

# China's Int'l Development Cooperation Drive

## Policy

By ZHONG Jianli

During the past decade, China has played an important role in leading international development cooperation, offering foreign aid, and being involved in global governance, according to Luo Zhaohui, chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) during a recent press briefing in Beijing.

Luo said China has arranged over 2,000 aid projects in more than 120 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries, and established over 80 economic and trade cooperation zones, stimulating investment of nearly a trillion US dollars. In addition, it has provided training for more than 100,000 professionals in various fields, helping up to 40 million people escape the poverty line.

The agency has aligned itself with the development plans and strategies of BRI partner countries, according to Deng Boqing, vice chairman of the CIDCA, allowing it to provide extensive technical consulting services focused on infrastructure interconnectivity, trade facilitation, and technological standardization, as well as implementing a number of projects for local people's welfare.

China has helped multiple countries in Africa construct medical infrastructure and laboratories, providing medical equipment and expertise. China's assistance has extended to combating malar-



Lin Dongmei (middle), deputy director of China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, explains how to use Juncao (fungus grass) to cultivate Ganoderma amboinense to African students. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

ia, schistosomiasis, and polio. Notably, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention, built with assistance from China, stands as the continent's largest public healthcare institution.

Regarding China's support for countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific, Tang Wenhong, also vice chairman of the CIDCA, said China has carried out close to a hundred aid projects in the areas including material supplies and technological assistance. China's assistance has been particularly

valued in helping these countries recover and rebuild after hurricanes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters.

The CIDCA has also made dedicated efforts to implement the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which was proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2021. The initiative has garnered support from over 100 countries, international organizations such as the United Nations and others. Projects and funding programs under the GDI have been operating efficiently, with over 200

small-scale but helpful projects successfully implemented.

Looking forward, Luo said the agency will continue its assistance efforts in areas such as global poverty reduction, climate change, food security, the digital economy, and interconnectivity.

Additionally, China will place more importance on exploring multilateral and triangular cooperation mechanisms, aiming to advance the transformation and upgrading of international development cooperation.

## Case Study

# Camel Replaced by Modern Transport — Xinjiang Leverages Its Advantages to Boost Silk Road Cooperation

By CHEN Chunyou

In ancient times, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region in northwest China was a hub of the flourishing trade between the East and West and its camel caravans carried an assortment of goods to distant parts of the world. Today, the camels have been replaced by modern transport infrastructure.

Xinjiang has 17 first-class ports, making it a key gateway to Central Asia, West Asia and Europe along the Silk Road Economic Belt, the overland arm of the Belt and Road Initiative.

### A growing circle of trade friends

So far this year, nearly 2,400 tons of export goods have been transported through the Urumqi international airport, an increase of 45 percent over the same period in 2019, Wang Xu, general manager of the Xinjiang branch of China Southern Airlines Logistics Co., Ltd. told *Science and Technology Daily*.

Export items such as clothes, electronic accessories and e-commerce products from Guangzhou, Beijing and Hangzhou are all transferred through the Urumqi international airport, according to Wang. Besides export items, red wine, cherries and other products imported from Central and West Asian countries enter the Chinese market through Xinjiang.

The Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ), the first one in China's northwestern border region, began operation on November 1 to inject new vitality into Xinjiang's development. The pilot FTZ will facilitate trade and strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries.

Wang said his company will grasp the opportunities brought by this blueprint and deepen cooperation with industrial chain partners from Central Asian countries in flights and logistics. It will optimize product transportation services, such as temperature-controlled transport and express transport, and expand the channels for exporting electronic products.

This will enlarge the company's trade circle of friends and deliver more high-quality service to its customers

from BRI partners.

GAC Motor Co., Ltd. headquartered in south China's Guangdong province has also decided to expand its export market in Central Asia. "The establishment of the pilot FTZ is good news for Xinjiang's car exports," said Luo Haitian, general manager of the company's Xinjiang branch, adding that to produce more electric and intelligent vehicles, GAC Motor has accelerated the R&D of new energy vehicle technologies.

### Cotton cooperation

Xinjiang has a time-honored tradition of cotton production. To promote cooperation with BRI partners, local enterprises are leveraging their technological advantages to help neighboring countries increase their cotton production.

A case in point is Zhongtai (Group) Co., Ltd., which has built an agro-textile industrial park in Tajikistan's Khatlon under a cooperative agreement with the country. The business scope ranges from cotton planting and leather processing to spinning, weaving, printing and dyeing, and clothes.

Located in the valley of the Vakhsh River, Khatlon has one of the richest lands in Tajikistan and the main cotton-growing area in the country.

But in the past, due to a lack of repair and maintenance of water conservation facilities, the cotton yield was less than 100 kg per mu (one mu equals 0.067 hectare).

Abandoned wasteland used to abound in Khatlon. Zhongtai invested in improving the wasteland and upgrading the water conservation facilities. It established drip irrigation system in the cotton fields, carried out agricultural film processing and mechanized cotton planting.

"The industrial park not only promotes the improvement of Khatlon's cotton planting technology and the exchange of Xinjiang's management experience, but also contributes to the industrialization of the cotton industry, creating more employment opportunities for local people and enhancing their income," Liang Bin, deputy general manager of the group, said.



A view of the drip irrigation system at the agro-textile industrial park in Tajikistan's Khatlon province. (Photo provided by Zhongtai Group to S&T Daily)

# Basic Science in China Gains More Social Fund

By Staff Reporters

A total of 46 scientists from 13 Chinese cities have been chosen by the New Cornerstone Investigator program for its second round of funding, one of the largest social funds for basic research led by a group of scientists and Tencent Holdings, on October 30.

In 2022, Tencent announced that it will invest 10 billion RMB in 10 years to

support a group of outstanding scientists to concentrate on basic research and achieve original innovation "from 0 to 1". The program sets up two major fields: "mathematics and physical sciences", and "biological and biomedical sciences", and encourages interdisciplinary research.

The "New Cornerstone Researcher" funding category is divided into two categories: the experimental category of 25

million RMB per person for 5 years, and the theoretical category of 15 million RMB per person for 5 years. In January 2023, 58 distinguished scientists will become the first New Cornerstone Fellows.

China's private enterprises are expected to play a bigger role in driving the basic research of original innovations to help the country gain more scientific breakthroughs and a global foothold amid rising technological competi-

tion, said industry experts and company executives on October 30.

"In the next 10 to 20 years, China is moving from quantity to quality in its tech development. The 'New Cornerstone Researchers' program focuses on original innovation and aims to make the most of private funding's flexibility, supplementing government support for fundamental research," said Chen Juhong, vice president of Tencent.

# BRST Strengthens Sci-tech Ties Among BRI Partners

From page 1

"The Belt and Road Initiative was launched by China, but it belongs to the world," said Mustafa B. Shehu, president of World Federation of Engineering Organizations. The world has become a different place because of the BRI, he added.

Shehu said that under the BRI, a large number of railways, ports, airports and other landmark cooperation projects have been built and commissioned around the world, including in his country Nigeria.

Scientific and technological innovation is an important driving force for high-quality development of the BRI. Since its launch, China has worked with all parties to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, accelerate the construction of the Silk Road of Innovation, and achieve a series of tangible results.

According to the conference, China has signed intergovernmental agreements on science and technology cooperation with more than 80 countries, es-

tablished more than 50 Belt and Road joint laboratories in the fields of health, transportation, materials and energy, and built more than 20 agricultural technology demonstration centers and 70 overseas industrial parks.

People-to-people exchanges, such as scientific researcher exchanges, youth scientific exchanges, and innovation and entrepreneurship competitions, are also in full swing. Nearly 10,000 young scientists from BRI partner countries have come to China for short-term scientific research and exchanges,

and more than 16,500 technical and managerial personnel have received professional training.

Yin Hejun, China's minister of science and technology, launched the International Science and Technology Cooperation Initiative, advocating "openness, fairness, justice and non-discrimination" in international science and technology cooperation.

Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, South Africa's minister of higher education, science and innovation, said the initiative will contribute to global security and global development governance, and help realize the Global Civilization Initiative's vision of building a more harmonious, win-win, interconnected and co-prosperous world.

Year Plan" and the "Government Work Report." However, this year, the Ministry of Education has officially included quantum information science in undergraduate education, to speed up the training of experts in the quantum field. This will assist more and more young researchers to join the quantum field and contribute to the industry.

Quantum computing is a tough subject, and the current research is still at the early stages of quantum technology, which is still full of challenges in obtaining a breakthrough in basic physics. "The global race for quantum computing is essentially more like a marathon, with a long road ahead," Professor Guo Guoping from University of Science and Technology of China told *People's Daily*.

# Quantum Tech: China's Scientific Pride

From page 1

The rapid development of China's quantum research benefits from government support. Pan Jianwei, an academician at CAS, attributed the surge in quantum research to China's institutional advantage of "uniting resources on big things."

Pan took the China-developed quantum satellite Micius as an example. Every component of the satellite has come from the effort of various scientific research institutes such as the Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics, CAS, Innovation Acad-

emy of Microsatellites of CAS, and National Astronomical Observatories, CAS.

"Different organizations have provided us with the basic components we need, giving us a solid engineering foundation for our innovative ideas. Some of my colleagues abroad have had similar scientific ideas, but no country has fully supported them like our country," said Pan.

"These achievements have benefited from the continuous growth of the national scientific and technological strength and the long-term profound ac-

cumulation of basic scientific research since China's reform and opening up. Therefore, the honor belongs not only to each researcher of the team, but also to the country," Xue Qikun told media on October 25.

### Challenges ahead

Although China is a leading country in quantum technology, it is still facing challenges, such as a lack of more talent in this field.

In 2021, the word "quantum information" first appeared in the "14th Five-

## CIIE: A Public Good for Whole World

From page 1

"We have already reached many agreements with our partners at this year's expo," said Xu Yang, president of Danfoss China, adding that China is Danfoss's key growth market and China's green transition connotes huge opportunity for the future development of Dan-

foss. "CIIE is a window for us, through which we can see our future development and investment trend," Hao Jinyu, managing director of SGS China, told *S&T Daily*, adding that SGS's Zhoushan labs are born out of the meeting at the expo.