The integrated public cultural space with the canal as a link will promote the exchanges and understanding of canal city cultures worldwide, allowing more young

people to deeply experience and understand the canal cultures and city spirits of different places.

Follow-up activities were also held on the afternoon of September 22, including Experiencing Shaoxing—Canal Walk International Volunteer Service, tour of the Zhejiang Canal Museum, Zhejiang Canal Culture Park and Ancient Canal Towns in Shaoxing.

Speech by CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping at the Civilisation Lecture on Canal Civilisation and International Exchanges



In the harvest season of September, I am very glad to meet our guests from both home and abroad in Shaoxing, a water town in the south of the Yangtze River, to exchange our views on canal civilisation. On behalf of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, I would like to extend my sincere welcome to all the distinguished guests and express my high respect to all the Chinese and foreign representatives devoted to the protection of the canal and the international exchanges of canal civilisation.

At present, the changes of the world, times and history are unfolding in an unprecedented way, and human society is facing huge challenges. To meet common challenges and move towards a better future, we need to fully release the power of civilisation. In March 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Civilisation Initiative. The Initiative makes a sincere call for the world to enhance inter-civilisation exchanges and dialogue, and promote human progress with inclusiveness and mutual learning. Not long ago, Resolution of the Central Committee of the

Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernisation clearly pointed out that it is necessary to build a community with a shared future, champion the common values of humanity, and implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilisation Initiative. The Chinese Association for International Understanding thoroughly implements the spirit of President Xi Jinping's important instructions, and strives to build a high-end platform for civilisation dialogue, the civilisation Lecture Series, with the aim of promoting countries and people from different civilisations to inspire their ideas in exchanges, draw wisdom from dialogues, build consensus in communication, and build a community with a shared future.

Canal is a unique creation of human beings to respect, use and transform nature, which embodies extraordinary wisdom, determination and courage of human beings and the development concept of material and cultural-ethical advancement and harmony between man and nature. Strengthening the exchanges and mutual learning of canal civilisations will help to spread the ideas, values and civilisations of people from different regions and races to all directions with the canal as the carrier so as to promote people's understanding between different nationalities, countries and societies. We shall let canal become an important link to strengthen the development of state-to-state relations and people-to-people exchanges.

The Grand Canal in China is 3200 kilometers long, spanning 11 latitudes and 10 longitudes of the earth, and the East Zhejiang Canal is an important part. Shaoxing has carried out a variety of cultural tourism programmes, such as "Young People Sharing Views on Canal", the study tour of

the canal culture, in an effort to let more people know about and fall in love with the canal. World Historic and Cultural Canal Cities Cooperation Organisation (WCCO) has carried out exchanges and cooperation with nearly 100 canal cities in more than 30 countries, and held sessions of World Canal Cities Forum and World Canal Cities Expo, making important contribution to promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and enhancing communication between the peoples. The Civilisation Lecture on Canal Civilisation & Youth Dialogue on Canal Civilisation and Canal Walk Action will help to enrich the ways and connotations of Shaoxing's foreign exchanges, and also provide valuable experience for advancing cooperation among international NGOs and local governments.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

The canal is a quietly flowing history book, a magnificent contemporary painting and a bridge of hope leading to the future. Further exploring the genetic background and the value of the times contained in the canal culture can provide inspiration and opportunities for achieving the world peace and development and people's better life. Here, I would like to share with you three observations.

First, the Grand Canal embodies the fine quality of the Chinese civilisation, and it is necessary to enhance cultural self-confidence and consciousness in international exchanges. China's Grand Canal embodies the development philosophy of "putting people first", the Chinese people's sense of responsibility to the country, the inclusiveness of Chinese culture as the vast ocean accommodating all rivers and the national character of "harmony without uniformity", which

embodies the continuity, innovation, peace and inclusiveness of Chinese civilisation. Therefore, we should further enhance our historical consciousness and cultural self-confidence, vividly tell the story of the Grand Canal, and contribute to enhancing the understanding and recognition of China's history and culture, development path and civilisation concept by the international community. At the same time, it is necessary to deepen research on the cultural characteristics of canals with different cultural backgrounds, uphold an open and inclusive attitude, so as to form a strong consensus on building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Second, the lasting vitality of canal culture lies in promoting economic and social development and fully expanding its potential value. Under the new background and development conditions, it is necessary to accelerate the creative transformation and innovative development of the economic value of the canal, promote new trends, new models and new formats of economic and industrial cooperation to achieve high-quality economic and social development. Civil society organisations (CSOs), media, think tanks, universities, enterprises and other non-governmental entities should jointly give full play to their own special advantages, uphold fundamental principles and break new grounds, and extensively carry out the "Canal +" project in the fields of education, sports, tourism and international volunteer service, so as to realise the shared value of the canal culture.

Third, the future inheritance of canal culture lies in young people, and we should focus on the key group of young people. Young people are the hope of the country and the future of the nation, and they are also the new force and inheritors of Canal cultural exchanges. It is necessary to strengthen

the study of young people with different social and cultural backgrounds, deeply understand their cultural preferences and spiritual pursuits, seek for the cut-in and fit-in points of canal communication, and enhance the effectiveness and depth of communication. It is necessary to build more platforms to empower the exchanges between Chinese and foreign youth, such as Youth Dialogue on Canal Civilisation and Canal Walk Action, and pay attention to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality to keep pace with the times and enhance the appeal to young people. It is necessary to follow the characteristics of young people who are active in thinking, willing to express themselves and share their opinions, encourage young people to propose topics, enhance their sense of participation and gain, cultivate more "Canal Youth Ambassadors", and promote the sustainable and energetic exchanges of canal culture.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of China Grand Canal inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, we should conscientiously implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instruction during his inspection in Shaoxing Canal Culture Park, and carry out concrete efforts with renewed spirit. We sincerely hope that you will make friends, strengthen communication and deepen cooperation, promote the integration of different civilisations in exchanges, garnering strength for the progress of human civilisation and build a better world!

I wish this activity a complete success!

Thank you!

Canal Civilisation and International Exchanges

Laura Fincato



I extend to all the authorities present and to those who participate in this important event, my respectful greeting, my thanks for the invitation and my congratulations for the inauguration of the Canal Walk within a larger project.

I extend to you all the warmest feeling of appreciation for the initiative on behalf of Mayor of Venice Luigi Brugnaro who is also President of the Marco Polo National Committee (established by the Italian Ministry of Culture on the occasion of the seven hundredth anniversary of the death of the great Venetian), declaring that Venice will want to collaborate in the name of friendship and in the name of the historical culture of the canals.

This dialogue between those who have accepted this meeting is important to represent the desire

for mutual collaboration, to strengthen the ideas and development projects of our different realities, precisely because from knowledge, from the exchanges of information and experiences a common future can be born.

I also bring the greetings of the Marco Polo National Committee of which I am a member.

On January 8, 1324, the great Venetian Marco Polo died in Venice. He left Venice at the age of 17 with his father and his uncle and faced a journey full of dangers and wonders to go to the court of the Kublai Khan as a trusted collaborator, merchant, governor and diplomat. He narrated in his book *Il Milione* what he had seen, experienced, observed and understood.

The year 2024 is an important year for Venice, for

Italy and for China.

We have already had the opportunity to collaborate with each other on the topic of the Chinese Grand Canal and the canals of Venice and its lagoon for the first time in 2022 with a webinar that also brought us into contact with UNESCO and then on June 28, 2024 when, as Marco Polo Committee, we organised together with the Councillor for the Environment of the Municipality of Venice, an online dialogue entitled WATER.

We thank you again for the notable contribution of information and suggestions and for the coming of your mission to Venice.

We celebrated the 1600th anniversary of the founding of Venice on March 25, 2021.

The creation of the city that we know today in its historical and lagoon part was a process, a long and gradual birth, with an engineering system unique in the world, from the stilt houses to its palaces, its monuments resting on the water, to its lagoon territory that has seen interventions over the centuries to protect the city in the lagoon-sea exchange.

What we call Venice is the historical city and Venice is inside the lagoon. Venice is also an industrial part where there is the commercial and oil port and the ships travel along industrial canals inside the lagoon, canals dug in 1900. Venice is also the mainland city, Mestre, where the transport boats once arrived and now a railway bridge and a motor bridge make the modern part to join the water. Venice is a lagoon, the lagoon contains the entire city and therefore the problems of water, of daily life are enormous.

Let's also start with the different names of the canals to explain the complexity of life and also the complexity of Venice. Rio is an internal canal which is small while canal is wider; rio and canals intersect and arrive with their waters at the San Marco basin

from where the Grand Canal and the Giudecca Canal start. This second one is an industrial canal, while the Grand Canal is the one overlooked by wonderful palaces from where Marco Polo left.

The Venice lagoon is an eco-system of five hundred and fifty square kilometres and Venice is a system of hundreds of islands. The history of Venice is a history of water and civilisation, of man's commitment to coexist with a complex nature.

Venice was and still is a living city, certainly fragile but resilient, as its entire history demonstrates, and it is a city that must govern water in order to live, the water of the lagoon, into which numerous waterways of varying importance converge.

The lagoon and Venice live thanks to a complex system of canals that over the centuries have undergone modifications, hydraulic systems and interventions aimed at avoiding progressive silting up and what we see today is still working in progress to make the city and its inhabitants live, not only in safety but with respect for the needs of a modern economic-social life.

The life of the city has always taken place on and with water since the time of Marco Polo when the port was in front of San Marco and the external islands served as a defense, as a hospital, and as a warehouse for goods.

Venice is a city of water and has established, over the years, important relationships with other cities of water. Certainly we must remember the twinning with the city of Suzhou (which Marco Polo describes with 6000 stone bridges similar to the Venetian ones) and also with Yangzhou and Hangzhou.

Thanks to the presence in the same pavilion in the Urban Best Practices Area at the 2010 Shanghai Expo we made better knowledge and better friendship.

For Venice that was an important opportunity to show to the world how Venice was changing thanks to new technologies and to an increased sensitivity: with the MOSE (the system of movable dams at the port inlets which separate the lagoon from the sea) and thanks to the excavation of the internal channels, since the Italian State had made a significant sum of money available for their maintenance and rehabilitation.

There are parts of the city that still suffer from the phenomenon of high tide, a physical phenomenon that is difficult to explain but which, in its periodic occurrence (in autumn and spring) makes the life of the inhabitants complicated.

Today, compared to a very recent past (in November 2019 the tide reached 187 centimetres, threatening the ruin of the city) the MOSE has been built, a system of movable dams to defend the city and the lagoon from high waters.

Venice has been equipped with this technologically advanced system thanks to the Special Law that the Italian State recognised way back in 1973, a first organic regulation that recognises the status and specialty of Venice.

The houses of the Venetians overlook rio and canals that are the real life of Venice, dozens and of various nature, now crossed by traditional rowing boats and motorised water vehicles: the most prestigious and splendid palaces overlook the Grand Canal on both banks, but Venice is made up of hundreds of islands joined by bridges that cross the canals but today all transport is by motor.

Of course the Grand Canal and the canals on which marvellous buildings overlook attract millions of tourists every year, every year more and more (we are now at more than 30 million while the historic city has dropped to 50 thousand inhabitants) and this phenomenon that we call over-tourism generates problems that the administration faces with many difficulties: from pollution, of the water

as well as the air, to the difficulty of walking through the quite little streets, to the wave motion, to the depopulation of the inhabitants overwhelmed by tourists.

Today Venice has an economic and social development due to its role as World Capital of Culture since it hosts the most important Biennials (of Art and Architecture) at the Garden Area and at the Arsenale.

What was, at the time of Marco Polo, the place of the naval power of the Serenissima in the seas is today the place of cultural innovation, of the exchange of ideas, of welcoming new forms of participation of the world. And in addition to the Biennale - whose palace overlooks the Grand Canal - numerous public and private foundations have restored the palaces that once housed the important families of Venice, families of merchants (such as the Polos).

Today therefore the Grand Canal (which is "only" 3,800 meters long), is crossed by four bridges and is flanked by rich palaces but certainly, beyond the beauty, it is necessary to know how to see and provide for its protection and maintenance: the high water, the wave motion, the traffic, the increasingly heavy pollution require serious studies and interventions. Otherwise Venice is compromised.

Venetian universities attract students. Many foreigners come to live in Venice attracted by its beauty and daily life, with over-tourism, which forces an aging population to leave and thus loses strength and knowledge and innovative capacity.

We must be able to create a new economy through culture and the proposals of great institutions such as the Biennale, such as the Fenice, such as the theater, capable of attractiveness but above all we must put young people in condition to live in such an ancient city and make Venice alive.

The municipal administration is assisted today by numerous agencies, both public and private, that are concerned with socio-environmental degradation and actively work to monitor water quality, the cleanliness of the banks and the maintenance of bridges, and of course the Venetian universities collaborate with specific studies to find solutions.

One of the most important responses in terms of protective action was to prohibit the enormous cruise ships from transiting in the San Marco Basin, the basin from which the galleys departed at the time of Marco Polo.

The webinar in June in which we discussed the topic of the protection of water cities, environmental quality as well as the economic-social and cultural value of both the Chinese and Venetian Grand Canals, was very useful because, among the certainly great differences, there are however many affinities in the study of how to protect the quality and how to develop the realities of our canals.

I understand that the Grand Canal National Cultural Park that is being built wants to focus on ecology and on the protection and environmental recovery of what is certainly the longest canal in the world, which is a World Heritage Site and which is a vital nerve now as in the history of China, a history of culture and life for millions of people.

It is therefore necessary, for the Chinese Grand Canal as for the Venetian Grand Canal and the canals and the Venetian Lagoon, that we are able of producing a civilisation project that marries ecology with development, gradually excluding pollution, energy-consuming industries. We must all make our cities more liveable and attractive by improving the quality of life, and this means improving the waters.

Marco Polo, whose thought and story we celebrate with so many events, arrived in Beijing from Venice more than 700 years ago and got to know the Grand Canal and described it in several parts in his book.

The Chinese Grand Canal is the story of civilisation, of the construction of cities, ports, places of real life for millions of people: they are kilometres of humanity and culture. Marco Polo knew the Grand Canal of Venice as a young man and as a mature man he returned there, this time by ship, while his Venice was building the palaces and gardens that we now admire.

These two canals are the history of our past, the history of a humanity, ours, that has been able to exist and coexist and develop together with nature and at the same time transform it.

Today we must face the problem of a legacy that is at the basis of the necessary transformation. We must be worthy of this great civilisation of ours and organise the future.

In the year of Marco Polo, in the year 2024 in which Italy and China have renewed the Global Strategic Plan in the Partnership 24-27, we want to carry out initiatives that involve us in the spirit of collaboration, cooperating through understanding the problems and finding together the most appropriate ways to exchange innovative best practices: our Channels are the right elements to relaunch, in the name of culture and the environment, the historic friendship between our countries.

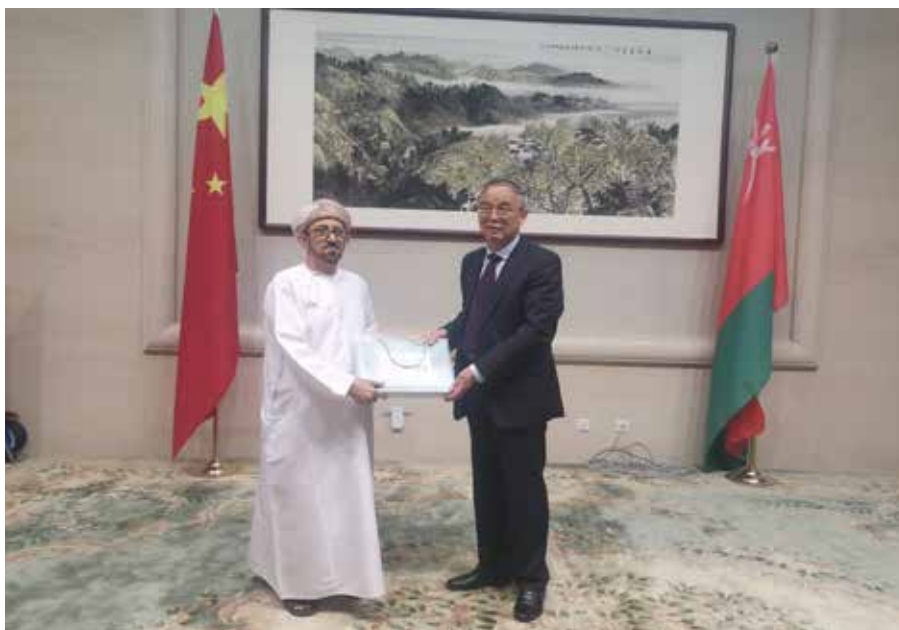
This speech was delivered by Laura Fincato, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Member of the National Committee for the 700th Anniversary of Marco Polo's Death, at the Civilisation Lecture Series.

Vice-President Ai Ping Led CAFIU Delegation to Visit Oman, Algeria and Cyprus

From June 9th to 18th, Vice-President Ai Ping led a delegation from the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) to visit Oman, Algeria, and Cyprus at the invitation of the Oman-China Friendship Association, the Algeria-China Friendship Association and the Prometheus Institute of Cyprus. During the tour, the delegation conducted in-depth discussions with political leaders, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), think tanks, media outlets, and universities from

the three countries on enhancing people-to-people connectivity and strengthening cultural exchanges and mutual learning.

In Oman, the delegation met with Hosni, Director of the Asia Pacific Department of the Foreign Ministry of Oman and Hassani, the former Minister of Information of Oman, and held symposiums with scholars from the Oman-China Friendship Association, Al-Raya Newspaper, and Sultan Qaboos University.





In Algeria, the delegation met with Hamsi, Deputy Speaker of Algerian Council of the Nation and Chairman of Algeria-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, as well as members of the group. They also engaged in discussions with NGOs, universities, media outlets and cultural institutions such as Algeria-China Friendship Association, University of Algiers II, Silk Road News, Martyrs National Museum, and National Museum of Fine Arts, and attended the "the Civilisation

Lecture Series" event held at University of Algiers II.

In Cyprus, the delegation met with Mylonas, Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Educational Affairs and Culture, and Giorgiou, Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture. They visited the Amis Club, had discussions with the Prometheus Institute, and attended the "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" Seminar for Chinese and Cypriot NGOs held at the University of Cyprus.

CAFIU and the Algeria-China Friendship Association Jointly Hosted the "Civilisation Lecture Series" Event

On June 13th, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and the Algeria-China Friendship Association jointly hosted the "Civilisation Lecture Series" event at University Abou Bekr Belkaid of Algiers II. Vice-President Ai Ping of CAFIU delivered a keynote speech. Li Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Algeria addressed the event. Debeche, President of the Algeria-China Friendship Association, along with Fadila, Fazya and other renowned scholars at University Abou

Bekr Belkaid of Algiers II, spoke on topics including the similarities between Algerian and Chinese history and culture, and the civilisational dimension in Algeria-China relations. Over 80 participants, including delegates from CAFIU, faculty and student representatives from University Abou Bekr Belkaid of Algiers II, and representatives from relevant Algerian cultural institutions, attended the event.



Delegation of American Sinologists Visits China

At the invitation of CAFIU, a 16-member delegation of American sinologists headed by Professor Thomas Gold of the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, visited China from 21 July to 2 August.

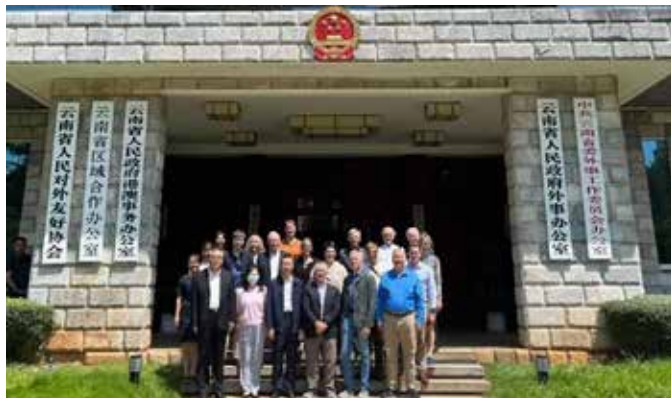
In Beijing, CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping met with the delegation and hosted a welcoming dinner for them. The delegation participated in a Symposium themed "Innovation and Development of Sinology - New Dynamics of Cultural Exchange between China and the United States", which was co-

organised by the Contemporary World Publishing House, the First Historical Archives of China and the Secretariat of CAFIU. The delegation visited the Central Main Library of the National Archives of China, the National Museum and the Palace Museum, and had a dialogue with Beijing Language and Culture University. In addition to Beijing, the delegation also visited Shandong and Yunnan. During its stay in Shandong, the delegation participated in the Symposium on "World Sinology Forum - China's Contemporary Development



from the Perspective of American Sinology" jointly organised by CAFIU and Beijing Language and Culture University in Qingdao. During its stay in Yunnan, the delegation exchanged views with

representatives of the Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Province as well as experts and scholars from Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences and colleges and universities.



Delegation of Japanese NPOs Visited China

At the invitation of CAFIU, a nine-member delegation, headed by Sen Nakata, Director of the NPO Corporation of Japan, composed by delegates from eight Japanese NGOs, including the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) and the Japan-China Workers' Exchange Association (JCWEA), visited China from 2 to 6 September.

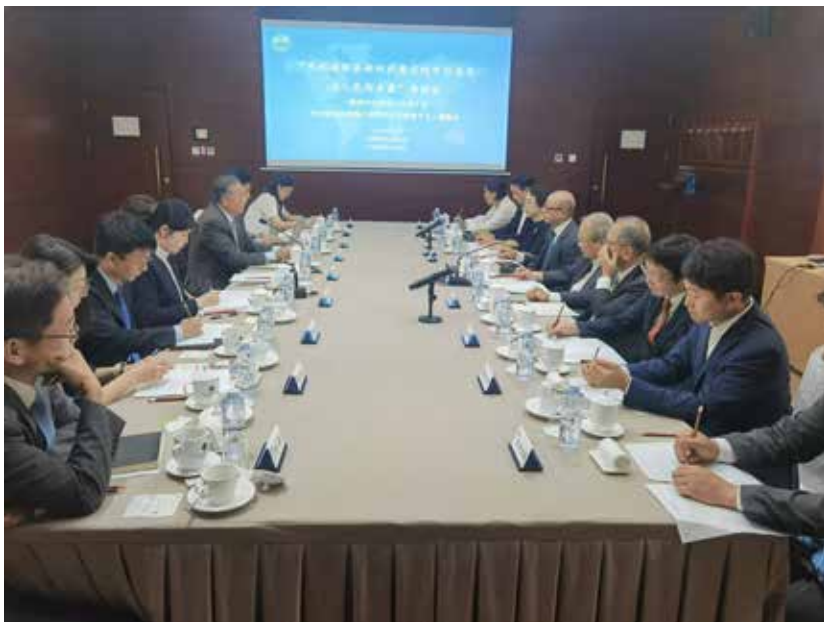
In Beijing, CAFIU Vice-President Liu Hongcai met

with the delegation and hosted a welcoming dinner for them. The delegation attended the Symposium on "Injecting People's Energy for Sino-Japanese Relations to Meet Requirements of the New Era" organised by CAFIU, and paid a visit to China International Youth Exchange Centre (CIYEC). Besides Beijing, the delegation visited Fuzhou and Quanzhou in Fujian Province and had in-



depth discussions during the tours to the Ryukyu Museum, Chunlun Beifeng Tea Plantation and Museum, Quanzhou Overseas Traffic History

Museum, Chunlun Beifeng Tea Plantation and ERKE Company.



The 6th China-US Sister Cities Summit Held in the U.S.A.

On 19 July, the 6th China-US Sister Cities Summit was co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)

and the Sister Cities International (SCI) of the US, in Tacoma, Washington, USA. The theme of the Summit was "Shared Visions for a Brighter



Future". Nearly 300 people including more than 30 provincial (state) and municipal leaders from 14 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China and 21 U.S. states attended the Summit and its side activities, among whom were President of the CPAFFC Yang Wanming, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Liaoning Provincial People's Congress Zhang Shuping, , Vice-Chairwoman of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress Peng Lin, Vice-Chairman of Shaanxi Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Li Xingwang, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in San Francisco Zhang Jianmin

and Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in US Zhou Zheng, Chairman of the Sister Cities International Carlo Capua, Director of the California State Government Operations Agency Simin Huang, Mayor of Tacoma Victoria Woodardus, Washington, Sheriff of Alameda County of California David Hobart. Xie Feng, Chinese Ambassador to the U.S, sent a congratulatory video speech. Member of the House of Representatives of Washington State Derek Kilmer and U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns sent congratulatory letters to the Summit.

The 14th Soong Ching Ling International Summer Camp Held in Beijing

From 16 to 18 July, the 14th Soong Ching Ling International Summer Camp was successfully held in Beijing. More than 400 teenagers from 9 art groups from China, the USA, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia and Seychelles participated in the summer camp. On the afternoon of 16 July, the opening ceremony of the summer camp was held

in China Soong Ching Ling Science and Culture Centre for Young People. Wu Dianwu, Deputy Secretary General of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony and announced the opening of the Camp.



Launching Event of 2024 Belt and Road Chinese Character of the Year Held in Quanzhou, Fujian Province

On 23 August, the Launching Event of the 2024 Belt and Road Chinese Character of the Year, co-sponsored by China Public Relations Association and Quanzhou Municipal Government, was held at the Maritime Silk Road Museum in Quanzhou, Fujian Province. The theme of the event was “Carry forward the spirit of Maritime Silk Road and promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations”. Guo Weimin, President of China Public Relations Association and former Deputy Director of the Information Office of the State Council of China, delivered a speech. Zhang Xu, Chairman of the World Tourism Alliance and former Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Culture and

Tourism, Xu Weize, former Vice-Chairman of Fujian Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of Fujian Rural Advancement Association, Zhang Xiaoying, Vice-President of China Public Relations Association, former President and Editor-in-Chief of the Economic Daily, Gong Gaojian, Secondary-level Inspector of the Publicity Department of CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, and Huang Wenjie, Deputy Mayor of Quanzhou Municipal Government, were also present at the event. At the event, “惠”(hui, meaning “benefit”) was announced as the 2024 Belt and Road Chinese character of the year.



2024 Annual Conference of China-Africa Consortium of Universities Exchange Mechanism Held in Beijing

On 5 September, the 2024 Annual Conference of the China-Africa Consortium of Universities Exchange Mechanism, hosted by Beijing Foreign Studies University, opened at the Beijing International Convention Centre. As a supporting activity of the 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the theme of the Conference is "China-Africa Higher Education Cooperation and Development in the

Digital Age", which aims to build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future through higher education cooperation, and to send out a strong voice for the times of the "Global South". Representatives of 35 universities from 19 African countries, including Tanzania, Nigeria and South Africa, as well as more than 50 Chinese universities attended the Conference.



