

FEATURES: TIES WITH PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS P.30 | CULTURE: TROUBLE IN THE WORKPLACE? P.42

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.65 NO.24 JUNE 16, 2022

北方周末 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



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ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914222



邮发代号2-922 · 国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2

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Cover Design: Wang Yajuan

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BEIJINGREVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

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E-mail: circulation@cicgamericas.com

Published every Thursday by
CICG Center for Americas, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,
Beijing 100037, China
Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading
Corporation (Guojì Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,
Beijing 100044, China
Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)
Fax: 86-10-68412166
E-mail: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn
Website: <http://www.cibtc.com>
General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:
Peace Book Co. Ltd.
17/F, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK
Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is distributed weekly
in the United States for US\$64.00 per year by Cypress Books,
360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080
News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*,
Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48,
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Powerful Prospects for Renewable Energy

China's electricity from renewable sources will reach 3.3 trillion kWh by 2025, read the renewable energy development plan for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period on June 1. According to the plan, jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, the National Energy Administration and other seven central government departments, the growth in power from renewable sources will account for more than 50 percent of the country's total increase in power consumption during this time. The target will lift China's renewable energy development to a new level.

The 14th Five-Year Plan period is critical for advancing the green and low-carbon transition of the energy mix and fulfilling China's nationally determined contributions to the fight against climate change. The country's dynamic development of its renewable energy marks a major step in promoting the energy revolution and ensuring national energy security. Additionally, it is a requirement for meeting China's sustainable development objectives, as well as its carbon peaking and neutrality goals.

By late 2020, China's cumulative installed capacity for renewable energy had reached 934 million kW, accounting for

42.5 percent of the country's total power generation capacity. For many years now, China has ranked No.1 in the world in the installed capacity of wind, photovoltaic, hydro and biomass power generation.

Renewable energy power generation has been swiftly expanding across China, but its share in the increase of energy consumption is still lower than the average international level. Plus, the utilization of renewable energy needs to become more diversified.

The 14th Five-Year Plan period and beyond will be important for the world's energy transformation: Global energy will accelerate its evolution toward a low-carbon or zero-carbon pattern, and renewable energy will grow into the main source of energy supporting economic and social development. The newly released plan pledges, for example, to step up innovation in related technologies, strengthen future studies in the field and speed up breakthroughs in cutting-edge technologies in the development and utilization of renewable energy. The blueprint will provide impetus for the high-quality development of renewable energy, which today holds many great strategic prospects. **BR**



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JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90
TURKEY.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位: 中国外文出版发行事业局
主办单位: 中国外文局美洲传播中心(北京周报社)
地址: 北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编: 100037
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印刷: 北京华联印刷有限公司
北京周报 英文版2022年 第24期 ISSN 1000-9140
国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号: 2-922
广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证733号
国内零售价: 人民币6.00元



PUT TO THE TEST

An examinee hugs her mother before entering an exam site in Beijing on June 7. China's national college entrance exam, also known as the *gaokao*, started that day and lasted for two to three days—depending on the locality. As students across the country lined up for the first day of the exam, Shanghai candidates must wait another month as the city slowly emerges from a traumatic COVID-19 resurgence.

The class of 2022 is the first to have completed the entire high school curriculum under the pandemic's shadow.

This year, a record 11.93 million students nationwide took the exam.



Busy Farming

Farmers apply fertilizer to a lotus field in Deqing County, Zhejiang Province, on June 6. That day marked the arrival of *Mangzhong*, the ninth of 24 solar terms on the lunar calendar. It signifies the ripening of crops, a busy period for farmers.

New National Park

China has approved a plan to establish a national park at Qinghai Lake in Qinghai Province, local authorities said on June 7.

Gao Jingyu, deputy head of the protection and utilization administration in the Qinghai Lake scenic area, said that the administration will strive to complete the establishment of the Qinghai Lake National Park in 2024.

Qinghai Lake, located in the northeastern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, is an important ecological barrier and the country's largest inland saltwater lake, with an area of 4,625.6 square km in 2021.

In recent years, the environment has improved in the area, with biodiversity being rapidly

restored, according to Gao.

The lake is home to over 571,000 water birds of nearly 100 species, making it a key stopover site and major breeding ground for migratory birds, statistics from the administration showed.

Wind Power Project

Construction on a major wind power project began in Dechang County, Sichuan Province, on June 7.

Located mainly on Mount Laba, the wind power project is designed to have an installed capacity of 192,000 kW and include 60 wind turbines.

After it begins full operation in September 2023, the project will generate 501 million kWh

of electricity annually, which will be sufficient for the annual electricity consumption of approximately 210,000 households and will contribute to reducing some 400,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Restoring Biodiversity

Twenty million fish fingerlings were released into China's largest freshwater lake, Poyang Lake in Jiangxi Province, on June 6 to further restore its biodiversity. Some 6.5 million fish fingerlings, including mullet and Mandarin fish, and young river crabs, were released from a wharf in Yugan County of Shangrao City. The other 13.5 million were released into other areas of the lake.

"We aim to raise public

awareness about protecting aquatic life and building a beautiful environment for Jiangxi," said Lin Feng, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Shangrao.

To further preserve the biodiversity of the Yangtze River, from the beginning of 2020, China began a 10-year fishing moratorium across 332 conservation areas in the Yangtze River basin. The ban was later expanded to all the natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries.

"As a major tributary of the Yangtze River, Poyang Lake has seen a rapid recovery of aquatic life since the fishing ban came into effect," said Zhan Shupin, a fishery official in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Jiangxi Province.

Irrigation System

Construction of an irrigation system to supply water to over 66,000 hectares of farmland began in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on June 6.

Located in the city of Guiping, the irrigation system of the Dateng Gorge Water Conservancy Project is one of the major irrigation systems the country has planned for construction this year.

With a total investment of 8 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion), the system will be completed in approximately five years.

The irrigated area covered by the system is one of Guangxi's major producers of grain and sugarcane.

China is accelerating the construction of water conservancy projects as part of efforts to expand domestic demand, stabilize its economy, and promote high-quality development.

China's investment in water conservancy facilities jumped 45.5 percent year on year to

195.8 billion yuan (\$29.4 billion) in the first four months of this year, said the Ministry of Water Resources.

The country plans to launch more than 30 water conservancy construction projects in 2022, involving about 800 billion yuan (\$119.9 billion).

Eye Care Services

June 6 marked the 27th National Eye Care Day in China. Among the country's efforts to provide more extensive eye care services that cover all stages of people's lives, the eye health of children and seniors has been a focus.

The prevalence of myopia, or nearsightedness, among Chinese preschoolers and young students was 52.7 percent in 2020; the figure among primary school students rose even faster, according to the National Health Commission.

Warning that myopia among young children is a significant problem, Bao Yongzhen, an ophthalmologist at Peking University People's Hospital, said a slew of measures including increasing outdoor activity hours, reducing close-range work, and offering periodic vision examinations have been initiated.

The coverage rate of eye care and vision tests is expected

to exceed 90 percent for children aged six and under by the end of 2025, according to a five-year plan on vision care promotion formulated by the commission.

The incidence of age-related cataracts has been increasing as the country's older population continues to grow.

The number of cataract operations per million people in China had exceeded 3,000 by 2020, an increase of nearly 38 times in 30 years, but the figure is still far less than that of major developed countries.

The country plans to raise the figure to 3,500 by 2025 and strengthen the supporting policies to improve the medical services provided by county-level hospitals.

Science Popularization

China has made strong efforts to popularize science both online and offline over the past decade, an official said on June 6.

The proportion of scientifically literate Chinese citizens increased to 10.56 percent in 2020, nearly two times that in 2015, Zhang Yuzhuo, Vice Chairperson of the China Association for Science and Technology, said at a press conference.

Over the past decade,



Night Economy

Evening diners enjoy local specialties at a food stall in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, on June 5.

modern science and technology museums have developed rapidly, with offline visitors surpassing 850 million, Zhang said.

The number of offline science and technology museums has increased from 118 in 2012 to 408 at present, he said, adding that a total of 1,112 popular-science sites have been built in rural middle schools.

A national online platform for science popularization, named China Digital Science

and Technology Museum, has seen its users increase to more than 15 million.

While hailing China's significant progress in strengthening science popularization, Zhang also acknowledged urban-rural and regional gap in this regard.

"We will further channel more popular-science resources and services to underdeveloped areas to help boost rural revitalization," Zhang said.



Environment Day

Children learn about sewage test methods at a sewage treatment plant in Zunhua, Hebei Province, on June 4. Events were held to raise people's awareness of environmental protection in China ahead of World Environment Day, which fell on June 5.

Forex Reserves

China's forex holdings amounted to more than \$3.12 trillion at the end of May, up \$8.1 billion, or 0.26 percent, from the end of April, ending a four-month declining streak, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

"The supply and demand of the domestic foreign exchange market remained balanced," said Wang Chungjing, the administration's deputy head, when commenting on the data.

She attributed the increase in forex reserves to the combined impacts of the slight decline in the dollar index due to monetary policy and expectations in major economies, global economic growth prospects, and geopolitical events.

Deeming the external situations both complex and grim, Wang said the global financial market still faces uncertainties amid increasing risks and challenges in the global economy.

But China's economic fundamentals for long-term growth remain unchanged thanks to efforts in coordinating COVID-19 prevention and control with economic and social development, which will help stabilize the country's forex reserves, Wang said.

Commodity Index

The China Bulk Merchandise Index, a gauge of domestic bulk commodity market growth, gained 1.6 percentage points in May from the previous month to stand at 101.3 percent, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) said.

Specifically, both supply and sales sub-indexes bottomed out and registered encouraging rebounds, with the latter at the highest notch in a year.

With the influence of the pandemic abating markedly and pro-growth measures in force, market demand is recovering and business operations are

showing positive signs, the CFLP said. Sales of all major merchandise rose, including steel, coal, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, and automobiles.

The expanding commodity market added to evidence that the economy is emerging from the shadow of COVID-19, with disrupted factory activities and people's lives getting back on track.

Sci-Tech Input

Investment in science and technology by enterprises accounted for more than 76 percent of China's total research and development (R&D) investment, Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang said at a press conference on June 6.

The number of hi-tech companies in the country rose from 49,000 more than a decade ago to 330,000 in 2021, with R&D investment from these companies accounting for 70 percent of the total.

In 2012, those companies paid 800 billion yuan (\$120 billion) in taxes, and this figure climbed to 2.3 trillion yuan (\$345 billion) in 2021.

Wang added that hi-tech companies constituted more than 90 percent of all firms listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange's sci-tech innovation board and on the Beijing Stock Exchange.

RMB Assets

Financial institutions abroad have greater demand for assets denominated in the Chinese currency, the yuan, an annual survey by Bank of China showed.

Among all the overseas financial institutions surveyed last year, 61.3 percent said they would increase their holdings of yuan-denominated assets. The proportion expanded by 9 percentage points compared with the 2020 survey.

Nearly 80 percent of the surveyed companies, both at

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.7 yuan as of June 9)

China's Comprehensive Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



home and abroad, said they would continue expanding the use of the Chinese currency in cross-border settlements, while 68 percent of foreign companies said they would prefer yuan-denominated capital in trade with China, according to the survey.

Businesses worldwide have higher expectations for the yuan's role as an international currency, with 52 percent of surveyed industrial and commercial firms envisioning the Chinese currency to have a global position near that of the U.S. dollar and the euro in the next 10 years.

Covering more than 3,400 businesses and institutions worldwide, the survey has been released annually since 2013.

Rural E-Commerce

The Ministry of Commerce and seven other government agencies have issued a circular on speeding up the integration of rural e-commerce and express

delivery systems to better link production and consumption between urban and rural areas.

Measures will be taken to upgrade county-level logistics distribution centers and build demonstration zones for the coordinated development of rural e-commerce and express delivery services, the document said.

The country will further facilitate the circulation of agricultural products from villages to cities, and consumer goods from urban to rural areas, read the circular.

It underlined the importance of improving rural express delivery infrastructure, promoting the construction of cold chain logistics facilities for the storage and preservation of agricultural products, and strengthening weak links in cold chain logistics in producing areas.

Qualified rural areas are encouraged to promote intelligent logistics with the support of cloud computing, big data

and the Internet of Things, while offering e-commerce services including product development, data analysis and marketing.

Housing Market

The secondhand housing market regained some lost ground in May as the country eases financing and restrictions for home buyers, according to a report by the Beike Research Institute.

Sales volume of previously owned homes in 50 cities surveyed rose by approximately 14 percent from April, according to the report.

More than 80 percent of the cities recorded month-on-month upticks, while some cities in the northeast and the Yangtze River Delta region saw sales more than double, the report noted.

Prices of pre-owned homes, however, fell 0.9 percent from April in the 50 cities, increasing from a 0.3-percent decline in April.

The report estimates sales

volume to further expand and prices to stabilize in the second half of this year.

Industrial Parks

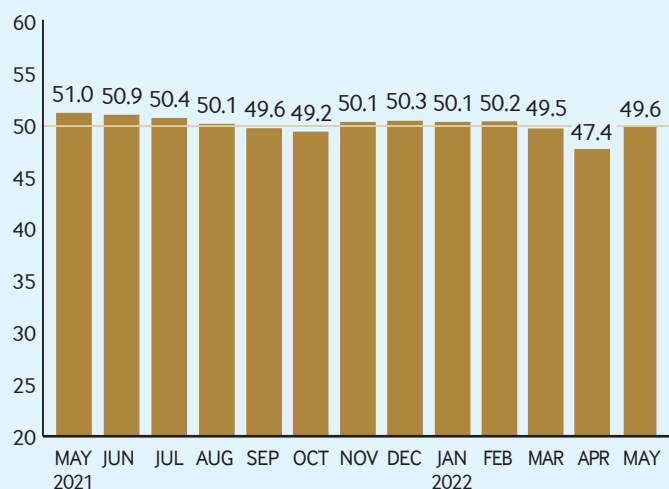
Shenzhen in Guangdong Province plans to build 20 industrial parks with a total area of 300 square km, the municipal government announced on June 6.

The move aims to develop and bolster 20 strategic emerging sectors and nurture eight industries of the future.

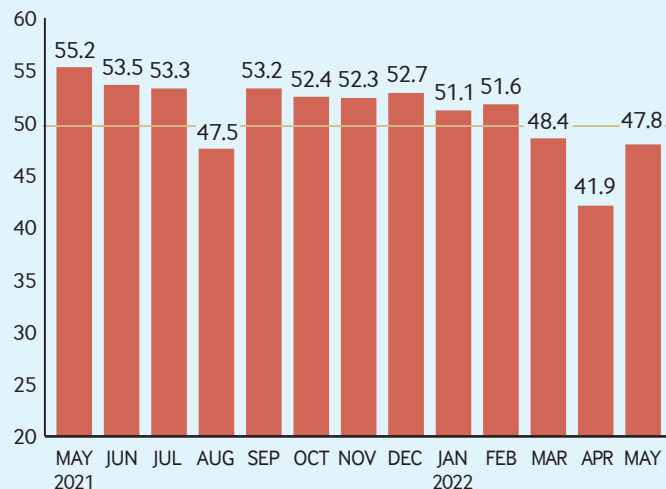
The strategic emerging sectors cover telecommunications, semiconductors, and intelligent terminals and sensors. They also cover software, intelligent robots, precision instruments and equipment, new energy, intelligent connected vehicles, new materials, and biomedicine.

The industries of the future include synthetic biology, blockchain, cells and genes, space technology, brain science and brain-like intelligence, as well as quantum information.

China's Manufacturing PMI



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



BRITAIN

People watch the Royal Air Force fly-past after the Trooping the Color parade, on the first of four days of celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in London on June 2



BRAZIL

People walk down a flooded street following heavy downpours in Recife on June 4. The death toll from the previous week's heavy rains in the city and its metropolitan area had risen to 128 that day



TURKEY

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right) and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro attend a joint press conference in Ankara on June 8. The two leaders pledged to enhance cooperation between their countries



UNITED STATES

Apple CEO Tim Cook attends an event showcasing new products during the 2022 Apple Worldwide Developers Conference inside the Steve Jobs Theater at the Apple Park in Cupertino, California, on June 6



UNITED NATIONS

Hungarian diplomat Csaba Korosi delivers a speech after being elected president of the upcoming 77th Session of the UN General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York on June 7



BANGLADESH

Rescue workers inspect the site of a massive fire at a container depot near a port city in southeast Bangladesh on June 5. At least 45 people were killed and 187 injured after a private container depot caught fire around midnight on June 4



↓ NEW INTERNATIONAL LIAISON HEAD

Veteran diplomat **Liu Jianchao** has been appointed head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Born in Dehui, Jilin Province, in 1964, Liu graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University, majoring in English. He studied International Relations at Oxford University from 1986 to 1987 and later started working for the Department of Translation and Interpretation of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He went on to hold various positions in government departments and embassies, serving as Chinese ambassador to the Philippines from 2009 to 2011, and to Indonesia from 2011 to 2013.

From 2018 to May 2022, Liu was deputy director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee.



Dedication to Your Profession

Yangcheng Evening News
June 8

It has become a trend among medical staff to sell goods through live-streaming. Doctors are more convincing than ordinary live-streamers as they have professional medical knowledge and experience. This model is supposed to be a win-win business for both medical staff and consumers.

The problem now is that, lured by huge profits, some doctors are focused on turning themselves into online influencers. As their side gigs often bring in more money than their professional

occupations, more medical workers are getting involved in live-stream marketing, and some even do harm to consumers.

Trading on their authority as medical professionals, some of them endorse fake or shoddy medical products, and some have spent a lot of time with viewers in their live chat rooms. In this case, it's doubtful how much of their time is spent on medical research or curing patients.

Consequently, doctors are banned from live-streaming in many places. The ban protects the reputation of medical staff and, more importantly, encourages doctors to return to their formal profession of curing patients and saving lives, instead of indulging themselves in online activities.



Planning Ahead

Lifeweek
June 12

By the end of 2022, people aged above 65 in China may exceed 14 percent of the total population. By 2050, the number of people aged above 80 is expected to exceed 159 million.

"Digital inclusion is going to be the bedrock of global collaboration and a means to empower people to improve their lives."

Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, at the World Telecommunication Development Conference on June 6

"The so-called 'genocide' in Xinjiang is the lie of the century conjured up by U.S. politicians; it's a classic example of their lying diplomacy."

Zhao Lijian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a daily press briefing on June 6

For individuals, aging means one is more vulnerable to disease, earns less and imposes a heavier burden on society. In this sense, the aging population is an emerging crisis.

Nowadays, a lot of countries are seeing their fertility rates plunge, and so there is an insufficient young labor force to support the economy. At the same time, many experienced workers leave the labor force to retire.

In the early years of industrialization, people were forced out of their hometowns and to resettle in fast-growing cities. At that time, technological progress failed to deliver comfortable and secure lives to ordinary people. Gradually, social development began to pick up, and social security networks, including the pension system, were established to ensure people's basic livelihood.

Longer life expectancy itself is not a bad thing. Or rather, it reflects unprecedented human achievements in medical care, science and technology, and social governance. The crux now is whether human beings are able to create a new economic and social structure and a way of life that suit the irresistible trend of aging.

Bustling Night Market

Qianjiang Evening News
June 9

More than 230 stalls in Wulinmen in the center of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, have resumed business after a two-month suspension. The night market is a place to experience local Hangzhou culture. The return of the market reveals that, after lockdowns are gradually lifted in many cities, people begin to resume their normal lives.

Street vending, though earning meager incomes, is the only effective way for many to support their families as the economy is still reeling from pandemic-induced shocks.

They depend on their street stalls to pay for daily expenses and their children's education.

These bustling streets make evenings more enjoyable. Shops along the streets are seeing their sales recover and other businesses in the area are also seeing increasing foot traffic. People's enthusiasm for consumption is ignited by the market, as the vendors offer cheap goods for daily use. Of course, when people are willing to spend money, the economy will recover. This is also an effective method of flexible employment. These noisy evening pictures fill people with the confidence to overcome economic difficulties while showing the resilience of the Chinese economy.

↓ TRAIN DRIVER DIES ON DUTY

Yang Yong, the 46-year-old driver of the derailed bullet train D2809 in Guizhou Province, activated the emergency braking system to prevent the train from overturning and protect the safety of those on board.

As the train traveled from Guiyang, Guizhou, to Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, two of its cars derailed after hitting debris from a landslide that was on the track as the train approached Rongjiang County, Guizhou, on June 4. One crew member and seven passengers were injured; Yang later died in hospital. The remaining 136 passengers were safely evacuated. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

A funeral ceremony for Yang took place on June 7 in his hometown of Zunyi, Guizhou. His family, friends, colleagues and many locals came to pay their last respects.



"The international community should work together to promote peace talks and encourage Russia and Ukraine to come back to the negotiating table."

Dai Bing, China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at a Security Council meeting on June 6

"China has achieved inspiring and remarkable outcomes in fighting climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution."

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, at China's national event on June 5 marking the 2022 World Environment Day



COVER STORY

PEACE PROJECT

China gears up to accelerate energy transition By Zhang Shasha