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LIFE IN CHINA

A Land of Opportunity, Innovation and Connection

Dialogue

By LONG Yun & ZHONG Jianli

From a vibrant exchange among young professionals and students from across Eurasia, a common theme emerged: China is not just a destination for study or business, it is a dynamic hub of innovation, opportunities and cultural connections.

*A magnet for opportunity and growth*

Ammara Hanif came from Pakistan to study chemistry in China's Xi'an Jiao-tong University (XJTU), drawn by China's rising global influence and the remarkable safety in the country. "After living here, I can confidently say it's one of the safest countries I've ever been in," she said. For her, the combination of security and academic excellence made China the ideal place to pursue her master's degree.

For Anastasiya Yuy from Kazakhstan, majoring in Chinese at the XJTU, her parents told her to go to China: "My parents recommended I come here because they said China has a lot of chances," she explained. That advice proved insightful. Today, she sees China as a land of real opportunity, where ambition meets infrastructure and support.

For entrepreneurs like Emelyanova Anastasiya from Belarus, the motivation is rooted in China's vibrant business atmosphere. Anastasiya has created a successful car business in Xi'an and Chengdu. "I want to deliver my version of the China story to the people around me," she said.

Working in international trade and logistics, she sees China as a strategic hub. Belarus and China have strong relations, with many joint projects, partnerships and trade opportunities. "If you



The group exchange ideas with staff at the XJTU. (PHOTO: Science and Technology Daily)

want to grow in global commerce, China is one of the best places to be."

Shamsullah Shariati, an entrepreneur from Afghanistan with a background in economics, came to deepen his understanding of large-scale infrastructure and cross-border development. "If you want to study real-world economics, huge international projects, you need to be where the action is," he said. "Here, the resources, research and practical insights are unmatched."

Russian student Alexey Pilipchak chose to study in China and specialize in logistics technology and management at XJTU. "I knew I could learn more here," he said. "And by learning Chinese, I can communicate directly with professionals and gain deeper, more practical knowledge every day."

*Technology that transforms daily life*

When asked about China's leadership in innovation, they all agreed that technology isn't just advanced in China,

it is seamlessly integrated into everyday life.

"WeChat and Alipay are used for everything," Yuy said, referring to the Chinese apps used all over China as digital wallets. "Booking a hotel, buying food, paying for a bike ride — it's all on my phone. Life is simpler here."

Hanif marveled at the lifestyle in China where convenience is built into every step. "Step outside, and everything starts with your phone: transport, shopping, even healthcare," she said. She's particularly impressed by AI-driven diagnostics in hospitals: "Robotic systems help detect diseases early. It's not just modern, it's futuristic."

For Anastasiya, the e-commerce platforms are revolutionary. "They're fast, convenient, and a model for global e-commerce," she said. "We can learn from this system to help Chinese products reach the world and improve digital trade everywhere."

Shariati put it simply: "When you

enter China, you enter a new lifestyle." And for Pilipchak, the high-speed rail stands out. "You can travel hundreds of kilometers in just a few hours," he said. "No long airport commutes. You can work, use your phone, and stay connected. It's not just fast — it's efficient and comfortable."

*BRI: connecting continents, transforming lives*

For young minds from diverse countries, the Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI) has emerged as a powerful force shaping their countries and their futures.

"BRI supports us in diverse fields — government cooperation, infrastructure, energy," said Shariati. "In Afghanistan and across Central Asia, it's boosted trade, created markets, and brought real development."

Hanif highlighted its impact on Pakistan: "Roads have improved, energy shortages are being addressed, and thousands of jobs have been created. Local economies are growing."

More importantly, the BRI is not just about China. "It brings mutual benefits. Investment, trade and business opportunities flow both ways. This is true win-win cooperation," she said.

Pilipchak added to that: The BRI isn't just about economics, it brings long-term global connectivity: "These projects aren't temporary. They're built on cultural and historical understanding, and they're designed to last for generations."

icantly improve results. By adjusting parameters such as the number of sampling steps and the guidance strength, users can strike a balance between creativity and control. Higher guidance strength means AI adheres more closely to the prompt, but this may result in less creativity. Based on the initial generation results, continuously adjusting the prompt words and parameters often yields excellent results.

*More than a tool, a partner*

As technology advances, AI image generation is moving towards greater control. In the future, we may see even smarter AI assistants that can generate images and proactively suggest optimization solutions. Tools for optimizing prompt words based on large language models will also continue to improve, helping users to communicate more effectively with AI.

However, we must also recognize that this unpredictable nature is a fundamental characteristic of AI — it is not merely a tool, but a creative partner.

AI-generated Images' Blind Box Effect

Science Outreach

By Staff Reporters

As AI technologies develop swiftly, the number of AI image creation tools is increasing exponentially. From the professional Stable Diffusion (an AI-powered image generator) to the more popular Wenxin Yiyan, these tools are omnipresent online.

However, many people have discovered that images generated by AI can vary widely, even when the same command is entered on the same platform.

Why are generative AI models so unpredictable and what technical

principles lie behind them?

*The evolution from 'copy machine' to 'artist'*

To understand AI's unpredictability, we must first understand its technological development. Early AI image generation technology was similar to an advanced photocopier, capable only of copying existing images and lacking true creativity. Today, mainstream technology based on the "diffusion model" has given AI the ability to create. Just as different seeds produce different flowers, each time an image is generated, the system uses a "random seed" as its starting point, producing a different image each time.

AI models learn the variation distribution of data rather than predestined mappings. When the prompt "a cute kitten" is entered, AI does not trigger a specific cat image, but rather

generates countless possibilities, then randomly selects one to create. This randomness is not a technical flaw, but rather the core strength of AI technology. It is this unpredictability that empowers AI with boundless creativity, making it a valuable tool for creators.

*Controlling 'wilful' AI*

Although randomness is a defining feature of AI creation, users can employ certain techniques to achieve more predictable results.

One straightforward approach is to use precise prompts. Rather than inputting "beautiful scenery," provide a more specific description, such as "a sunny spring afternoon in a park with cherry blossom trees." The more specific the description, the better AI's understanding and the closer the generated result will be to your desired outcome.

Tuning parameters can also signif-

Electric Co., Ltd. (Hengtong Optic-Electric).

The Yangtze River Delta Marine Information Transmission Technology Innovation Consortium, led by Hengtong Optic-Electric, was included in the second batch of pilot projects for the Yangtze River Delta Marine Innovation Consortium this year. Under the agreement, Hengtong Optic-Electric and relevant universities and enterprises in the Yangtze River Delta region will collaborate on

grew tenaciously in the sandy soil, seemingly in defiance of the drought.

These achievements are the result of technical support provided by China at the Livestock Technology Demonstration Center in Mauritania, launched in 2017. Chinese experts selected forage grasses adapted to the sandy environment and trained local farmers and herders in scientific farming practices. They

than 20,000 enterprises.

*Ecosystem advances on the rise*

In the Maldives, a 318-kilometer cable connects the islands with a single optical network, helping the local communications network leap from 2G to 4G. This is the world's longest single-strand, jointless submarine high-speed optical cable, laid by Jiangsu Hengtong Optic-

ing field of Juncao grass stood proudly in the baking heat. Originally from China, this grass is notable for its use in cost-effective and sustainable mushroom farming and as high-quality animal feed. Despite the intense heat, the Juncao grass

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

Li Embroidery: Millennia-old Art Tradition

By BI Weizi

The traditional Li textile techniques of spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering, done by women of the Li ethnic group of Hainan province, south China, and dating back more than 3,000 years, have long been used to make clothing and a range of other daily necessities out of cotton, hemp and similar fibers.

Without a written language, the designs on the textiles capture the history and legends of Li culture, along with elements of worship, taboos, beliefs, traditions, and customs. They are therefore a vital component of the cultural heritage of the Li ethnic group, enabling communities to preserve their collective historical memory and cultural identity. The conventional Li textile methods were added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2024.

The Li people are revered as the pioneers of textile technology advancement in China. Leveraging their tropical environment, they gathered different fibers from the rainforest and developed innovative weaving methods.

In addition to hemp and cotton, the island boasts more than 100 plant species that can be transformed into weaving fibers. The Li brocade is the most famous textile created by the Li people. The woven material is referred to as a "living fossil" in the history of Chinese textiles, with the method still

thriving today.

Li textile methods primarily consist of four components: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidery. Threads were initially twisted manually and subsequently spun using a rod and spindle, until the invention of the spinning wheel.

Li dyes utilize an array of plant materials, along with minerals, to create beautiful colors: blue, green and black from foliage; yellow from turmeric; and red and brown from heartwood tree bark cooked with grass or snail ash.

Li embroidery is available in both single-sided and double-sided formats, typically made on a waist loom or the more sophisticated foot loom. The foot loom closely resembles contemporary loom equipment and features a frame-work with pedals, shafts and a heddle.

Over time, the Li people's embroidery skills transitioned from a basic need into a cherished art form. Initially used to strengthen fabrics for increased durability, the decorative aspects of embroidery then became more prominent, evolving into a storytelling medium, with ancient narratives illustrated on elaborate tapestries displayed on walls.

Li brocade, utilizing age-old textile methods like spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering, showcases the earliest textile practices and reflects the hard work, knowledge, and artistic essence of Li women, occupying an important role in traditional Li culture.



A Li woman weaves using the traditional Li textile technique in Baoting county, south China's Hainan province. (PHOTO: VCG)

Service Info

Welcome to Explore China

By Staff Reporters

Citizens of the following 46 countries with ordinary passports may enter and stay in China visa-free for up to 30 days for business, tourism, family visits, exchanges, or transit.

Brunei, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Australia, Poland, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Slovakia, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Andorra, Monaco, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Korea, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain.

China has signed visa exemption agreements with the following 29 countries. Citizens of these countries holding any type of passport generally do not need to apply for a visa in advance for short-term travel to China.

Albania, the United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominica, Ecuador, Fiji, Grenada,

Georgia, Kazakhstan, Qatar, the Maldives, Mauritius, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, San Marino, Suriname, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Malaysia.

Indonesian nationals are eligible for China's 240-hour visa-free transit, bringing the total number of eligible countries to 55. The full list is as follows: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, Russia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Belarus, Norway, the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Indonesia.

(Compiled from official information as of July 30, 2025)