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WEEKLY EDITION

BRI: Opportunities for All

By LI Linxu

Addressing the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech on October 18, calling for ushering Belt and Road cooperation into a new stage of high-quality development, and making relentless efforts to achieve modernization for all countries.

Global modernization should be pursued to enhance peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation and bring prosperity to all, said Xi, proposing that China will take eight major steps to support high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, namely, building a multidimensional belt and road connectivity network, supporting an open world economy, carrying out practical cooperation to support high-quality Belt and Road construction, promoting green development, advancing scientific and technological innovation, supporting people-to-people exchanges, promoting integrity-based Belt and Road cooperation, and strengthening institutional building for international Belt and Road cooperation.

China will continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, and hold the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, noted Xi.

The country will also increase the number of joint laboratories built with other Belt and Road parties to 100 in the next five years, and support young scientists from other countries to work on short-term programs in China, he said.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), more than 3,000 cooperation projects were agreed on and up to one trillion dollars of investment was mobilized, according to official statistics.

"I'm a fan of BRI and honored to attend such a historic event," said Velia Govaere, former vice minister of economy, industry and commerce of Costa Rica, to *Science and Technology Daily*, adding that Costa Rica joined BRI in 2018, and the cooperation with China has been increasingly closer in various fields since then.

The BRI brings cooperations, partnerships and friendships, said Didier Parakian, member of the French National Assembly, to *S&T Daily*, adding that French has sent a delegation of about 100 people from various sectors to the forum. Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France, and France is looking forward to more win-win cooperations in such fields as business, technology, and ecology.

The BRI will win more friends and bring more benefits to people, Mohammad A. Abunayyan, chairman of ACWA Power from Saudi Arabia, said to *S&T Daily*, noting that his company signed five agreements at the CEO conference and is eyeing to expand cooperation with China.

Aidan Heavey, chairman of Eurasia Fund, told *S&T Daily* that he loves the win-win cooperations promoted by BRI, which connects people and companies around the world, creating tremendous business opportunities.

The BRI also connotes opportunities for small businesses of partner countries. Anton Mirzoyan, a delegate from Russia, is one of such small business owners. Thanks to the opportunities provided by BRI, he launched his import and export business in Beijing, and is looking forward to deepening cooperations with his Chinese counterparts.

The BRI is a visionary initiative, Nat Hutunuwat, delegate from a Thailand wind power company, said to *S&T Daily* that there are great opportunities for Thailand businesses under BRI in the fields of infrastructure, renewable energy, and tech cooperation.

Under the theme of "High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Common Development and Prosperity," the forum hosted a series of activities and produced substantial outcomes, both in the forms of cooperation documents, initiatives and mechanisms, and in terms of projects, funds and measures.

Apart from the opening ceremony, three high-level forums were held simultaneously for in-depth discussions on connectivity, green development and the digital economy, and six thematic forums were conducted in parallel under the topics of trade connectivity,



The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation is held in Beijing, capital of China, from October 17-18. (PHOTO: HONG Xing/S&T Daily)

people-to-people bonds, think tank exchanges, clean silk road, subnational cooperation, and maritime cooperation.

Representatives from more than 140 countries and 30-plus international organizations attended the forum.



This photo shows flags of China, the UN and BRI partners. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Editor's Pick

BRI Projects Commit to Environment Protection

By LU Zijian

For the past decade since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed, China has been working closely with partner countries to actively promote green and low carbon transformation of the energy sector. In particular, the cooperation in renewable energy has made massive achievements. Some examples of these can be found in South Africa, Cambodia and Argentina.

South Africa wind power

South Africa has abundant wind energy resources which have not yet been fully explored. The De Aar wind power project is a vivid example of cooperation in wind energy utilization between China and South Africa.

Located in Northern Cape province of South Africa, the De

Aar project went into operation in 2017, generating 760 million kWh of clean electricity each year, which meets the needs of 300,000 local households, greatly easing the tight and unstable electricity supply in some regions of the country.

The green electricity equals a saving of over 200,000 tons of standard coal and eliminating more than 600,000 tons of CO₂. The project also sells carbon emissions permits via global carbon trade markets, realizing both environmental and economic benefits.

In addition, the project is acutely conscious of ecological conservation. Stands for birds to rest were installed on top of each telegraph pole in order to reduce harm to them from transmission equipment. Long term monitoring of animals and plants in the wind power

station is regularly conducted and experts in ecology were hired to assess the situation to ensure the sustainable development of the entire project.

Longyuan South Africa Renewables (Pty) Ltd., the constructor and operator of the De Aar project, provided over 700 jobs during the construction phase and can offer more than 100 long-term positions during the operation phase.

Cambodia hydro power

Water is also an important source of clean energy.

Built by China Huaneng Group, the Lower Sesan II hydropower station is the largest hydropower station in Cambodia, and the dam has a length of 6,500 meters, one of the longest in Asia.

To date, the station has generated electricity of over eight billion

kWh. With a total installed capacity of 400 megawatts (MW), the station can produce one-fifth of the total electricity of Cambodia, satisfying the need of around 2.6 million people.

Apart from offering clean energy, the station also attached great importance to protecting the local ecological environment.

Investing ten million RMB, China Huaneng Group built the longest simulated natural migration fish route among all Asian hydropower projects, so as to lessen the adverse impact of the project on aquatic life.

The fish route was already completed before the operation of the Lower Sesan II hydropower station began. With 3D digital technology coordinated design, the fish route merges into the surrounding

environment like a natural river.

Environment protection is of high priority in other links of the construction and operation of the power station, including junction layout, construction diversion, raw material selection and downstream river regulations.

Argentina solar power

With Argentina being a country that enjoys abundant sunshine, the largest solar power station in South America was built in the country's Cauchari, Jujuy province by China Power Construction and the Shanghai Electric Power Construction Company.

The Cauchari region has more than 2,500 hours of sunlight annually on average, making it one of the most suitable places for photovoltaic (PV) power generation in the world. See page 4

WEEKLY REVIEW

New Detection Satellite Launched

China successfully launched Yunhai-1 04, a new Earth detection satellite, into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China via a Long March-2D rocket on October 15. The satellite is mainly used for the detection of the atmospheric, marine and space environments, disaster prevention and mitigation, and scientific experiments.

Canton Fair 2023 Opens

The 134th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair 2023) opened on October 15 and will conclude on November 4. The exhibition area covers 1.55 million square meters with 74,000 booths. The online platform keeps normalized operation. Enterprises from over 40 countries and regions are attending the fair.

New Record for Single-season Yield of Hybrid Rice

With an average yield of 1251.5 kg per mu (about 0.067 hectares), the hybrid rice production of a demonstration base in southwest China's Sichuan province created a new record of domestic single-season yield after the inspection by experts on October 14.

Construction of New Telescope for Deep-space Exploration Begins

China recently started to construct a 40-meter-aperture radio telescope in the Changbai Mountain area, in the northeast China's Jilin province, to undertake phase-4 missions of the country's lunar exploration program and deep-space probe missions. The telescope was developed by the Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, CAS.

New Bacterium Discovered in Guangdong

Chinese scientific researchers have discovered a new bacterium recently in forest soil of Danxia Mountain in Shaoguan, Guangdong province. It is the first new genus-level species of bacteria and the 41st new species that has been discovered on the mountain. The bacterium is significant for protection and development of microbial resources on Danxia Mountain and will increase genetic research resources.

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