

CIIE: Widening the Door of Opening Up

Voice of the World

By LI Linxu

The seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) saw record-breaking numbers of participants and transactions, demonstrating China's commitment to further opening up its enormous market.

As the world's first national-level expo dedicated to imports, it has attracted about 3,500 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions this year participating in the enterprise and business exhibition.

"CIIE holds immense significance for us," said Gustavo Pimenta, CEO of Vale, adding that the annual hosting of CIIE underscores China's determination to consistently promote high standard opening-up and share market opportunities with companies around the world.

Pimenta sees CIIE as an international hub for business, technological, and cultural exchanges. At this year's expo, the Brazilian mining company presented its newly established joint laboratory, exemplifying the deepening collaboration between the company and its Chinese partners.

"This year, Zeiss presented nearly 70 innovative solutions across its business segments," said Maximilian Foerst, president of Zeiss Greater China, noting that the company's journey at CIIE coincides with its remarkable growth in the country.

As one of CIIE's most dedicated exhibitors, the company deepens its understanding of the Chinese market with each participation, strengthening ties with Chinese customers along the way,



The seventh CIIE is held from November 5 to 10 in Shanghai. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

according to Foerst.

"Over the years, CIIE has not only had a profound positive impact on the global business and trade sectors but also helped reshape the industrial landscape through win-win cooperation, infusing innovative momentum into the high-quality development of various industries," said Bold Baatar, chief commercial officer of Rio Tinto. "For Rio Tinto, CIIE has helped us foster meaningful conversations and open up broader horizons for collaboration," he added.

At this year's expo, Danfoss, a Danish company, presented its products and solutions in sectors such as data centers, water and wastewater treatment.

"CIIE is an ideal platform for us to showcase our green solutions, better understand the market and its demands,

and strengthen our ties with our partners," said Xu Yang, president of Danfoss China. He believes that more market potential will be unleashed in China's green sectors as the country is accelerating its green transition.

Caterpillar, U.S. manufacturer of heavy equipment, showcased its innovative technologies, solutions and services at the event. "Many of our technologies and solutions showcased here are designed to meet the needs of Chinese customers," said Alan Yang, senior vice president of Caterpillar, viewing CIIE as a great platform to enhance the company's interaction and relationships with customers and key stakeholders.

For ASML, CIIE continuously demonstrates China's commitment to openness and collaboration. This year marks

its sixth participation in CIIE, through which the company has strengthened communication with stakeholders both inside and outside the industry.

Varian, German medical device company, is also an old friend of CIIE. Through the platform, its innovative products and technologies have been entering the Chinese market on a fast track.

"China's high-level opening up is continuously boosting our confidence in the Chinese market," said Qian Sheng-lai, president of Varian Greater China, vowing that the company will increase its investment in China and strengthen cooperation with Chinese partners.

More than 400 new products, new technologies and new services were unveiled at this year's expo, according to statistics.

Biodiversity Conservation Needs Action not Just Promises

Opinion

By TANG Zhexiao

The world's biodiversity summit, COP16, known officially as the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, concluded in Colombia's Cali on November 1.

Despite pending issues, the conference reached a broad consensus on accelerating the construction of nature reserves, strengthening the protection of endangered species, and promoting ecosystem restoration and sustainable development, which prompts the global community to further recognize the urgency and importance of biodiversity conservation.

The global biodiversity conservation situation remains grim. According to World Wildlife Fund's 2024 *Living Planet Report*, the average size of monitored wildlife populations has shrunk by 73 percent since 1970. The report warns, "To maintain a living planet where people and nature thrive, we

need action that meets the scale of the challenge."

Data released by the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in February showed that while some migratory species listed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) are improving, nearly half (44 percent) are showing population declines, and more than one-in-five (22 percent) of CMS-listed species are threatened with extinction.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said the report clearly shows that, "Unsustainable human activities are jeopardizing the future of migratory species." She called for the global community to translate this latest science advancement of the pressures facing migratory species into concrete conservation action: "We cannot afford to delay, and must work together to make the recommendations a reality."

A coalition was launched by Colombia with 20 other countries during the conference, seeking to make "peace with nature." UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres said at the opening of COP16, "Nature is life. And yet we are waging a war against it — a war in which there can be no winner." He also called on countries to implement the Kunming-Montreal Framework, which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Proposing the concept of building a shared future for all life on Earth, China has led international cooperation through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund.

In January this year, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment released the *China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030)* to outline a roadmap for biodiversity conservation in the coming years, becoming the first developing country to complete the update of its biodiversity strategy and action plan after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal framework.

Astrid Schomaker, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said that during the six years that China served as the presi-

dency of COP15, it not only vigorously promoted the conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity in its own country, but also provided important support for global cooperation through the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and other means, playing a leading role in global biodiversity conservation.

During COP16, the first batch of nine small-sum projects, supported by the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, was approved. Covering a total of 15 countries, these projects include regions in central and eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America.

The Connected Universal Experiences Labs, an international scientific and technological cooperation platform led by China and Colombia, was also launched during COP16. The laboratory has carried out several studies in digital twins, with application scenarios covering ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves. Luo Xun, Chinese director of the lab, believes that with the support of technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital twins, global biodiversity cooperation will usher in more opportunities.

An Eco Highway to Peru's Ancient Wonder

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Iconic creatures like pudu (one of the world's smallest deer), and the pigeon-sized giant hummingbird inhabit this area.

This abundance of precious plant and animal species requires careful protection, and the CCECC team is fully aware of these ecological considerations. As Kang Wei, vice president of CCECC Compañía regional de las Américas, stated, "This road is not just about boosting economic development or tourism; it must also be an ecological pathway."

A model of environmental commitment
When Saida Elena Cordova Flores,

a biologist with over two decades of experience in ecological conservation in Peru, first heard of the road project, she feared it would disrupt the delicate ecosystem.

In 2021, she joined the CCECC Machu Picchu road project team and realized that the Chinese team was not only committed to setting an environmental benchmark but was also using advanced ecological practices that were new to her.

Before construction began, Flores and her Chinese colleagues conducted an ecological survey of the entire route, mapping plant distributions, animal hab-

itats, breeding grounds, and feeding zones. They meticulously studied the environmental factors affecting species survival, such as water, soil, air, light, and noise, and created detailed impact charts to guide the project's development.

Based on this assessment, the project team implemented several measures to minimize environmental impact. These included rerouting the road to avoid sensitive wildlife areas, transplanting rare plants that couldn't be bypassed, and using low-noise equipment to limit noise pollution.

Additionally, they maximized the

use of clean energy equipment to minimize emissions and reduced the use of heavy machinery.

The Peruvian environmental authorities have lauded the team's conservation efforts.

Flores was especially intrigued by the use of fully enclosed sound barriers on highways and railways, a technology she hopes might one day be used in Peru extensively.

"There will definitely be opportunities for that in the future," Kang said. "We'll continue bringing more of China's infrastructure technology and management expertise to Peru."

Comment

EU's Hefty Tariffs on Chinese EVs Misguided

By GONG Qian

Despite substantial divergence of opinion among the bloc, the EU has forged ahead and still finalized its hefty tariffs on electric vehicles (EVs) imported from China for a period of five years. The unwarranted move is undisguised protectionism, detrimental to the perpetrator and China-EU economic relations as a whole.

The tariffs differ depending on the automaker. For example, the duties on BYD, Geely and SAIC, three of China's leading automakers, are 17 percent, 18.8 percent, and 35.3 percent respectively, while Tesla will be slapped with individually calculated rate of 7.8 percent.

The final ruling is unreasonable and non-compliant. SAIC, which faces the highest anti-subsidy tariffs, said that the European Commission's countervailing investigation was wrong in determining subsidies and ignored key information and the company's counterarguments.

Attempting to protect local automotive brands by imposing tariffs on Chinese EVs cannot fundamentally enhance the competitiveness of European carmakers. Substantial investments and key technology advancements have now endowed Chinese EVs with a competitive edge in the global market. China's EV industry has seen leapfrog development, which enables it to provide global consumers with high-quality and cost-effective products. Meanwhile, the EU can benefit from China's advanced production capacity to boost its productivity. But the EU is resorting to trade protectionism instead of enhancing its technological innovation and upgrading the industrial chain.

The EU's move will also harm its consumers, green transition and global climate response. Trade protectionism will increase the cost of purchasing EVs for European consumers and significantly reduce their purchase willingness, hindering the global popularization of EVs.



Visitors at the exhibition area of Chinese NEV manufacturer BYD during the 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition on May 4, 2024. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Floating FPSO in South China Sea a First

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The R&D team initially planned multiple-scale schemes for periodic motion simulation evaluation. They tried to avoid the main wave frequency and get better hull movement but repeatedly failed. The strong waves in the South China Sea always have a violent pounding effect on the "bowl".

Then, the engineers tried to add a stable "bottom of the bowl" by increasing damping, taking full advantage of the overwhelming resistance of damping on wave excitation. They put a 2.4 metre high damping plate on the "bottom of the bowl" for added stability. Engineers also added zigzag bumps to the damping plate to further release wave energy and improve the damping plate's ability to inhibit heave motion.

Positioning steadily as an anchor
Once the main scale and style had been confirmed, the challenge of securing the cylindrical FPSO had to be overcome. Haikui No.1 can carry more than

Furthermore, it is contrary to the EU's efforts to achieve its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by 2030.

The divided argument over the tariffs also demonstrates the final ruling doesn't follow the long-term interests of the EU. In the pivotal vote on October 4, 10 EU members backed tariffs and five voted against, with 12 abstentions. Among them, EU automotive powerhouses Germany and Hungary opposed the tariffs. "We say unequivocally: tariffs are the wrong approach because they will not improve the competitiveness of the European automotive industry," IG Metall, the powerful German labor union, and employee representatives of the nation's major carmakers, said in a statement.

The imposition of the tariffs is a setback for free global trade and also for prosperity, the preservation of jobs and Europe's growth, Hildegard Müller, the head of the German Association of the Automotive Industry said in a statement, adding that the move increases the risk of a far-reaching trade conflict.

China has filed a complaint at the World Trade Organisation against the EU, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Commerce on November 4. Meanwhile, it has been making efforts to find a solution acceptable to both sides through dialogue and consultation to avoid escalating trade friction.

The European technical team arrived in Beijing on November 2, and the two sides have been exchanging views on price commitments based on pragmatic and balanced principles, the ministry said during a press conference.

China and the EU have complementary advantages in the green industrial chain. Only by working together can they promote the healthy development of the industry, achieve shared sustainable development goals, and make positive contributions to the global green transformation.

twice the load of a conventional FPSO in the South China Sea, and its displacement of 100,000 tons is comparable to that of a large aircraft carrier. It is not easy to make it remain perfectly stable in the face of a once-in-a-century super typhoon.

The usual way to solve the positioning problem is to attach a "skirt" to the FPSO. According to this method, the conventional ship type FPSO only needs nine mooring cables, but this "super rice bowl" needs 21, which leads to a significant increase in project costs.

After many demonstrations by the R&D team, under the premise of ensuring stability and security, Haikui No. 1 was firmly anchored with 12 high-strength mooring cables more than 2,500 meters long, so that it could remain steady in the typhoon-ravaged South China Sea. With this method, it is capable of running continuous sea operations for 15 years without the need for docking.