

OPINION: ONE-CHINA PRINCIPLE EXPLAINED P.23

FEATURES: MUSEUM CULTURE P.42

# BEIJING REVIEW

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## THE ORCHID AWARDS

Recognizing those who bring  
civilizations closer together

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## AWARDING CEREMONY OF THE INAUGURAL ORCHID AWARDS

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**Chief:** Yu Shujun  
**Executive Assistant:** Zhao Wei  
**Tel/Fax:** 1-201-792-0334  
**E-mail:** yushujun@cicgamericas.com  
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**Chief:** Lin Yeqing  
**Tel:** 52-55-55127271  
**Fax:** 52-55-55332027  
**E-mail:** chinahoymx@gmail.com  
**Peru Office (Lima)**  
**Chief:** Meng Kexin  
**Tel:** 0051-959212702  
**E-mail:** revistachinaperu@gmail.com

### General Editorial Office

**Tel:** 86-10-68996252  
**Fax:** 86-10-68326628  
**Editorial Desk**  
**Tel:** 86-10-68996250  
**Partnerships**  
**Tel:** 86-10-68995807  
**E-mail:** yecong@cicgamericas.com  
**Distribution**  
**Tel:** 86-10-68310644  
**E-mail:** circulation@cicgamericas.com

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Beijing 100044, China  
**Tel:** 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)  
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## Envoys of Character

On September 8, 10 awardees from around the world received special golden-colored orchids in Beijing.

What they proudly took away were trophies in the shape of the celebrated flower. Initiated by China International Communications Group, a Beijing-based conglomerate with a mission to tell China's story to an international audience, the Orchid Awards aim to honor non-Chinese individuals and organizations committed to strengthening cultural exchange and mutual learning between China and the rest of the world.

In traditional Chinese culture, the orchid is known as the flower with a noble character. It is also a symbol of mutual respect, mutual learning, and harmony between peoples and between humans and nature. The name Orchid Awards is not only an elegant tribute to the achievements of the winners, but also an illustration of how and why China cements cultural bonds with other countries.

The 10 winners of the inaugural Orchid Awards come from different backgrounds and are engaged in a wide range of undertakings, such as music, Sinology, translation and directing, but what distinguishes all of them is their deep appreciation of Chinese culture, and their outstanding contributions to international exchange.

Amity between people holds the key to

sound state-to-state relations, and building affinity requires increasing mutual understanding. In today's interconnected world, it is important to raise the awareness of cultural sensitivities and foster a global vision.

Nations around the world have created distinct civilizations, an overarching term that highlights material, cultural and intellectual development in a society. While they vary from one another, all of them are components of the human civilization and deserve equal respect. Moreover, they share a number of common values such as peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom.

The Global Civilizations Initiative proposed by China calls for letting exchange transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes and inclusiveness transcend any sense of superiority, principles that serve the fundamental interests of the international community.

The Orchid Awards have been initiated to encourage more people to devote themselves to international exchange as champions of unity in diversity and of removing barriers between peoples. At a time when the world is confronting dramatic changes, coupled with the threats of anti-globalization and populism, hopes are high that more advocates of this noble cause will come forward, speak up and defend the values we jointly hold dear. **BR**



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地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037

编委会：李雅芳 李建国 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 曾文卉

主任：李雅芳

总编室电话：(010) 68996252 发行部电话：(010) 68310644

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# THE NEED FOR SPEED

Indonesian President Joko Widodo (center) enters Halim Station in Jakarta, Indonesia, on September 13. That same day, Widodo rode the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, a landmark project connecting Indonesia's capital Jakarta and West Java's provincial capital of Bandung under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to boost global connectivity along the ancient Silk Road routes.

With a design speed of 350 km per hour, the railway spanning 142.3 km will cut the journey between the two cities from over three hours to around 40 minutes.

This high-speed railway will be up and running in early October.



## City Celebrations

Artists perform at the Ancient City of Kashgar scenic area in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, on September 7. The ancient city, located in southwestern Xinjiang, is the largest complex of raw earth buildings still in use in the world.

## Court Collaboration

Courts in 10 provincial-level regions in China set up a collaborative alliance to strengthen judicial protection of national parks in the country on September 12.

The alliance includes 10 higher people's courts, 23 intermediate people's courts and more than 40 grassroots people's courts in provincial-level regions including Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Jilin, Hainan and Fujian.

The alliance was launched at a meeting held in the city of Nanping, Fujian Province, in east China.

According to an official of the Fujian Provincial Higher

People's Court, the initiator of the collaborative alliance, this alliance aims to increase judicial protection of national parks for high-quality development.

According to a framework agreement, judicial authorities will establish and improve a tribunal network to ramp up crackdown on crimes against the environment and resources of national parks.

## Pangolin Recovery

The wild population of Chinese pangolins has recovered steadily in recent years, with a marked improvement in their natural habitats, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration

(NFGA), Xinhua News Agency reported on September 11.

The animals have been found in 10 provinces around the country so far, including Guangdong, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian and Hainan, Hua Yan, an official with the pangolin protection research center under the administration, said.

Multiple breeding populations of Chinese pangolins have been found in some of the aforementioned regions, according to the administration.

Pangolins are an ecologically important species, influencing the structure, function and health of forest ecosystems. Due to excessive hunting and habitat loss, wild stocks of pangolins once plummeted sharply.

China has since upgraded its protection of pangolins to the highest level and adopted legislative measures to protect the species.

## Telecom Fraud

China's prosecution and public security authorities have intensified collaborative efforts to crack down on trans-border telecom fraud, placing the investigations of five major cases under joint oversight.

This move follows prior cooperation between the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) and the Ministry of Public Security in overseeing eight significant trans-border telecom fraud cases, the SPP said on September 12.

According to the SPP, the current five cases, which were registered in China's Chongqing Municipality and Fujian, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Sichuan provinces, encompass a range of criminal activities.

These activities include organizing domestic individuals to participate in fraudulent activities abroad by illicitly crossing borders, as well as engaging in severe violent crimes such as unlawful detention and intentional injury.

In a solemn warning, the authorities urged criminals staying abroad to take no chance in trying to evade punishment but to return to China to turn themselves in as soon as possible.

## Carbon Neutrality

Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China has achieved overall carbon neutrality, Yan Jinhai, head of the regional government, said during the Namjagbarwa Forum on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Ecosystem, which opened on September 10 in the region's



Nyingchi City.

Currently, the carbon sink of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau ecosystem amounts to 162 million metric tons per year, accounting for 8 to 16 percent of China's total ecosystem carbon sink, according to the experts attending the forum. Carbon sinks are natural systems that capture and store carbon from the atmosphere.

Based on data, combined with the findings of China's ongoing second scientific research survey on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which started in 2017, the annual carbon sink of Tibet's ecosystem in recent years reached around 47.6 million tons of carbon dioxide, with its annual carbon emission totaling about 11.5 million tons, indicating that the region has actually been in a state of carbon neutrality, the experts explained.

## Mangrove Center

China's proposal to establish an international mangrove center has been approved by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention, the NFGA said on September 7.

The Ramsar Convention, named after the Iranian city of Ramsar where the convention was signed in 1971, is an intergov-

ernmental agreement dedicated to the conservation and rational use of wetland ecosystems.

The international mangrove center will be set up in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in south China.

China pledged to intensify international cooperation on wetland protection and establish the international mangrove center last year when attending the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

For the next step, the center will put in place an international cooperation mechanism to intensify global efforts in mangrove conservation, restoration, and utilization, the NFGA said.

## Promoting Tourism

Tianjin Municipality in north China has launched a new trial cruise line along the Ziya River, a branch of the Haihe River, aiming to inject vitality into the riverside tourism industry.

The cruise route covers about 20 km, starting from the Ancient Culture Street Wharf to the Yangliuqing Wharf. During the approximately 80-minute voyage, tourists can enjoy many of the city's tourist attractions, including a Ferris wheel called "Tianjin Eye."



## Wind of Change

Wind turbine blades ready for transportation at a port in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province in east China on September 8. The city has boosted green and low-carbon development by advancing new energy industries such as wind and photovoltaic power in recent years.

According to Tianjin Jinlu Haihe Cruises Co. Ltd., the operator of the cruise, since the beginning of this year, the Haihe cruises have received more than 1 million visits, with operating revenue increasing by 536 percent year on year and hitting a record high.

A cruise along the Haihe River has increasingly become a tourist attraction and an iconic window into the charm of Tianjin.

In 2024, the number of wharves along the Haihe River will increase from seven to 15, and 10 new cruise ships will be purchased, Yu Qing, the chairman of the Tianjin Tourism (Holding) Corporation Ltd., said.

He also noted that the company plans to expand the cruise routes from the river to the ocean to make Tianjin a distinctive tourism destination in north China.



## Right on Track

The exterior view of the first articulated light rail train customized by CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Co. Ltd., for Mexico City, in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province in central China on September 10. The train rolled off the assembly line on September 9.

## NEV Exports

China's exports of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) soared 110 percent year on year to 727,000 units in the first eight months of the year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Exports of fully electric vehicles surged 120 percent from the same period last year to 665,000 units, and exports of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles climbed 73.5 percent to 62,000 units, the association said.

The country's auto exports totaled 2.94 million units in the first eight months, up 61.9 percent year on year. Exports of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles climbed 69.8 percent and 31.1 percent, respectively, from last year.

## Loan Expansion

Outstanding yuan-denominated loans rose by 1.36 trillion yuan (\$186.6 billion) in China in August, data from the People's

Bank of China (PBC), the country's central bank, showed.

The amount marked a sharp rise from the 345.9 billion yuan (\$47.5 billion) reported in July and was 86.8 billion yuan (\$11.9 billion) more than the number of August last year, according to the PBC.

The expansion signaled improvement in market expectations and sentiment, and showed the effects of the country's increased financial support for the real economy amid efforts to boost economic growth and market confidence, Zhang Jun, chief economist of China Galaxy Securities Co. Ltd., said.

The outstanding yuan loans expanded by 17.44 trillion yuan (\$2.39 trillion) in the first eight months of the year, compared with the 15.68 trillion yuan (\$2.15 trillion) recorded a year earlier, according to the data.

Newly added social financing, a measurement of funds that individuals and non-financial firms can receive from the

financial system, came in at 3.12 trillion yuan (\$428.2 billion) in August, up from 528.2 billion yuan (\$72.5 billion) in July and 631.6 billion yuan (\$86.7 billion) more than the same period last year.

To support economic recovery, the PBC in its second-quarter monetary policy report vowed to apply a combination of monetary policy tools to keep liquidity reasonable and ample, and ensure that the expansion of credit supply and social financing matches the country's nominal economic growth rate.

## Commodity Imports

China's imports of major commodities, including coal, crude oil and natural gas, saw a significant increase in the first eight months of the year, amid the country's continuous economic recovery, customs data showed.

During the January-August period, the country imported 306 million tons of coal, up 82 percent year on year, while

imports of crude oil and refined oil surged 14.7 percent and 100.1 percent, respectively, to 379 million tons and 30.55 million tons, according to the General Administration of Customs of China.

The country's imports of natural gas rose 9.4 percent year on year to 77.7 million tons in the first eight months, the data showed.

The per-ton price of these commodities all edged down, the data revealed.

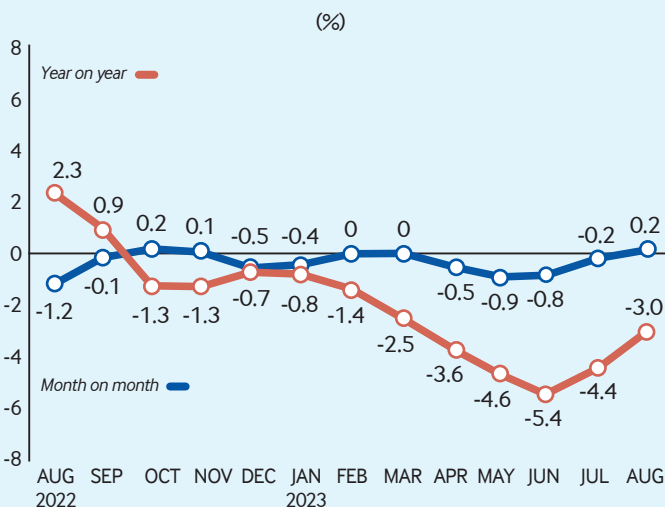
## C919 Jet Orders

The order quantity for China's homegrown C919 jet had reached 1,061, He Dongfeng, Board Chairman of the Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China Ltd. (COMAC), said at the 16th Pujiang Innovation Forum on September 10.

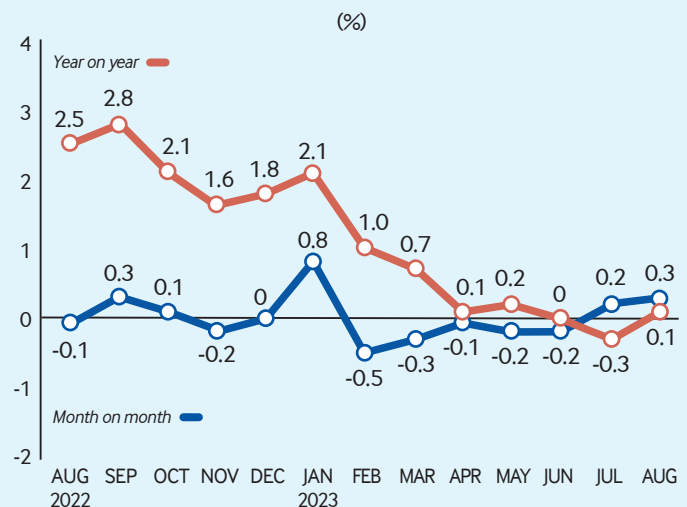
According to the aircraft manufacturer, which developed the C919 and ARJ21 jetliners, China's domestically produced passenger aircraft sector has

# NUMBERS

China's Producer Price Index Growth



China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth





initially formed a product lineup ranging from regional aircraft, short- to medium-haul narrow-body aircraft, to long-haul wide-body aircraft.

In December 2022, the inaugural customer of C919, China Eastern Airlines, received deliveries, with commercial operations beginning in May this year.

## Chinese Brand Value

The values of 100 leading Chinese brands topped \$1 trillion for the third straight year this year, according to a report on the 2023 BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Chinese Brands released by the international market research firm Kantar on September 8.

Total value of the brands stood at \$1.01 trillion this year, the report said. Tencent was crowned top with a brand value of about \$144.11 billion.

Internet giant Alibaba and liquor producer Kweichow Moutai ranked second and third, registering brand values of

\$90.19 billion and \$88.43 billion, respectively.

Alcohol, apparel and automobile sector brands, with total values of \$175.89 billion contributed the most to the total value of the 100 brands. The apparel sector saw a skyrocketing 327-percent year-on-year growth rate in brand values in the past year, according to the report.

In terms of calculations, the brand value is the multiplication of financial value by brand contribution of each company featuring in the top 100 of the rankings.

## High-End Manufacturing

The number of listed companies majoring in the high-end manufacturing sector has reached 2,021 in China amid policy support and the structural transformation and upgrading of Chinese industries, according to a report released by the China Association for Public Companies on September 8.

The figure accounts for 57 percent of all manufacturing companies listed on the domestic A-share market, data from the report shows.

Semiconductor and high-end machinery manufacturing industries have seen robust development, with wind power, photovoltaic, energy storage and transportation equipment electrification sectors embracing a period of rapid development.

In 2022, total revenue of listed high-end manufacturing companies reached 13.16 trillion yuan (\$1.8 trillion), with a compound growth rate of 14.97 percent over the past five years.

The net profits of the companies stood at 875.08 billion yuan (\$120.1 billion) last year, with a compound growth rate of 25.52 percent in the past five years, the report showed.

## Forex Reserves

China's foreign exchange (forex) reserves came in at \$3.1601 trillion by the end of August, down

from \$3.2043 trillion in late July, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

The country's forex regulator attributed the decrease to the combined impact of currency translation and asset price changes.

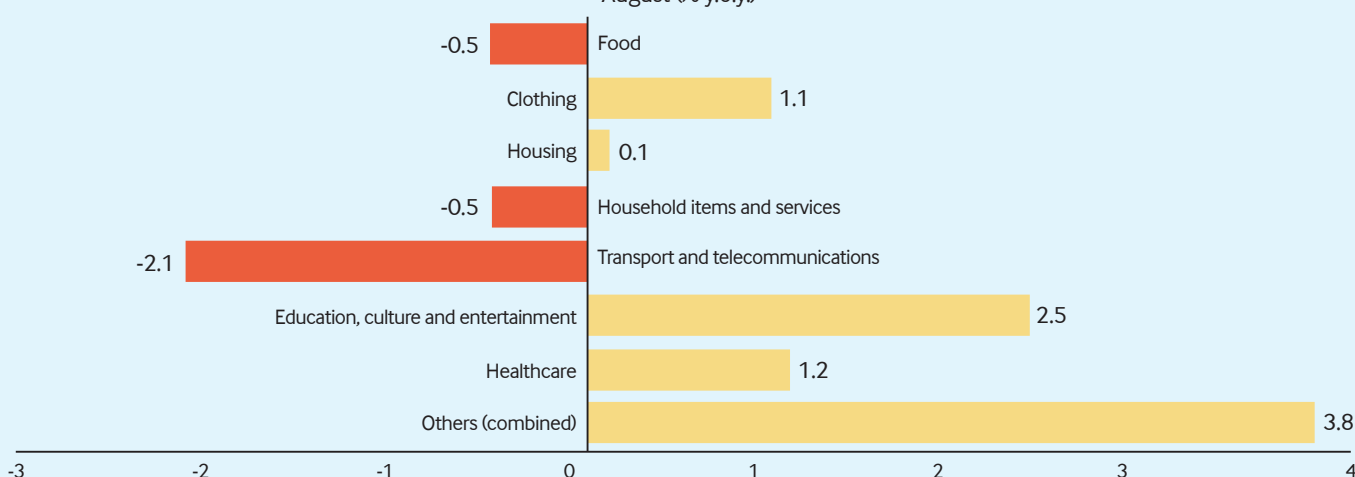
The U.S. dollar index, a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to a basket of foreign currencies, rose in August and the prices of global financial assets largely declined, affected by the fiscal and monetary policies of major economies as well as their macroeconomic data, the regulator said.

China's forex reserves are expected to remain generally stable as the country maintains an economic recovery trend and the fundamentals for long-term, sound development, the regulator added.

The data also showed that the country's gold reserves had risen to 69.62 million ounces as of late August, up from 68.69 million ounces in late July.

China's CPI Growth by Type

August (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

XINHUA



## UNITED KINGDOM

A man takes a close look at the Parthenon Marbles, a collection of stone objects, inscriptions and sculptures, also known as the Elgin Marbles, at the British Museum in London on September 7. With the museum currently embroiled in a theft scandal, calls are growing for the institution to return items stolen from foreign countries



## LIBYA

A flood-affected area in Derna on September 11. Thousands were killed after floods, triggered by Mediterranean storm *Daniel*, hit east Libya



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## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

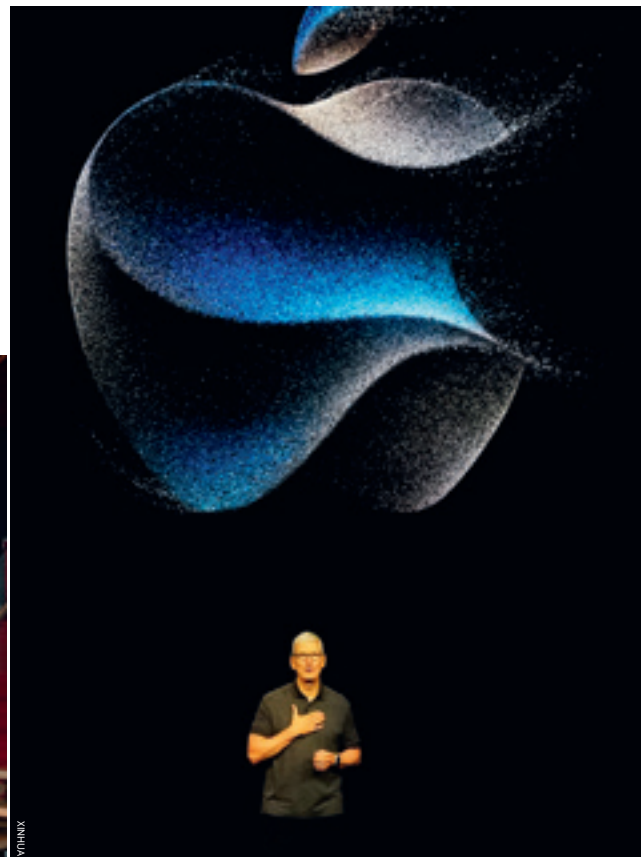
A paramilitary parade and a national meeting are held on September 8 in Pyongyang to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the nation's founding





## JAPAN

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (center, front) poses for group photos with his cabinet members at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on September 13. Kishida revamped his cabinet and the executive lineup of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party that day



## UNITED STATES

Apple CEO Tim Cook makes an appearance at the company's press conference in Cupertino, California, on September 13. Apple unveiled its new iPhones and smart watches during the gathering



## MOROCCO

A boy walks through debris near the epicenter of an earthquake in Amizmiz on September 10. The death toll from the country's devastating earthquake had risen to 2,901, with 5,530 injured, as of September 13





# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ ALIBABA'S NEW CHAIRMAN

Cofounder **Joe Tsai** became chairman of the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group on September 10.

The Taiwan-born Canadian businessman joined Alibaba in 1999 as a member of the company's founding team and has served on the board of directors since its inception. He was chief financial officer until May 2013 and executive vice chairman until this month. He has been the initiator and driver of several of Alibaba's strategic investments and plans to expand internationally. In 2014, he led the company to go public on the New York Stock Exchange.

Tsai received his bachelor's degree in economics and East Asian studies from Yale University in the U.S. and a juris doctor degree from Yale Law School.



## Brown Is the New Black

**Yangtze Evening Post**  
September 5

As summer gradually fades into fall, China's fashion scene is shifting away from dopamine dressing, a trend that aims to create a joyful vibe through bold colors and patterns, toward a more toned-down style known as the Maillard style. On lifestyle and e-commerce app Xiaohongshu (Little Red Book), celebrities and influencers are showing off their Maillard-colored outfits, accessories, nails and even homes.

This newly emerging trend is named after the Maillard reaction, the chemical reaction between amino acids and

sugars that causes browning when food is heated, producing the rich flavors and the golden brown color of a range of delicacies. Inspired by this well-known culinary process, the Maillard style features a wide spectrum of autumnal tones, ranging from shades of brown to colors that go well with these browns, such as burgundy, khaki and off-white.

The Maillard style's fixation on deep-toned fall colors reminds one of seared steaks, roasted coffee, baked goods and toasted marshmallows, thereby bringing out a sense of simplicity, comfort and warmth. After several seasons of bold expressivity, the country's fashion industry seems to be falling into a more laid-back, versatile and accessible groove.



## Shandong's Ocean Economy

**Outlook Weekly**  
September 4

Seated in the lower Yellow River Valley, where the land stretches into the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea, the eastern province of Shandong boasts a coastline of over 3,000 km, one sixth of the country's total. Possessing abundant ocean resources, the province is one of the country's most important hubs for maritime industries. In 2022, Shandong's marine

"This discovery enhanced our understanding of the layout of a Shang capital."

**Yang Shugang**, a researcher with the Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, commenting on a recently unearthed ancient water system in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, the largest of its kind from the early period of the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.) to be discovered thus far

"It's an indescribable feeling of pride and sheer happiness to see my painting exhibited in space by Chinese astronauts. Such competitions and activities bring us closer to the Chinese culture."

**Rawda Ahmed Ali Al-Shawadfy**, an 18-year-old Egyptian, speaking after her artwork was showcased by Chinese astronauts in the *Tiangong* Space Station via video link on September 13. Her painting was selected during a contest in March

sector raked in 1.63 trillion yuan (\$223 billion), which accounted for 17.2 percent of the total output of China's marine economy.

A pillar sector driving local economic growth is aquaculture. As of 2022, the province had 139 marine ranches, of which 67 are national-level pilot projects. First developed in the 1970s, the concept of marine ranching describes the cultivation of marine life for food and other products in the ocean. In Shandong, this particular type of aquaculture has evolved from family-owned, labor-intensive fisheries into hi-tech industries over the past decade. In 2022, Shenlan 1, the country's first deep-sea fish farm, harvested its first catch of Atlantic salmon off Qingdao's coast.

Shandong has invested much energy into building a series of offshore wind farms. In 2022, the world's first deep-sea floating energy farm, which harnesses both wind and solar power, was completed off the coast of Yantai, another city in the province.

Also, researchers are looking toward the province's vast coastal regions as a rich source for new medicines. In 2019, GV-971, a new Alzheimer's drug extracted from brown algae in the area, entered the market. In the years to come, Shandong will continue to venture into the deep blue for new discoveries and opportunities.

## Fall of an Idol

**Yangcheng Evening News**  
**September 6**

On September 2, an influencer known by his online handle Xiucai, with over 12 million followers on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, was banned due to reported violations of the platform's community rules. Over the past few months, Xiucai has won the hearts of many senior Chinese women with his signature move. He begins by making a surprised expression, as if it's a chance encounter, and then quickly and flirtatiously touches his hair before finally giving a lip-sync performance of an old song. The influencer's immense popularity has prompted many netizens to post videos imitating the classic Xiucai sequence.

According to the Tax Bureau of Bozhou, Anhui Province, the allegations against Xiucai they received are about personal income tax issues. The investigation is currently underway, authorities said. Tax fraud is not the only suspected criminal act that Xiucai has reportedly committed. One of the influencer's fans, a 62-year-old woman from Beijing, has claimed he cheated her out of 510,000 yuan (\$70,000).

Cheesy as he may seem, Xiucai's sudden rise to fame draws attention to the needs of elderly netizens, a group that has been much overlooked when it comes to online trends. Nevertheless, his equally sudden fall exposes senior netizens' vulnerability to potential cyber fraud.

## GLOBAL AI LEADER

**Li Yanhong**, or **Robin Li**, CEO, Chairman and cofounder of technology giant Baidu, has been recognized as a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI).

In the inaugural list of the 100 Most Influential People in AI, released by *Time* magazine in early September, Li was placed into the Leaders category. It reads he is "China's foremost futurist" and "has been riding the AI wave for a long time."



Since he cofounded Baidu as a search engine in 2000, the company has been developing multiple core algorithms and key AI technologies, and has applied them to many fields, such as natural language processing, image and speech recognition, smart homes and intelligent driving.

Recently, the company made a breakthrough in generative AI, publicly releasing ERNIE Bot, its own large language model, in late August.

"We can see Chinese developers creating inspiration for developers around the world. For example, trends like super apps, livestreaming and commerce apps started here in China, followed by other players abroad trying to implement similar platform approaches."

**Jeanine Banks**, head of developer relations at Google, during the Google I/O Connect China, a developer conference of the technology giant, in Shanghai on September 6-7

"The sci-fi elements that Liu Cixin brings here have revived this power plant in another way."

**Shuai Xuefeng**, a former worker at the Niangziguan Power Plant in Yangquan, Shanxi Province, where award-winning novelist Liu used to work as an engineer, commenting on how Liu's popularity has made the plant, which was shut down in a move to cut emissions, a resort for sci-fi fans

# 首届兰花奖颁奖

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兰花奖  
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COVER STORY

# FRAGRANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

Orchid Awards recognize internationals for promoting exchange By Lu Yan