

## INSIGHTS

## China Contributing Wisdom, Solutions to Meet Global Challenges

## Opinion

Edited by GONG Qian

In his 2023 New Year Address, President Xi Jinping reviewed the accomplishments achieved by China in 2022 and encouraged the Chinese people to make tomorrow's China a better place. Xi said that China will strive to contribute its wisdom and solutions to the cause of peace and development for all humanity.

The spirit of China brings inspiring power to the world. China overcame many challenges to accomplish impressive achievements in 2022. For example, the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games was a resounding success, China's space station was fully completed and the first C919 large passenger aircraft was delivered to its customer.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the hard work of numerous Chinese people. It also demonstrated the tenacity of the Chinese nation. At a time when the world is going through unprecedented challenges, China's achievements show that strength comes from unity and endeavor leads to miracles. As long as all countries are united with a common cause, the world will be a better place.

The vitality of China provides a



Permanent site of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference Fountain in Qionghai, Hainan province. (PHOTO: VCG)

strong impetus for the recovery of the world economy. Currently, many countries are confronting crises such as supply chain disorder, food and energy shortages, and growing inflationary pressure. However, China still improved the quality of its development in 2022, as the Chinese economy has great resilience and potential. Its strong fundamentals will not change, and it will remain on a positive trajectory over in the future.

China is the only major economy in the world on track to see decent growth in 2023, in both corporate profits and gross domestic product. This is good news for the global economy, and it rais-

es the odds that the world can avert a recession, even as the U.S. and Europe slow, said *Barron's*, the world's premier investing publication.

China's policy of opening up has promoted the continuous advancement of win-win cooperation among all countries, and the world needs China for prosperity.

Facing confrontation and decoupling, China adheres to staying true to the principle of openness and inclusiveness, keeps on the path of win-win cooperation toward common prosperity, and rejects zero-sum games, so as to expand more space for common development.

For example, China has advanced high-quality Belt and Road Initiative cooperation and held High-level Dialogue on Global Development.

Meanwhile, China will work with the Arab states to advance eight major cooperation initiatives in areas including development support, food security, public health, green innovation, energy security, inter-civilizational dialogue, youth development, and security and stability.

President Xi proposed a Global Security Initiative at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022. He stressed the importance of upholding a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and adhering to non-interference in internal affairs. To date, more than 100 countries and many international organizations, including the United Nations, stand for the initiative. Meanwhile, nearly 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, proposed by Xi in September last year, to foster development cooperation.

China has been actively undertaking responsibility, responding to the common concerns of people of all countries, and contributing its wisdom and solutions to the cause of peace and development for humanity. In 2023, China will work closely with other countries to create a better future for all.

## Voice of the World

## Imposing COVID Restrictions on Chinese Travelers Makes No Sense

Edited by TANG Zhexiao

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced on December 28, 2022, that air passengers from China would be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of recovery before being allowed to board.

Besides the U.S., the European Union, UK, Japan, South Korea and India are among the group of countries that have announced similar testing requirements for Chinese travelers.

Implemented from January 5, the statement said CDC announced this step to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the U.S. during the surge of COVID-19 cases in China, "Given the lack of adequate and transparent epidemiological and viral genomic sequence data being reported from the China."

In fact, China has always shared its information and data responsibly with the international community.

The country continues to share the genome data of the virus via the Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data, carrying out over 60 technical exchanges with the World Health Organization (WHO) over the past three years, two of which were conducted after the release of the 10 new measures (on December 7) alone, according to Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning.

High-level officials from China's National Health Commission and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration briefed WHO on December 30, 2022, about China's evolving strategy and actions in the areas of epidemiology, monitoring of variants, vaccination, clinical care, communication and R&D, according to a WHO newsroom report.

Despite this, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that the health measures taken by the U.S. and other countries targeting people traveling from China are to protect their citizens. The biggest concern for these countries has been the potential for the emergence of a new variant in China.

However, many experts and the WHO have long said that travel restrictions are not a particularly effective means of controlling the spread of the

coronavirus.

Maria Van Kerkhove, an epidemiologist with the WHO, said that there are more than 500 "sub-lineages" of omicron already circulating globally. "There is a significant circulation of this virus globally, and the risk of further variants can come from anywhere," she said.

The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, which noted on January 2 that no new variants had been recorded in China so far, said that E.U. citizens had high levels of immunity and vaccination against the known variants in circulation, which means the rise in China's infections was not challenging for the immune response of people in Europe.

Experts like Jeffrey Shaman, an epidemiologist at Columbia University, think that the restrictions are unnecessary and illogical. "Travel restrictions seem intended to stop the virus at the border, which makes no sense given that the virus is already everywhere," he said.

Even the U.S. media does not approve of these new restriction measures.

*The Washington Post* said that this virus continues to mutate, "But there's no reason to think China's COVID surge creates a special condition for the emergence of a new variant."

And the introduction of stringent requirements for travelers can be logistically cumbersome, discriminatory and politically toxic, *The New York Times* reported.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning stressed, China truly hopes the focus will be on tackling the virus rather than politicizing the COVID issue, and countries can step up solidarity and make joint efforts to defeat the pandemic at the earliest date.



Thai officials welcome Chinese tourists with flowers as they arrive at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, January 9, 2023. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

## Dumping Nuclear Wastewater into Pacific: Japan can't be Final Judge

## Comment

Edited by QI Liming

All concerns related to transboundary issues should be top of the public agenda, and be decided by all the stakeholders. This has come to the fore after the release proposal of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean, despite the Japanese government's claims that the nuclear wastewater would be released after having been treated.

The Japanese government, saying there is no feasible alternative, has pledged to carry out the release with close attention to safety standards. How-

ever, the proposal has angered many of Japan's neighbors, particularly those with the most direct experience of unexpected exposure to dangerous levels of radiation.

Those in the South Pacific, who have suffered for decades from the fallout of a U.S. nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, are particularly skeptical of the promises of safety. In November 2022, a group representing more than a dozen countries in the Pacific, including Australia and the Marshall Islands, urged Tokyo to defer the wastewater releases.

Motirilavoa Hilda Lini, a prominent politician and activist in Vanuatu, said, "We need to remind Japan and other nuclear states of our Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement slogan: If it is safe, dump it in Tokyo, test it in Paris, and store it in Washington, but keep our Pacific nuclear-free."

Nuclear testing in the Pacific "was shrouded in this veil of lies," said Bedi Racule, an antinuclear activist from the Marshall Islands, adding that "The trust is really not there."

Actually, the voices and benefits of Japanese people should be the most highly valued, because they are the direct victims.

Youngsolwara Pacific, a prominent environmental advocacy group, asked, "How can the Japanese government, which has experienced the same brutal experiences of nuclear weapons in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, wish to further pollute our Pacific with nuclear waste? To us, this irresponsible act of transboundary harm is just the same as waging nuclear war on us as Pacific peoples and [on] our islands."

If the suggestions from Japanese people, activists, and an environmental advocacy group are not worth a second thought, then the analysis and advice from scientists and professionals should be treated more seriously.

To soothe Pacific concerns, Japanese authorities emphasize that their analysis shows that the wastewater dumping plan is safe. Almost all radioactive particles will be removed from the wastewater before it is released, except for a hydrogen isotope called tritium that Japanese experts and others say poses a relatively low health risk.

While unlike other common radioactive particles, tritium replaces the hydrogen atoms in water molecules, allowing it to pass unaffected through normal radiation filters. As a result, according to Dr. Brendan Kennedy, a chemistry pro-

fessor at the University of Sydney, it is "essentially impossible" to remove.

According to Pacific News Service, global scientists leading some of the world's best marine laboratories have called for a stop to Japan's plans, and their voices should be heard and taken into consideration.

The U.S. National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), an organization of more than 100 member laboratories, expressed their opposition in a position paper published in December 2022. They say there is a lack of adequate and accurate scientific data supporting Japan's assertion of safety, and an abundance of data demonstrating serious concerns about releasing radioactively contaminated water.

The Pacific Ocean is the largest continuous body of water on our planet, containing the greatest biomass of organisms of ecological, economic, and cultural value, including 70 percent of the world's fisheries. However, the health of all the world's ocean ecosystems is in documented decline, due to a variety of stressors, including climate change, over-exploitation of resources, and pollution.

The proposed release of this contaminated water is a transboundary and trans-generational issue of concern for the health of marine ecosystems and those whose lives and livelihoods depend on them, states the paper.



The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited Japan to inspect the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in May 2022. (PHOTO: VCG)

## Hi! Tech

## Unmanned First Aid Device Invented to Save Lives

By Staff Reporters

While it is obviously urgent and critical to give medical treatment to patients in emergencies, they often suffer further severe injuries or even die because of delayed delivery of first-aid medication, and the potential absence of trained personnel to administer the medication.

To deal with this challenge, re-

searchers from Zhejiang University (ZJU) have developed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)-mediated first aid system for targeted delivery (uFAST).

The uFAST consists of three parts: the UAV, the contact-triggered microneedle applicator (CTMA), and the microneedle (MN) patch containing emergency therapeutics.

The UAV can be activated by an emergency signal with the location in-

formation from the patients. The UAV could then be sent to the patient immediately, based on an online calculated route which avoids obstacles.

When the UAV reaches the patient, it hovers at an appropriate height and subsequently releases the CTMA to apply the drug-loaded microneedle into the skin for emergency care.

The MN patch is fixed at the bottom of CTMA. The springs embedded

in the CTMA eject the MN patch while adjusting and providing sufficient force to press the skin to fit the patch, then inserting microneedles upon contact with the skin of the patients.

The research team has demonstrated that the uFAST can effectively reduce the risk of severe hypoglycemia and push it up to the normal range in hypoglycemic piglet experiments.

## Smart Bio-robotic Tech Empowers Interventional Surgical Equipment

By Staff Reporters

Developed by United Imaging corporation, uAngio960, a bionic minimally invasive interventional surgical system, is an upgraded digital subtraction angiography that integrates leading innovative technologies such as AI, digital twins (a virtual model designed to accurately reflect a real-world physical object), and multi-modal fusion.

The uAngio960 is equipped with three bionic bodies, empowering the surgical device "smart brain" through algorithms and integration of artificial intelligence.

For example, in the interventional treatment of brain aneurysms which is a bulge or ballooning in a blood vessel in the brain, the system can draw precise surgical plans automatically, assist doctors in obtaining high-definition images, and find the hidden aneurysms accurately.

When the patient is lying on the operating table, three sets of cameras configured by the surgical system will capture the patient's body shape and posture information in real-time, and trans-

fer the data to the doctor's operating interface via digital twins technology, significantly reducing operation steps.

The researchers said doctors used to spend one-third of their time operating the surgical device, but this system can reduce the time to one-tenth or even less of the previous time. This helps doctors focus more on the surgery itself.

In the future, uAngio960 will be deeply integrated with more products to form a digital and intelligent multi-mode imaging operating room, opening up new scenarios for brain aneurysms diagnosis and treatment.



The sample of uAngio960, a digital subtraction angiography which integrates leading innovative technologies. (PHOTO: UNITED IMAGING CORPORATION)