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WEEKLY EDITION

## International Cooperation

### Protecting Global Ecosystem, Biodiversity

Edited by WANG Xiaoxia

"A sound ecosystem is essential for the prosperity of civilization. We must work together to promote harmonious co-existence between man and Nature, build a community of all life on Earth, and create a clean and beautiful world for us all", said Chinese President Xi Jinping on December 15, while addressing via videolink the opening ceremony of the high-level segment of the second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), held in Canada's Montreal.

Holding the rotating presidency of COP15, China has promoted the building of more consensus to protect nature. All parties are required to agree on an ambitious but also realistic post-2020 global biodiversity framework as scheduled, to bring real change to the current situation.

China has made active efforts to promote ecological progress and biodiversity protection as well as finding a way of biodiversity protection with Chinese characteristics.

Meanwhile, China advocated coordinated efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss and other global challenges.

Through the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, China promised to support and assist fellow developing countries, and leverage the Global Development Initiative (GDI) to deliver greater benefits to people of all countries.

"When in the year 2030, both developed countries and developing countries find their goals and commitments being fulfilled, we can call it a real success," said Huang Runqiu, COP15 president and China's minister of ecology and environment.

### Ecological Conservation Gets Recognition

By WANG Xiaoxia

Nine sites in China have been newly admitted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List on December 10, during a celebration event of COP15 held in Montreal, Canada, increasing the country's total listings to 15, the most in Asia to date.

China has invested and constructed thousands of nature reserves, and has rich experience in this field which the world can learn and benefit from, said James Hardcastle, head of IUCN's protected and conserved areas team.

The nine newly-certified sites include Hunan Huping-shan National Nature Reserve, World Heritage site Shennongjia National Park, as well as Guangzhou Haizhu National Wetland Park, the largest urban wetland park in megacities of China. See page 3



The photo shows Guangzhou Haizhu National Wetland Park, which is newly admitted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List. (PHOTO: XINHUA)



The first C919 large passenger aircraft is delivered to its first customer China Eastern Airlines.

(PHOTO: XINHUA)

## Editor's Pick

### STB: A Win-win Mode for Postgrads and Farmers

By LU Zijian

Science and Technology Backyard (STB), a new model for modern agricultural science and technology innovation, social service and personnel training, has yielded more benefits than expected.

Over the past decade, there have been more than 800 supervisors from and outside universities, along with 1,500 postgraduate students engaged in the establishment and operation of STBs. More than 113 categories of technical regulations and 284 innovative technologies have been created in response, while more than 200,000 farmers were trained.

#### What is STB?

Basically, STB is an innovative approach for the cultivation of postgraduate students who study agriculture.

The university or research institute sends the students to the frontline of agricultural production, and the students focus on solving the practical problems that occur in the production after they

have acquired the theoretical knowledge.

STB is not like a short term project or summer school, but requires proper time and effort.

According to a guideline issued this March, each STB should be assigned at least one postgraduate supervisor in agriculture, who should have a high academic level and strong practical abilities as the senior expert. In addition, at least two postgraduate students in agriculture should be allocated to each STB, and stay for no less than 120 days per year. Each STB should focus on a major agricultural product in a county and research on the practical problems arising in the production.

There are now over 300 STBs established in 29 provinces and autonomous regions within China from more than 30 universities, covering 135 types of agricultural products in nine industries, including food crops, cash crops, breeding, forestry and food processing.

"STB has become a four-in-one plat-

form of government, enterprises, farmers and researchers after practice of more than a decade," said Zhang Fusuo, academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, who set up the first STB in Quzhou county, Hebei province with his colleagues.

#### Nurturing specialists

As the pioneer in building STB, China Agricultural University (CAU) specifically designed a three-year STB Master program, and students must stay in the rural areas for two years, completing the research tasks given by their mentors in accordance with real situations they may encounter.

According to Chen Fanjun, an official at the graduate school of CAU, the study period of three years is decided based on the long production cycle of agriculture. The growth cycle is not stable after only one season, said Chen, adding that the two-year cycle could achieve stable rules.

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### China, Saudi Arabia Deepen Oil Industry Partnership

By Staff Reporters

Sinopec signed a large-scale cooperation agreement in refining chemicals with Saudi Aramco on December 10, signaling a new milestone built upon existing partnerships, according to Yu Baocai, president of Sinopec.

The agreement elaborates on the second-phase development plans of the Gulei economic development zone, one of the seven major petrochemical industrial bases listed by the State Council, in southeast China's Fujian province.

These developments include a refinery capable of processing 16 million tons of crude per year and a facility that pro-

duces yearly 1.5 million tons of petrochemical products, with the earliest production date slated for 2025. This would open the way to jointly tackling energy transformation, according to Yu.

Saudi Aramco would also cooperate with its Chinese partners in various environmental areas, such as emission reduction, said Yasir Al-Rumayyan, chairman of Saudi Aramco, adding that as China's economy continues to prosper, Aramco is committed to participating in every stage of China's development.

On the same day, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Sinopec, Saudi Aramco, and Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, for the planned

launch of a project that would convert liquid resources into petrochemical products in Saudi Arabia's Yanbu.

Another memorandum has also been signed between Saudi Aramco and Shandong Energy Group, offering to support the Arabian oil giant in developing its downstream business in Shandong.

"I am delighted that this spirit of cooperation is being extended across hydrogen, renewables and carbon capture and excited by the potential for further cooperation in these key areas which will shape our collective future," said Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, Saudi Aramco's senior vice president of downstream.

### C919 Ready for Commercial Flight

By Staff Reporters

The COMA C919 large passenger aircraft, developed by Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), was delivered to China Eastern Airlines on December 9, adding the first indigenously developed jet airliner from China to the world civil aviation transport market.

In its registration number B-919A, the letter B is a metaphor for civil aviation in China and A stands for the first jet airliner. On the front of its fuselage is the wording World First in the form of a red Chinese seal.

This 164-seater aircraft includes both business and economy class. It represents a new generation of global single-aisle mainline passenger aircraft, in accordance with internationally accepted airworthiness standards and having fully indigenously independent intellectual property rights, according to COMAC.

"For all civil aviation staff, this is a special day. There is now a large aircraft of international first-class level produced by ourselves," said Zhao Hongbing, a spokesperson for China Eastern Airlines.

The aircraft will pass through more than 100 hours of empty aircraft verification test flights, covering multiple cities like Beijing, Xi'an, Kunming, and Shanghai, in order to verify the aircraft's operational safety, maintenance reliability and various operational security capabilities, according to China Eastern Airlines.

## WEEKLY REVIEW

### Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Adopted

Including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted on December 19 at COP15 where China holds the presidency. The framework aims to reverse biodiversity loss and set the world on a path of recovery.

### Homemade ARJ21 Realizes First Overseas Delivery

ARJ21, China's domestically-developed regional jetliner, was delivered to its first overseas client TransNusa, an Indonesian airline, on December 18, marking it the first Chinese passenger jetliner to enter overseas markets.

### China's First Deep-water Research Wharf Opens

Located in the northeast corner of Longxu Island, Guangzhou city, China's first deep-water and largest research wharf, officially opened on December 18. The wharf has five berths for research vessels with a total length of 700 meters, and a land area of about 12,000 square meters.

### First Images Captured by Kuafu-1 Released

China recently published the first group of scientific images of the Sun captured by Kuafu-1, the country's solar probe. The Hard X-ray telescope realized China's first solar hard X-ray imaging and offered the only hard X-ray image of the Sun from the perspective of the Earth.



The Baihetan hydropower station, the world's second-largest in terms of total installed capacity, goes fully operational in the upper section of the Yangtze River in southwest China. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

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