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WEEKLY EDITION

## Maiden Supply Chain Expo Presents Ample Opportunities

By Staff Reporters

The world's first national-level exhibition with a focus on supply chain kicked off in Beijing on November 28. It will end on December 2. Themed "Connecting the World for a Shared Future," the China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) is a new platform for China's high-level opening up efforts.

### Positive U.S. participation

Among the overseas exhibitors of the first CISCE, U.S. enterprises accounted for 20 percent. "The number of American enterprises participating in the exhibition is far more than expected. A number of Fortune 500 and multinational companies such as Amazon, ExxonMobil, Apple, Tesla, Intel and Qualcomm will send senior representatives to the conference," Zhang Shaogang, vice president of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), told Xinhua.

Many American companies are taking the CISCE as a place of new product launches, innovation and cooperation, and will display a series of new products, technologies and services, according to Zhang.

### About 40 BRI partner countries present

In addition to the enthusiasm of European and American enterprises, BRI partners' enterprises also account for a large proportion turning out for the supply chain expo.

Lin Shunjie, chairman of the China International Exhibition Center Group Limited, told *Beijing Business Today* the number of BRI-connected exhibitors accounts for nearly half of the total number of overseas exhibitors.

"We are not simply pursuing the amount of transactions during the expo. The main indicator to evaluate the actual effect of the expo is to see how many enterprises have established cooperation in the supply chain, whether the expo has helped improve efficiency and reduced costs for businesses," Yu Jianlong, deputy head of the CCPIT, told *China Daily*.

### Open to the public

With an exhibition area of over 100,000 square meters, the expo has dedicated spaces to supply chains for smart vehicles, green agriculture, clean energy, healthy living and digital technology.

The CISCE not only invited Chinese and foreign enterprises to participate, but also opened its doors to the public. While the first three days are dedicated to business visitors, the last two days are for general attendance.

In addition to professional supply and demand, the CISCE is also a scientific exhibition, to fully develop each chain from upper, middle and lower reaches to horizontal services, putting together the most advanced products and technologies of these enterprises to form a future industrial chain panorama, said Lin.



The China International Supply Chain Expo opens in Beijing on November 28. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

## Editor's Pick

### 5G+ BeiDou Revolutionizes Underground Navigation

By HE Liang & LIANG Yilian

While there is no doubt that the rapid advancement of navigation technology has significantly improved people's lives, navigating in underground buildings, where navigational signals are often obstructed by steel and cement, remains a major challenge.

When planning the Xiongan New Area, which sits at the center of a triangular area with Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei's capital Shijiazhuang, it was proposed to build an "underground city," including an underground parking lot of more than 22 million square meters. The accurate management of the "under-

ground city" necessitates high-precision positioning and navigation, demanding innovative, cost-effective solutions that can serve as replicable models for urban construction projects.

#### Creating opportunities for underground navigation

"We compared various existing technology solutions, and the investment cost became an insurmountable barrier," Zhang Qiang, secretary-general of Xiongan Intelligent City Innovation Federation, told *S&T Daily*.

At the beginning of the project's R&D, as the lead organization of the underground navigation technology R&D task, despite experimenting with a vari-

ety of technical possibilities, the federation struggled to find a cost-effective and efficient solution.

A breakthrough occurred when Zhang proposed utilizing existing communication facilities—specifically, 5G indoor distribution systems. These systems, represented by small mushroom-shaped antennas commonly seen at doorways, were primarily designed for indoor communication protection rather than positioning and navigation. Zhang's innovative idea involved receiving the BeiDou signal and forwarding it with the assistance of these 5G indoor distribution systems.

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## China Rises to Top 10 Innovative Countries

By LIU Yin & CHEN Chunyou

In 2023, China's comprehensive ranking of innovation capability has risen to the 10th place, up three places from 2022 — the only developing country to enter the top 15, according to the *National Innovation Index Report 2022-2023*, released by the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) on November 21.

The report selected 40 countries as the object of evaluation, which together account for more than 95 percent of the world's R&D investment and more than 85 percent of the global GDP, establishing an evaluation index system including the five aspects of innovation resources, knowledge creation, enterprise innovation, innovation performance and innovation environment.

According to the report, China's National Innovation Index score is 72.7, 1.9 points higher than that in 2022, and the gap with the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany, has further narrowed.

Xuan Zhaohui, a researcher of CASTED, said all the progress is thanks

to China's continuously increased investment in innovation resources in recent years, which leads to enhanced knowledge output capacity, and improved enterprises' innovation capacity and innovation environment.

China scored 61.1 points in terms of innovation resources, ranking 21st. In aspect of government's support for innovation, China is still among the top in the world, with innovation environment scoring 77.1, ranking 23rd, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the country's knowledge creation score is 83.7, ranking third. The number of highly cited papers in 2020 alone was 37,000, accounting for 23 percent of the world's share.

Innovation performance scored 54.5 points, ranking 17th. In 2020, China's high-tech industry exports accounted for 34 percent of the world, ranking first.

"The data shows that China's knowledge creation performance is outstanding, and the innovation ability of enterprises is constantly improving," said Xuan. "China needs to further increase the investment intensity of innovation re-

sources, deepen the reform of science and technology system, and optimize the innovation and entrepreneurship environment, in order to improve the overall performance of the national innovation system, and better support the high-quality development of the country," added Xuan.

Moreover, the report noted that the geography of global innovation has not changed much. East Asia, North America and Europe continue to lead the global innovation landscape, with a strengthened eastward innovation shift.

In addition, China's innovation capabilities significantly exceed countries at the same level of economic development, according to the report.

In terms of GDP per capita indicators, middle- and high-income countries at a similar stage of development to China include Russia, Mexico, Turkey and Argentina. China's GDP per capita is relatively low, but its overall performance in innovation capacity is much higher than that of other countries, becoming the only middle-income country with an R&D investment intensity of more than two percent, according to the report.

## International Cooperation

### Selfless Medical Teams Boost Healthcare in Developing Countries

By Staff Reporters

While a cup of red date soup soothed the agony of a wounded boy in Mali, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has helped to cure a range of diseases in Kuwait and other countries. These are among the many testimonials shared by doctors from Chinese medical teams, a humanitarian project that has been a great success for the past six decades.

China has sent more than 30,000 medical staff to 76 countries and regions around the world over a 60 year period. They have not only treated diseases with modern medicine and TCM, but also shared technology and experience with their local counterparts, trained medical teams and improved local public health conditions.

Initially, in Kuwait people were skeptical about acupuncture, as they didn't believe that inserting needles into the skin could treat disease, said Liu Chun, chief physician of the Affiliated Hospital of Changchun University of Chinese Medicine. However this scepticism was soon set aside, said Liu, as more local people became fans of TCM after seeing its success in treating common diseases and relieving pain.

Liu added that Chinese fitness methods such as Tai Chi and Ba Duan Jin have gradually also become popular among local people, who are now getting a deeper understanding of China and Chinese culture.

More importantly, Chinese medical teams have fundamentally improved local medical services by training local healthcare workers and building modern medicine institutions.

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## WEEKLY REVIEW

### Top 10 Nanotechnology Challenges Revealed

The National Center for Nanoscience and Technology, a subsidiary of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, partnered with the *Science* journal to reveal the top 10 challenges remaining in nanoscience and technology, on November 24. These challenges lie in areas such as medical practice, materials and electronics.

### Lijiang-Shangri-la Railway Opens to Traffic

A 139-km railway linking the tourism cities of Lijiang and Shangri-la in southwest China's Yunnan province opened on November 26. It has shortened the travel time between the two cities to 78 minutes.

### New Tech-experiment Satellite Launched

China sent an experiment satellite for satellite Internet technologies into orbit on November 24. The launch was the 84th mission of the Long March-2D carrier rocket.

### Second Global Digital Trade Expo Ends

The second Global Digital Trade Expo concluded in Hangzhou on November 27. The expo attracted 68 international organizations and business associations, as well as over 800 enterprises. It also saw agreements reached on 32 projects with a total value of over 155.8 billion RMB.

### Chemical Composition of Moon's Surface Revealed

Chinese scientists recently mapped the chemical composition of the moon's surface with high precision, providing key data for studying the satellite's evolution. Their research was based upon the lunar samples brought back by the Chang'e-5 spacecraft.

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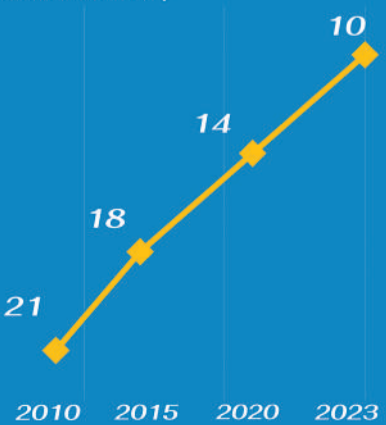
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## New Graphic

### CHINA'S RANKING IN INNOVATION 2010-2023

(compared with 40 countries whose combined R&D investment accounts for more than 95% of the world's investment; and whose combined GDP accounts for more than 85% of the world's GDP)



SOURCE: CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
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