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WEEKLY EDITION

International Cooperation

China-Arab Sci-tech Cooperation Strengthened

By Staff Reporters

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the first China-Arab States Summit and the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from December 7 to 9.

In his speech at the summit, Xi urged China and Arab states to focus on economic development and promote win-win cooperation, adding that the two sides should strengthen synergy between their development strategies, and promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Both sides need to consolidate cooperation in traditional areas including economy and trade, energy and infrastructure development, Xi said. In the meantime, he added, the two sides should strengthen new sources of growth such as green and low-carbon development, health and medical services, and investment and finance, and expand new frontiers including aviation and aerospace, digital economy and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

As early as 2004, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was established. With 17 cooperation mechanisms covering various fields, the forum has become a crucial engine to advance the development of relationships between China and Arab states.

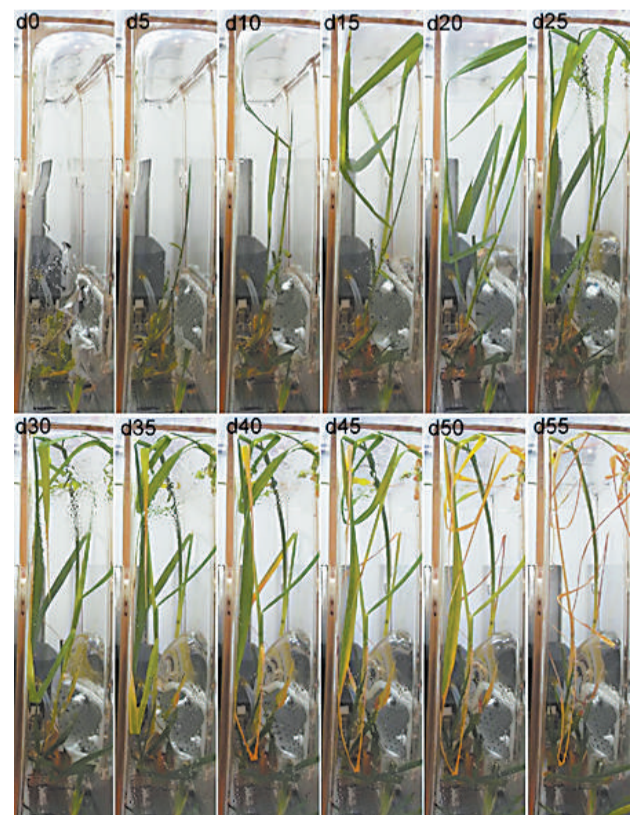
The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was another important approach to boost the cooperation between China and Arab states, especially in sci-tech cooperation. By far, China has signed BRI cooperation agreements with 20 Arab states and the Arab League. See page 4

Space Rice Experiments Reveal Cultivation Secrets

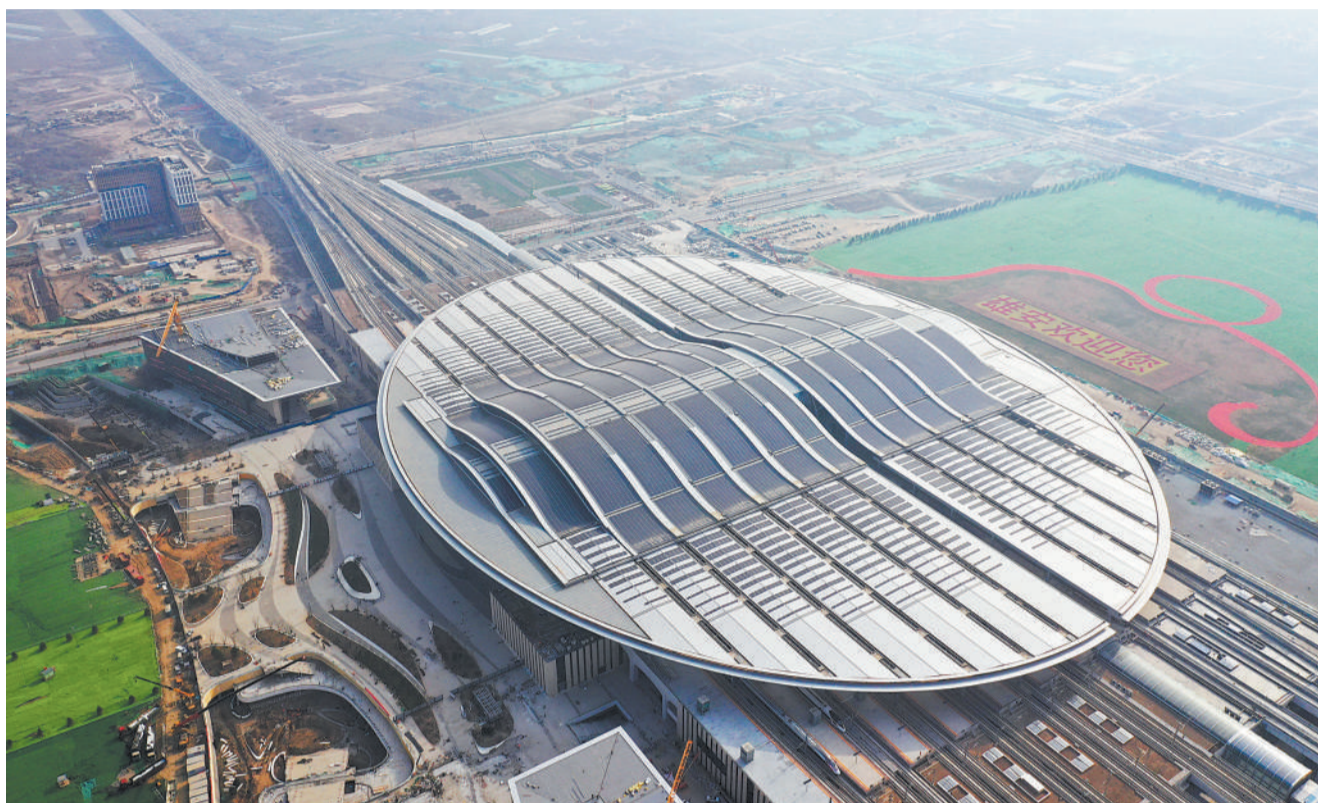
By LIN Yuchen

Chinese scientists have completed the process of growing rice in space and obtained the seeds through the Shenzhou-14 spaceship, which returned to Earth on December 4.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said this is a world first for harvesting rice seeds through space cultivation, following the successes of other crop species like Arabidopsis, rape, wheat and peas. See page 2



Chinese scientists have completed the process of growing rice in space and obtained the seeds. (PHOTO: CAS)



Aerial photo taken on April 1, 2021 shows the Xiongan Railway Station of the Beijing-Xiongan intercity railway in Xiongan New Area, north China's Hebei province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Editor's Pick

Blueprint of Xiongan Becoming Reality

By WANG Xiaoxia

"We will build the Xiongan New Area to a high standard," said President Xi Jinping in the Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 16.

After five years of the launch of the new area in north China's Hebei province, the blueprint is becoming reality. Breakthroughs have been made in undertaking Beijing's non-capital functions, featuring continuously improved urban functions and ecological governance.

New model

On April 1, 2017, China announced setting up Xiongan New Area, about 100 kilometers south of Beijing. The new area spans Xiongxian, Rongcheng and Anxin counties in Hebei province, and covers a population of between two and 2.5 million.

Xiongan sits at the center of a triangular area with Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei's capital Shijiazhuang at the apexes, and people in Xiongan can reach any of the three cities in about 30 minutes with

good road and rail access.

The start-up area is virtually the main area of Xiongan, where changes take place every day. The "four major systems" of urban construction have basically taken shape, namely peripheral roads, internal road networks, ecological corridors, and urban water systems around the city.

Planners for the Xiongan New Area have proposed the idea of building a "digital twin city." That is, the real and virtual cities will be constructed simultaneously and mutually promoted.

Xiongan Urban Computing (Supercomputing Cloud) Center has begun operation, as an important carrier of the digital twin city and smart service system. The large state-owned enterprises, such as Sinochem and Huaneng Group, have set up more than 120 branches in the new area to invigorate local industries.

Meanwhile, construction of functional areas such as science parks, Internet industrial parks, university parks, innovation workshops, headquarters areas, and financial islands has accelerated.

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Public services

Recently, Xiongan New Area successively issued a three-year action plan concerning people's livelihood such as education, medical care, pension and employment.

Xiongan Innovation Research Institute, jointly established by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the People's Government of Hebei province, aims to also build a world-class scientific research platform. At present, the main body of the platform's office building has been completed.

Currently, more than 6,000 skilled people have been issued talent cards, including more than 1,500 specialists in fields of education, medical care, science and technology.

In the start-up area, more than 60 schools are planned and constructed from kindergarten to high school, including subsidiaries of the renowned Beihai Kindergarten, Shijia Hutong Primary School and Beijing No. 4 Middle School.

See page 2

BRI Making Science More Popular

By Staff Reporters

Aiming to promote sci-tech innovation and the popularization of science, the fourth Belt and Road International Science Communication Seminar was held online on December 6.

Earlier this year, China released a guideline on strengthening the popularization of science and technology. According to the guideline, a larger scale, a higher level and a closer international communication on science popularization is to be promoted.

Li Yong, deputy director-general of the Department of Science and Technology Talent and Popularization of the Ministry of Science and Technology,

said that the statement in the guideline coincides with the idea of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and he looked forward to BRI bringing more vitality to science popularization.

Zhuang Jia, deputy director-general of China Science and Technology Exchange Center, said that the center has been holding Belt and Road International Science Communication activities since 2015, and more than 100 person-times of foreign experts from 19 countries have been invited to China for science popularization activities. The seminar was initiated in 2019 and each year representatives from over ten countries had attended.

Science communication has be-

come an important force to drive sci-tech innovation and commercialization of sci-tech achievements, said Zhuang.

Participants of the seminar also included researchers dedicated to making science more popular.

In terms of such role transformation, Xu Ying, researcher at the Aerospace Information Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that scientific research should be done in a rigorous and creative manner, whereas science communication needs to be conducted in a simple, easy to understand manner. Using plain language is essential when researchers conduct science popularization activities, said Xu.

China Contributes to SKA Construction

Edited by LIN Yuchen

China has pledged to cover the cost of a key component of Square Kilometer Array (SKA), signing an in-kind contribution agreement with SKA Observatory (SKAO) online on December 2.

The SKA project is an international initiative in radio astronomy, aiming to build the world's largest radio telescope which may revolutionize our understanding of the laws of fundamental physics. SKAO is an intergovernmental organization initiated by seven countries including China, bringing nations together for global collaboration and innovation.

The in-kind contribution from China represents SKAO's largest single procurement so far, heralding a new accelerating period of SKA's overall construction, according to a message released on the official website of the Ministry of Science and Technology after the signing ceremony.

"The signing of the agreement is not only a full recognition of our previous participation in the SKA work at an early stage, but also places higher demands on our technology, products, and service levels," said Chen Zhaoxiong, president of China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, adding that the company will work more closely with the domestic and international partners to ensure the completion of the task.

As one of the first initiators of the SKA project, China has been involved in all the important moments of its development, said Catherine Cesarsky, chairperson of SKAO Council, adding that the country has provided useful support for the creation of the SKAO.

On December 5, SKA telescope construction started officially in Australia and South Africa. Representatives of multiple member countries attended the commencement ceremony online.

"The construction commencement ceremony is a great milestone in the development of SKAO and also the remarkable result of the long-term concerted efforts of all participating countries," said Wang Zhigang, minister of science and technology of China, adding that China will continue to fulfill its commitments and contribute wisdom and strength to the SKA project.

WEEKLY REVIEW

EAST Telescope Reveals New Details of Milky Way

Using the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), Chinese scientists revealed the unprecedented details of the Galactic interstellar medium in the Milky Way, according to the research published on December 10 in the journal *Science China: Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy*.

Black Carbon Affects Water Sustainability of QTP

An international research team has found that black carbon has an indirect effect on the shrinkage of the glaciers on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (QTP). The study was carried out by researchers from China, Sweden and the U.S. and has been published in the *Nature Communications*.

China National Computer Congress Held Online

The 2022 China National Computer Congress was held online from December 8 to 10, themed "computing capacity, data and ecology." At the annual event, scientists delivered reports and discussed with representatives from the industry.

A Commercial Rocket Sends 14 Satellites to Space

China launched a Smart Dragon-3 rocket at the Yellow Sea on December 9, and sent 14 satellites into planned orbit. The rocket is a kind of commercial four-stage solid launch vehicle and has high cost performance and applicability, with the launch capacity of 20 stars per arrow.

WECHAT ACCOUNT



E-PAPER

