A TIMELESS PRACTICE

Traditional Chinese medicine gains spotlight
And get in on the conversation

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Cover Design: Wang Yajuan

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EDITOR'S DESK

TCM Breaks New Ground

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), along with Chinese kungfu and Peking Opera, is one of China’s cultural symbols recognized worldwide.

There used to be a debate in China about whether TCM or Western medicine was better, and arguments can still be heard today. But actually, TCM and Western medicine are two different medical theoretical systems that cannot replace each other. In some aspects such as surgery, Western medicine is better than TCM, but in other areas, such as recovery after surgery and treatment of chronic diseases, TCM is more effective. This is why some Chinese hospitals provide both TCM and Western medicine treatments. A combination of both has been accepted by many Chinese people as the most effective treatment.

TCM is a gem of Chinese civilization, and it has also made great contributions to world civilization by improving people’s health and promoting social progress.

Today, promoting and innovating TCM has become a consensus in Chinese society.

The government has formulated policies to support the development and innovation of TCM, with a view to establishing a Chinese healthcare development model paying equal attention to both. The supportive policies of the Chinese Government will focus on three aspects.

The first is the strengthening of TCM services in medical institutions. By 2022, TCM hospitals will be established in all Chinese counties, and if possible, there will be TCM departments or doctors in all community medical centers and township health centers. The second is to apply Internet technology to TCM management, including setting up a database containing TCM electronic medical records and prescriptions. The third is to give better play to the advantages of TCM, especially acupuncture and needling in the treatment of anorectal, pediatric, dermatologic, gynecologic, cardio-cerebrovascular, kidney and peripheral vascular diseases and bone fractures. The function of TCM in disease prevention and rehabilitation will also be enhanced.

For further development, TCM must give full play to its advantages, draw inspiration from Western medicine and use more modern science and technology. In contrast to Western medicine, which has a well-developed modern education system, TCM relies more on experience and personal instruction. TCM education should also be strengthened and innovated.

As long as it keeps its core strengths and respects the rules of development and innovation, TCM will surely be able to maintain its vitality and bring more benefits to people in China and the world.
People take photos outside the Palace Museum in Beijing on January 6 after the year’s first recorded snowfall. The overnight snow hit most parts of the city with an average precipitation of 4.3 mm citywide, said the Beijing Meteorological Bureau.

Most areas in China from the north to the south received snowfall in early January. The snowfall coincided with the opening of the annual chunyun, the Spring Festival travel rush, on January 10. The rush will continue till February 18.
Farewell to Poverty
A total of 645,000 people were estimated to cast off poverty in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China, in 2019.

About 976 poverty-stricken villages and 12 impoverished counties in Xinjiang shook off poverty last year, according to the government work report delivered at the annual regional legislative session on January 6.

In 2019, nearly 37.6 billion yuan ($5.41 billion) was allocated to improve the drinking water and housing security in the region, without access to safe drinking water and 9,355 impoverished households living in dilapidated houses.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, Xinjiang identified the relocation of the poor from inhospitable areas as a key battle against poverty. One year ahead of schedule, the region completed the relocation program and moved a total of 169,400 residents to places with better living conditions.

In 2020, Xinjiang aims to eradicate absolute poverty by lifting the remaining 165,000 people out of poverty and taking 10 counties off the poverty list.

Pneumonia Cases
Eight patients with viral pneumonia of unknown causes in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province in Central China, have been cured of the disease and were discharged from hospital on January 8, local health authorities said.

The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said on January 5 that the city had reported 59 such viral pneumonia cases, with seven patients in serious condition.

Tests on the exact pathogens and an investigation into the cause of the infections are underway. Influenza, bird flu, adenovirus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome have all been ruled out, the commission said in a statement.

A preliminary investigation showed that there have been no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission and no reports of infections among medical staff, it said.

Some of the patients, who fell ill with pneumonia between December 12 and 29, 2019, are merchants from a local seafood wholesale market that has been temporarily shut down, according to the statement.

Groundwater Monitoring
China has successfully completed its national groundwater monitoring project, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The project was initiated in June 2015 with a total investment of 2.2 billion yuan ($316 million). Jointly built by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Water Resources, it includes 20,469 groundwater monitoring stations, creating an automatic monitoring groundwater network that generates more than 89 million pieces of data on water levels and water temperatures every year.

Monitoring data has been applied to serve groundwater protection, land space planning and water resource management, providing a data basis for scientific research on groundwater resources and environment.

The network can automatically collect, do real-time transmission and conduct analysis of monitoring data. It will facilitate groundwater monitoring in some key areas including densely populated, major national engineering and subsidence areas.

Private Car Ownership
There were 260 million motor vehicles in China by the end of 2019, up 8.83 percent year on year, including 207 million private cars, the Ministry of Public Security said on January 7.

The number of new-energy vehicles reached 3.81 million last year, said the ministry, adding that the increase in the number had exceeded 1 million for a second consecutive year.

Nearly 29.43 million people...
received driver’s licenses nationwide last year, bringing the total number of drivers to 435 million, said the ministry.

**Nursing Home Rating**

A national unified rating system for nursing homes will be established by 2022 amid efforts to improve services at these facilities, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said in a guideline released on January 2.

Nursing homes across the country are encouraged to file for ratings on a voluntary basis, said the guideline, which also noted the ratings will follow a unified procedure and will be recognized nationwide.

The guideline asked provincial authorities for civil affairs to designate a department for the rating service or determine a third-party rating agency through open bidding.

**Fossil Research**

A group of scientists from China, Australia and the U.S. made an accurate calculation of the first mass extinction that occurred on Earth more than 400 million years ago, which lasted 200,000 years.

The scientists from the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Australian National University and the University of California spent eight years researching a continuous and complete Ordovician-Silurian boundary profile found in Yongsan County, Yunnan Province in southwest China.

Zhan Renbin, a researcher with the Nanjing institute and a participant in the project, said the precise geochronology is based on research on fossil sediment samples taken from Yunnan, which also provide an important basis to accurately study the causes and mechanisms of the mass extinction.

He said the section of strata samples completely retains the fossil sediment records from the first mass extinction. The fossil dating suggests that the mass extinction at the end of Ordovician occurred from 443.1 million years ago to 442.9 million years ago, which is much shorter than previously thought.

During this period, a large-scale glaciation was formed with a total scale of 150 million cubic km, more than six times the total of Antarctic and Arctic ice coats today, which also triggered a rapid drop in the global sea level by 100 to 150 meters, leading to the mass extinction of life on Earth, he said.

A paper on the research was published in the December 2019 issue of the *International Journal of Integrated Solid Earth Sciences*.

**Job Preferences**

More international graduates favor Chinese tech companies to start their careers, according to a report issued on January 2 by New York University Shanghai based on the employment of the class of 2019.

The number of graduates starting their careers in the field of information technology has continued to grow over the years, up 19 percent from 2017. The financial industry also remains popular among graduates, the report said.

Among all the 118 international graduates of New York University Shanghai’s class of 2019, more were willing to choose Chinese hi-tech companies for their first job, such as Huawei and Transsion, two tech giants based in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in south China, the report said.

In previous years, more graduates were interested in the education sector such as language training and education research.

Founded in 2012, New York University Shanghai is regarded as a pilot program in China-U.S. educational cooperation. It now has 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students, about half of whom are international students.

**A New Look**

Residents buy vegetables at Shuangta Market in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province in east China, on January 5. After extensive renovations in 2019, the market now serves as a place for shopping, entertainment and learning.

**Pay Day**

Yin Xinping receives his annual dividend for 2019 at a ceremony in Daoping Village in Longnan City, Gansu Province in northwest China, on January 7.

Villagers who are shareholders of Daoping’s joint-stock cooperative received dividends totaling 785,000 yuan ($112,600). The village has risen out of poverty by setting up cooperatives and developing industries such as ancient village tourism, animal husbandry and rural e-commerce.
Civil Aviation
The civil aviation industry posted steady growth in 2019, reporting an expanded size and improved service quality, according to China's civil aviation regulator.

The industry conducted 660 million passenger trips in 2019, up 7.9 percent year on year, said Feng Zhenglin, head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), at a conference on January 6.

Total transport turnover of the sector was 129.3 billion ton-km, with cargo and mail volume hitting 7.53 million tons, up 7.1 percent and 1.9 percent year on year, respectively.

The country’s aviation sector saw an unprecedented transformation, adding 9,275 km of air routes and increasing the number of transport airports to 238, according to the CAAC.

The service quality of civil aviation also improved nationwide, reporting an 81.7-percent flight punctuality rate, with the number of flights increasing 5.6 percent year on year.

Domestic passengers’ average self check-in rate was 71.6 percent at 37 of the 39 airports handling at least 10 million passenger trips per year, CAAC data showed.

The country aims to further expand the industry in 2020, expecting growth in the total transport turnover, number of passenger trips and cargo volume.

Joint Auto Venture
China’s Zhejiang Geely Holding Group and German carmaker Mercedes-Benz announced the establishment of a joint venture to operate and develop the Smart brand globally on January 8.

The joint venture has registered capital of 5.4 billion yuan ($777.5 million), with each side contributing 2.7 billion yuan ($388.8 million).

Headquartered in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province in east China, the joint venture will enable the two carmakers to cooperate in research and development, manufacturing and supply chains to transform the Smart brand into a leading global producer of high-end, intelligent electric vehicles.

With joint efforts by Mercedes-Benz and Geely Holding, the new model of the pure electric Smart brand will be manufactured in China and is expected to be launched and sold worldwide in 2022.

The joint venture will bring the next generation of zero-emissions smart electric cars to the Chinese and global markets, said Ola Kallenius, Chairman of the Board of Management of Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz AG.

Geely Holding Chairman Li Shufu said it will step up cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and accelerate Smart’s electric and intelligent transformation.

IP Development
China has improved its policy environment for innovation and intellectual property (IP) development over the past year, Shen Changyu, head of the National Intellectual Property Administration (NIPA), said at a meeting in Beijing on January 6.

In 2019, China had 13.3 invention patents per 10,000 people. The total number of effective registered trademarks exceeded 25 million, with every 4.9 market entities owning one registered trademark on average.

The country’s patent examination has become more efficient. The period for high-value patent examination has been reduced to 17.3 months and the average time for trademark registration to 4.5 months, according to the NIPA.

China’s innovation strength has been at the forefront of the world. According to the Global Innovation Index 2019 by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China moved up to 14th place worldwide, the highest ranking among middle-income economies.

Xiao Yaqing, head of the State Administration for Market Regulation, said at the meeting that market supervision will be further strengthened.

“IP creation is the key to promoting innovation and high-
Handiwork Opportunities

Workers make broom handicrafts as local specialty products at a factory in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on January 4. A total of 85 factories have been established for producing handicrafts, which have been sold abroad and helped over 9,000 people find employment.

quality development. Stepping up IP protection will improve China’s core international competitiveness,” Xiao said.

Local Bonds

Local authorities raised 4.36 trillion yuan ($622.9 billion) through bond issuance in 2019, up from 4.17 trillion yuan ($601 billion) the year before.

The average issuance interest rate was 3.47 percent for the year, 42 basis points lower year on year, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said in a recent statement.

China accelerated its bond issuance and utilization, with the annual target for new bond issuance achieved by the end of September 2019.

Meanwhile, the issuing channels were more diversified as China started to allow commercial bank over-the-counter issuances of local government bonds in March, the MOF said.

Tibet Growth

The GDP in Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China grew about 9 percent in 2019, according to the local government work report.

Its GDP was estimated at more than 160 billion yuan ($23 billion) last year, Qizhala, Chairman of the regional government, said as he delivered the report on January 7 at the Third Session of the 11th People’s Congress of Tibet Autonomous Region.

The per-capita disposable income for the region’s rural residents grew about 13 percent, while that for urban residents rose more than 10 percent.

Meanwhile, in 2019 Tibet created 52,000 urban jobs and maintained its urban registered unemployment rate within 3 percent.

Tibet also improved its business environment last year. Qizhala said the region saw an average daily increase of over 200 market entities, bringing the region’s total number of market entities to over 325,000, with total registered capital of 1.5 trillion yuan ($216 billion).

Tibet’s GDP in 2020 is expected to maintain a stable growth of 9 percent, he said, with the total retail sales of consumer goods targeted to grow 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the per-capita disposable income for the region’s urban and rural residents in 2020 is estimated to grow 10 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Housing Sales

Leading Chinese real estate developers had robust annual sales in 2019 amid slower growth in the industry. Shanghai Securities News reported on January 7.

The total contracted sales of the top 30 property developers was 5.74 trillion yuan ($823.65 billion), with the top four enterprises—China Vanke Co. Ltd., Country Garden, Sunac China and China Evergrande Group—all exceeding 350 billion yuan ($79 billion).

Despite the robust sales posted by major firms, the real estate sector as a whole saw a lower growth rate, with the top 100 real estate enterprises’ rate at 6.5 percent in 2019, down from 50.8 percent in 2016.

China’s real estate market remained healthy in 2019 thanks to the Central Government’s continued efforts to stabilize land and home prices, Lin Bo, General Manager of China Real Estate Information Corp., said.

The country’s investment in property development grew 10.2 percent year on year in the first 11 months of 2019 to 12.13 trillion yuan ($1.7 trillion), according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

To further spur the economy, China has eased restrictions on infrastructure construction financing, allowing local governments to use part of special-purpose bonds as project capital to support major national infrastructure projects.

Hi-Tech Engine

A staff member checks a production line of high-speed data transfer cables at a company in Zhili Town, Zhejiang Province in east China, on January 5. The town has focused on cutting-edge industries such as electronic information, metal materials and photovoltaic equipment manufacturing to upgrade its economy.
AUSTRIA
Chancellor Sebastian Kurz (right) shakes hands with President Alexander Van der Bellen during his swearing-in ceremony in Vienna on January 7.

IRAN
Guards watch over the area in Parand District, south Tehran, where a Ukrainian passenger plane crashed on January 8. All 176 people on board the Boeing 737 were confirmed dead.

CROATIA
Center-left candidate Zoran Milanovic waves to his supporters in Zagreb on January 5 after winning the presidential election.
BANGLADESH

Prospective buyers check out stained glass lamps at the Dhaka International Trade Fair in the capital on January 4.

CAMBODIA

Rescuers search for survivors in Kep City, Kep Province, on January 4 after a building collapsed during construction, killing 36 people.

NEW ZEALAND

The sky in Auckland turns orange as the Australian bushfires expand on January 5.
**THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS**

**HKSAR’s New Top Liaison Official**

Luo Huining was appointed top liaison official for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), replacing Wang Zhimin, according to a statement by the State Council on January 4.

Luo’s appointment as director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in HKSAR took effect immediately.

Born in 1954, he served as the Communist Party of China’s Secretary in Qinghai Province, northwest China, from 2013 to 2016 and in Shanxi Province, north China, from 2016 to 2019. In December 2018, he led a delegation from Shanxi to Hong Kong to promote business cooperation.

In a statement on January 4, HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam welcomed Luo to his new post and said she was impressed by his concern for Hong Kong during their talks in 2018.

Lam said she firmly believes under his leadership the Liaison Office will continue to work with the HKSAR Government for the city’s prosperity and stability and facilitate Hong Kong’s integration into national development.

**Electric Vehicle Battery Recycling**

*People’s Daily January 3*

In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in the production and sale of new-energy vehicles in China. As a result, the recycling of the batteries that power them is posing an increasingly prominent problem. If not addressed effectively, it will not only cause serious waste of resources and environmental pollution, but also take a toll on the development of the industry.

Balancing the interests of car owners and automakers is a tough job. Since the batteries are costly, many owners face a dilemma of whether to change the battery or buy a new car. According to regulations, automakers are responsible for battery recycling. However, they do not have enough resources to ensure every battery is disposed of in a proper way.

The government has made several attempts to tackle the problem. For instance, it issued a plan to pilot recycling programs in 2018 and launch a number of demonstration projects by 2020. In the short term, it is important to promote recycling through policy incentives. In the long run, however, all market players on the industrial chain, from sellers to technology developers, should be involved in building an efficient system under strict supervision.

**Preserving History**

*Oriental Outlook January 9*

Old city renovation is an issue for many countries in the world. In China, after pilot projects were conducted in 15 cities over two years, old compound renovation was started nationwide in 2019. The work involved over 170,000 old compounds and 100 million people.

Instead of demolishing old architecture and starting from scratch, the current project takes a different approach. In Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province in south China for instance, Enning Road, an important landmark of the historical city, is being renovated in a distinct way.

Guangzhou has been a gateway for China’s foreign trade since the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). However, as the city’s urban area expanded during its rapid economic expansion in the past decades, the old districts deteriorated.

Previously, the reestablishment plan was to demolish the old street and construct new buildings. However, it met with objections from local residents who were unwilling to move out. Also, demolition would damage the history and culture of the old street.

So a new mindset was adopted for the renovation. Yongqingfang, a section of the old street which had kept the original architecture and had few residents, was selected as a pilot. The Guangzhou Vanke Co. under leading real estate developer China Vanke, won the bid to renovate the area and was al-

“Since the Foreign Investment Law went into effect on January 1, the investment contract will be promoted effectively, and the legitimate rights and interests of investors will be protected on the premise of maintaining and guaranteeing foreign investment management in accordance with the law.”

Luo Dongchuan, Vice President of the Supreme People’s Court, speaking to Economic Daily on January 2

“The chaos in the health product market continues... Regulatory authorities need to be vigilant and intensify ratification efforts to establish long-term mechanisms.”

Qin Chuan, a commentator with People’s Daily, writing on January 8
A "Australia has been deeply affected by climate change and the increase in sea levels. Yet to prove its ‘loyalty’ to the U.S., the Australian Government criticized global efforts to combat it as interference in national sovereignty.”

Bu Yidao, a world news blogger, on his WeChat official account on January 7

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“Feelings About Spring Festival
Beijing Youth Daily
January 8

The Spring Festival, one of the most important festivals in China, is approaching. However, many young people who used to yearn for the festival when they were kids, especially those who work in large cities away from home, now have very mixed feelings about the holiday.

On the one hand, they want to return to their hometowns to reunite with their family. On the other hand, they are afraid of prying questions from relatives about their marital status and salary.

This phenomenon shouldn’t be ignored because it shows that houses, salaries and the number of children one has have become the standards of success, which shouldn’t be allowed to prevail.

The Spring Festival is a rare opportunity to unwind and have fun. Young people who return to their hometowns might want their relatives and friends to realize the improvement of their abilities and horizons. Therefore relatives and friends should stop asking questions about income, housing, cars and marital status.

As for young people, they don’t need to be overly sensitive about such questions and should realize they are being asked out of love. Also they will become less troubled by these questions as long as they work hard and improve themselves.

CHINESE FOOTBALLER MAKES HISTORY

Trailblazing Chinese striker Wu Lei has added the mighty Barcelona, the professional Spanish football club also known as Barca, to his list of conquests.

Wu came off the bench to score a superb 88th-minute equalizer and grab his club Espanyol a 2-2 draw in a dramatic Catalan derby on January 5 Beijing time.

The goal made Wu the first Chinese player to hit the net in a competitive fixture against Barca and gave last-place Espanyol a much-needed point in its battle against La Liga relegation.

“I am so excited not only because the goal was against Barca but also because the point means a lot for our team at the moment,” Wu was quoted as saying on Espanyol’s website.

The goal was the 28-year-old’s third in all competitions this season and gave the city’s Carles Puyol-euro ($2.25-million) deal from Shanghai SIPG in January 2019.

Lowed to run it for 15 years before handing it back to the government.

After 10 months of renovation, the area opened to the public with a variety of business models including hotels, cultural shops and restaurants.

Yu Minfeng, Deputy General Manager of Guangzhou Vanke, said the renovation cost was three times the cost of constructing new buildings. "It seems that cultural heritage protection and GDP growth are contradictory. However, it’s what makes Guangzhou unique," Yu said.

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The goal was the 28-year-old’s third in all competitions this season for Espanyol and sixth since he became the first Chinese to permanently sign for a Spanish top-flight club in a reported 2-million-euro ($2.25-million) deal from Shanghai SIPG in January 2019.

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ANCIENT WISDOM IN MODERN PRESCRIPTION

New policies and laws help traditional Chinese medicine internationalize By Li Qing
The practice of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) began when people became aware of the efficacy of some plants in treating illnesses and began to use them in a hit-or-miss way. Millennia later, TCM has become an institutionalized medical system applied worldwide, using state-of-the-art technology such as remote sensing and a geographic information system.

Pu Sheban, an associate researcher at China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in east China, is one of the innumerable people associated with the ongoing task to modernize and improve the system. He is one of the 50,000 participants who are spread out across China to conduct the Fourth National Survey of Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) Resources.

Launched in 2011 to establish a comprehensive database of CMM resources, the survey is a massive venture led by the National Resource Center for Chinese Materia Medica under the aegis of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS) and will be completed by 2021. Participants, like Pu, come from TCM universities, research institutes and hospitals.

So far, they have collected 20 million records on 13,000 herbal species and discovered nearly 80 new species. The findings have been published in *Nature*, a leading science journal, indicating the attention given to TCM both at home and abroad. The information obtained during the survey will bolster large-scale planting of medicinal plants and the development of the TCM industry. The previous such survey was conducted nearly three decades ago.

"Resources are fundamental for the development of TCM because they determine the quality of medicine," Pu told *Beijing Review*.

Huang Luqi, President of CACMS, said the data can provide the necessary reference for making policies for managing and developing CMM resources. It will also help poverty alleviation programs by teaching people how to select sites to grow TCM plants, cultivate them and control pests.

**TCM on record**

*Huangdi Neijing* (*The Yellow Emperor’s Inner Cannon*), formulated 2,500 years ago, is thought to be the earliest Chinese medical treatise. It recorded the clinical experiences of ancient Chinese, including symptoms of illness, preventative methods and treatment, which developed into systematic theories about physiology and pathology.

Today, TCM is not only a developed pharmaceutical system with unique theories and therapies, but also an integral part of Chinese philosophy and culture. It encompasses the medicines and treatments developed by all ethnic groups in China.

One of the fundamental principles of TCM is that all things are related to a balance of yin and yang, two opposite but complementary energies. When the
XINHUA

A doctor from a TCM hospital in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, north China, treats patients free of charge on October 22, 2019.
As a result, the general quality of TCM production has improved in recent years. However, Wang Feng, a researcher at the National Institutes for Food and Drug Control, told China Daily that problems in TCM production such as excessive use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides should be addressed.

According to another guideline on TCM released in October 2019, a raw material tracking system covering production, distribution and application will be established so that all key TCM drugs are traceable from their origin to final use. Environmental protection in the production areas was also highlighted.

Huang said establishing a long-term monitoring system to forecast herbal medicine output, prices and quality will promote the healthy development of the industry.

Global standards needed
A technical standard and grading system for TCM will be established by 2022.

The guideline also called for opening up the TCM industry, promoting international cooperation and establishing international standards.

According to the State Council Information Office, TCM has spread to 183 countries and regions. The government has signed 86 agreements with various countries and international organizations on TCM cooperation, which include establishing 17 TCM centers overseas. TCM medical products have been registered in countries like Russia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Hundreds of TCM schools have been established in more than 30 countries and regions.

China has sent medical assistance teams to over 70 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, with TCM professionals accounting for nearly 10 percent of team members. Over 400 TCM professionals have been sent to more than 40 countries.

International standardization is a prerequisite for promoting TCM overseas. By the end of 2019, 40 international TCM standards had been released. Another 38 standards are being researched.

“The number of international standards on TCM falls far short of demand. The formulation of standards should be accelerated to promote the use of TCM overseas,” Huang told China Daily.

He thinks China, being the country where TCM originated, should take the lead during the process, and other countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative can also help with the development of unified international standards by establishing an information sharing platform.

According to Ma Xiaona, an associate professor at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, an increasing number of foreign students studying TCM, including those from the Republic of Korea, Japan and the U.S., can promote international exchanges on TCM and expand its global influence.
Wang Chen, an elevator repairman living in Beijing, never expected that a tiny tool could free him from persistent headaches for a whole year. The 26-year-old has been nagged by headaches since being diagnosed with cervical spondylosis six years ago. "I tried many types of painkillers and Western medical treatments, but they didn’t work," Wang told *Beijing Review*. When all other options were exhausted, the desperate young man turned to acupotomology, a hybrid minimally invasive procedure he had never heard of before 2018. To his surprise, his headache was soon lifted after just three sessions of acupotomology, which integrates Chinese acupuncture and Western anatomy. "I had no headaches in 2019," Wang said.

In 1976, a carpenter suffered a palm fracture in an ax accident. After treatment, the swelling went down and the bones were repaired. But he couldn’t grab things with his hand. However, if he had surgery, there could be side effects that could deprive him of his livelihood. He visited many doctors, but couldn’t find a good solution.

Finally, he went to Zhu, who made a bold move: He pricked the carpenter’s palm with a syringe needle to separate the scar tissue from the bones, and it worked. The carpenter recovered and was able to pick up his ax after only three days of rehabilitation.

The successful trial inspired Zhu: a minimal incision, instead of an invasive surgery, could be applied to separate diseased tissue and relieve pain. And that’s when the idea of the needle-scalpel came to him. The original design consisted of making an acupuncture needle thicker, with one end shaped like a mini scalpel blade and the other end capped with a flat handle, which was used to control the blade’s direction during the procedure.

The first batch of needle-scalpels was rolled out that same year. The tool, which combined the acupuncture needle of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and the scalpel of Western medicine, was named acupotomy. "When a needle scalpel is inserted into the body, the stimulus it creates is more than 30 times stronger than the stimulus from an acupuncture needle. It acts as a needle to get under the skin through minimal invasion and as a scalpel to break apart adhesions and muscle knots. It’s more effective than a regular acupuncture needle," Xiao said.

In 1990, Zhu got a national patent for his needle-scalpel and it won the Golden Prize at Brussels Eureka 1988, the 37th edition of the World Exhibition of Innovation, Research and New Technology, in Belgium.

In the early 1990s, Zhu’s monograph on acupotomology was published and later translated into 19 languages. In 2003, acupotomology was recognized as a new branch of TCM by the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Xiao, then a doctor specializing in acupuncture and massage in Heilongjiang Province, northeast China, heard about the
new therapy and became Zhu's student in 1992. “By integrating the macro thinking of TCM with the micro operation of Western medicine, Zhu created a new medical discipline,” Xiao explained.

In 2006, the first group of undergraduates majoring in acupotomology was enrolled at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine and the Hubei University of Chinese Medicine. “In recent years, the number of acupotomology practitioners has increased rapidly,” said Xiao. He estimated that there are currently about 500,000 practitioners in China.

A transboundary tool

During its early stages, the acupotomy was mainly used to treat orthopaedic diseases, including cervical osteochondrosis, shoulder inflammation, soft tissue damage of the back and tennis elbow, among others. “Many illnesses were cured after the minimally invasive procedure. The curative effects were much better than imagined,” said Xiao.

Due to its success, acupotomy was met with praise. Increasingly, more patients suffering from pain began to turn to the discipline. “Patients visit us through word-of-mouth recommendations; we have never advertised,” said Xiao.

With its development, the small tool has been used to treat other diseases, such as diabetes, allergic rhinitis and some digestive diseases. “The needle-scalpel is a medical device which is very easy to handle. Different people can use it in different ways,” Xiao said. “The biggest advantage of acupotomy is that it can be performed repeatedly.”

According to Xiao, doctors in different departments, such as anesthesia and orthopaedics, are now using it. “The needle-scalpel is a transboundary tool,” he added.

The small device is also crossing national borders. In 1991, Zhu was invited to Southeast Asia to perform procedures with the needle-scalpel and give lectures. Since Zhu passed away in 2006, his students have taken up the baton.

In March 2009, Xiao was invited to Romania for an 18-day visit, where he treated 315 people. Because the results were so good, he was invited back three months later. “Sometimes, I traveled to two places within 24 hours, treating more than 80 patients a day,” he said.

During Xiao’s third visit to Romania, he met a 13-year-old girl who was vexed by headaches. The girl’s parents were determined to try Chinese acupuncture. “Based on my personal clinical experience, most brain diseases are related to the cervical spine. So I wanted to do a trial. It was September 29, 2009. I performed the first mini invasive surgery with the needle-scalpel on her and told her parents to bring her back in October,” Xiao recalled.

A month later, Xiao treated the girl again. After 13 such treatments and with the help of some Romanian herbal medicines, the girl’s headache went away. “The girl is now an undergraduate in Amsterdam and she is in excellent health,” Xiao said. That experience gave him the courage to deal with more difficult diseases using the needle-scalpel.

Xiao continues to travel abroad to introduce acupotomy to different parts of the world. In 2019, he went overseas 15 times to either give treatments or train students. At the Third Belt and Road Forum on the Development of TCM held in December 2019, Ma Peihua, Vice Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, said the Belt and Road Initiative offers opportunities for TCM to go global.

Xiao thinks acupotomy’s success provides a good example of TCM going abroad along the Belt and Road routes. “More than 10 years ago, we introduced acupotomy abroad. We held workshops in many parts of the world and they were very popular. Acupotomy combines TCM with Western medicine and drives the holistic development of TCM.”

More to be done

The use of the acupotomy is a relatively new therapy and there is a long way to go before it gains more momentum.

Sun Yongzhang, Deputy General Secretary of CACM, noted that acupotomy has the advantages of quick results, a short course of treatment and a wide range of application. However, more studies are needed to improve its basic theory and clinical research. He advised researchers to explore historical data, review theories and combine the development of acupotomy with modern technology.

“Due to the lack of clinical guidelines and standards, acupotomy practitioners can only operate through experience. The technical skills of practitioners are unbalanced, which may lead to medical disputes,” Zhai Hongye, a cochair of the acupotomy arm of the Jilin Association of Chinese Medicine, told Beijing Review, adding that clinical guidelines and standards are needed.

Li Shiliang, Director of the Acupuncture Department at the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, has more than 10 years of experience in ultrasonic visual needle technology research. He said he believes that ultrasonic guidance can be used to monitor the needle-scalpel treatment to improve the accuracy of acupotomy.
Anita Njobvu, who lives in Zambia’s capital Lusaka, was introduced to acupuncture therapy by her husband because her blood pressure was dangerously high. The treatment used to be rare on the African continent, but with growing awareness in countries like Zambia, an increasing number of patients are opting for the healing technique rather than conventional medicine.

“I was first introduced to Chinese herbal medicines and later ended up having acupuncture treatment, which has been helpful since my blood pressure has actually stabilized,” said Njobvu.

Acupuncture is an important part of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and involves the insertion of needles into specific points on the human body with the aim of restoring equilibrium between a person’s physical, emotional and spiritual aspects. Njobvu, who had been battling severe hypertension for some time, said after about three months of acupuncture therapy, she is on the road to recovery.

The growing footprint of TCM in the country is a reflection of China-Zambia relations, highlighting cooperation in a wide range of areas, including healthcare.

Popular treatment

Traditional and alternative medicine is used and accepted by a great majority of the Zambian population, regardless of ethnic, religious or social background.

“My TCM doctor Feng Kehong’s treatment took about two months and after the third month, I have not had any high blood pressure readings,” said Njobvu.

Pamela Chisunka, a teacher in Central Province, said compared with conventional medicine, TCM remedies are more effective for the treatment of certain kinds of diseases. “I think Western medicine wouldn’t help cure my chronic headaches. It only has a temporary effect because the pain remains when you stop taking the medicine. As a result, you spend more on medication,” said Chisunka.

Benjamin Mambwe, a bus driver in Lusaka, said it wasn’t long after he began to receive acupuncture treatment from Feng that he recovered from partial paralysis in early 2019. He told Beijing Review that during the process, the doctor used needles...
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to prick the affected body part.

“You feel a slight discomfort when she starts the process; but afterward, it’s okay and the pain disappears,” he explained. “After 30 minutes, the needles are removed and the process is repeated [daily] for 10 days.” Since having the treatment, Mambwe is back on his feet, able to carry out his daily duties.

In 1997, Feng came to Zambia as part of a Chinese medical team and worked for two years as a resident doctor first at Ndola General Hospital and then at Kabwe General Hospital in Central Province. Driven by her passion to provide quality healthcare to the people, Feng established Zhong Yi Surgery in Lusaka in 2002, with a focus on TCM care, following an increase in demand for Chinese medical treatments among local residents.

“Since I came to Lusaka, more and more people have come to understand acupuncture. I attend to various patients suffering from strokes, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, paralysis and diabetes, among other conditions,” she said.

Feng’s assistant Neila Mumba, from Zambia, explained how the medical facility, located in Lusaka’s Roma residential area, has helped many Zambians recover from various diseases. “We had a chief from north Zambia who suffered a stroke and was unable to walk. But after [acupuncture] treatment, he was able to walk again. We also have several cases of senior government officials who come here to seek medical attention,” said Mumba. “For instance, there is one lady who is diabetic and had been to several hospitals, but her condition was quite severe and she didn’t recover until she came here. Her condition has now improved and her sugar levels have gone drastically down.”

Asked why she has prioritized TCM and not conventional medicine in her private practice, especially since she is a fully qualified doctor who has served in Zambia’s public hospitals, Feng said her calling is to help people with the most effective medical care available.

“In China, I learned Western medicine and TCM. I chose the latter after I established the clinic; but before that, I practiced as a full-time conventional doctor,” she said.

Local compliance

Since TCM is built on a foundation of thousands of years of medical practices, it includes various forms of herbal medicine, acupuncture, massage, exercise and dietary therapy, among others. Feng said she has been helping more local people understand how traditional therapies work while complying with local rules and standards.

“One big advantage of TCM is that it is easy to perform, and it doesn’t have high requirements for medical equipment,” Feng said.

Benjamin Chitumbo, a renowned doctor in the northern city of Ndola in Copperbelt Province, has impressed with his Chinese counterparts and their effective medical practices. “All I know from experience is that acupuncture is one of the alternative medical treatment methods based on a long Chinese tradition and explains the interconnectivity of our hormones and nervous system. Acupuncture has been used for a variety of illnesses. It is certainly a practice that has helped many of my patients,” said Chitumbo.

In line with how TCM adapts to local conditions, the Zambian Government recognizes traditional and complementary/alternative medicine, while national policies support these treatments. Although there are no official regulations for recognizing the qualifications of practitioners, the Traditional Health Practitioners Association of Zambia reviews and registers traditional practitioners for licensing and plans are underway to develop these regulations.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), at least 70 percent of Zambians use traditional medicine. In addition, Zambia is considering better utilization of its diverse medicinal plants, a worthwhile lesson learned from China.

“As we strengthen our health system, we have identified the need to strengthen collaboration, in particular with China. Zambia will strengthen cultivation of medicinal plants and share experiences and knowledge,” said Chilufya when meeting with a delegation from China’s Jiangxi University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (JUTCM) in September 2019. Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu visited the JUTCM campus in 2018.

Chilufya also hailed the wider partnership between China and Zambia, especially in the area of health infrastructure and professional training. Zuo Zhengyun, head of the delegation and President of JUTCM, told Chilufya that his university had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tropical Diseases Research Center (TDRC) of Zambia on joint research programs.

Located in Ndola, the TDRC is a biomedical research center initiated by the WHO in collaboration with the Zambian Government. “We also hope to cooperate through research and development to promote clinical use of Zambian traditional herbal medicines,” said Zuo.
Ending the Vicious Cycle

Iran and the U.S. must look for ways to deescalate tensions in the Middle East

By Wang Jin

On January 8, Iran directly retaliated against the U.S. by launching missiles at two military bases in Iraq which house U.S. troops. However, the attack did not lead to U.S. casualties, according to President Donald Trump in a televised address from the White House.

Since October 2019, waves of protests and demonstrations in Iraq have been driven by people’s dissatisfaction with the Iraqi Government’s inability to curb corruption or support infrastructure building. They are also tired of the instability and chaos in the country. Against this backdrop, the Iran-backed paramilitary Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), or Hashd al-Shaabi, has emerged as the most salient faction within Iraq, playing a prominent role in the protests.

A U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed General Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran’s elite Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has led to increasing tensions in the Middle East. His death came amid recent escalating antagonism between Iran and the U.S. in Iraq, which has become a microcosm of the intensified rivalry between Washington and Tehran.

The PMU largely maintains its independence within Iraq’s political arena, with its militias refusing to obey orders from the government. The organization and its supporters attribute the chaos in Iraq to U.S. intervention and call for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops. Meanwhile, the U.S. and some
Iraqi political forces labeled the PMU as an “agent” of Iran.

The hostility between Iran and the U.S. reached new heights when the U.S. conducted a military strike against targets of Kataib Hezbollah near Baghdad, claiming that the PMU-affiliated faction planned and launched an attack against U.S. military personnel in late December 2019. In response, hundreds of militants penetrated the Green Zone in Baghdad where the U.S. embassy is located and tried to break through its walls.

The U.S. blamed these protests on PMU factions, especially Kataib Hezbollah, the Badr Organization, Saraya al-Khorasani and Asaib Ahl al-Haq. It then claimed that since all these groups have close ties to Iran, especially with Soleimani, targeting him and other leaders from the PMU was reasonable.

The killing of Soleimani shocked many Middle East analysts, with many saying that the U.S. action was totally out of proportion given Soleimani’s widespread influence.

Soleimani was the leader of most of the Tehran-backed Shia groups in the Middle East, including the PMU in Iraq and many groups in Syria. He was also highly influential inside Iran. For example, before the presidential election in 2017, Soleimani was considering a run and only gave up the idea after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei advised him not to. He was seen by many analysts as a leading hopeful in the 2021 presidential election.

Different strategies

The missiles targeting U.S. military bases were launched from Iranian territory by the IRGC, not the Iranian army, showing that Iran did not “declare” war on the U.S. In addition, Iran only targeted military bases in Iraq, not in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia, showing that its intention was to restrict the conflict with the U.S. to a limited area in the Middle East and avoid confrontations throughout the region.

The attack did not meet with an escalation from the U.S. Trump even said “Iran appears to be standing down,” calling it “a good thing” for all parties concerned. He declared that additional economic sanctions will be imposed on Iran and urged other parties to the Iran nuclear deal, signed in 2015 between the U.S., Russia, China, the UK, France, Germany and the EU and Iran, to abandon it as the U.S. had.

Washington’s final aim is to constrain Iran’s influence through forcing concessions at the negotiation table. Both Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have said many times that they want to meet with Iranian leaders or visit Tehran directly, but pulling out of the deal, imposing economic sanctions and killing a major national figure make these words seem hollow.

Given the U.S. strategy of “maximum pressure” against the country, Iran decided to also pull out of the nuclear deal in stages and recently announced the final stage.

However, Iran’s decision should not be viewed as a move to isolate itself from the international community. It still maintains cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors its nuclear research process. Iran’s collaboration with the IAEA makes transparent its nuclear facilities and research process to the outside world, belying the claim that it intends to develop nuclear weapons, which has historically been done in secret by other countries.

The real intent of Iran’s withdrawal from the deal is to capture the attention of the international community and seek assistance from different powers, especially the EU, to help mediate the escalating crisis between Tehran and Washington. At the same time, it is determined to safeguard its sovereignty and national pride.

Escalating tensions with the U.S. is not in Iran’s interest. Tehran’s retaliation for the killing of Soleimani was limited in scale and the hope of restoring positive ties with Washington still remains.

However, the risk of an escalation of tensions also remains. Shia military groups supported by the IRGC in several Middle East countries, especially Iraq and Syria, may attack U.S. targets, assets and individuals. Since there is no direct communication channel between Iran and the U.S., any attacks launched by these groups may be viewed by Washington as Iranian coordinated strikes, which could lead to more instability in the region.

Therefore, diplomatic efforts are highly and urgently needed. Russia and the EU should act to help relieve tensions between the two countries.

As a signatory party of the Iran nuclear deal and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China is willing to play a constructive role in deescalating the recent crisis. “China will continue to follow closely the situation, stay in close contact with the relevant sides, and play a responsible role in cooling off tensions and properly managing the situation,” Geng Shuang, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on January 8.

More rational minds, not fanaticism or antagonism, should prevail in the Middle East.
Rebuilding Global Consensus

The world needs to uphold multilateralism, reinvigorate global governance and promote common prosperity

By Xu Feibiao

As one of the most influential international forums, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has often been a bellwether for world economic development and global cooperation. As the curtain goes up on the WEF Annual Meeting 2020 in Davos, Switzerland, under the theme of Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World, the meeting will again bring together international elites to discuss approaches to common prosperity on January 21-24.

The world economy now faces daunting structural challenges with mounting unilateralism and protectionism and rising risks of geopolitical conflicts. It is imperative for all countries to work together to reinvigorate multilateralism and global governance.

A slight warming up

In 2019, the world economy struggled through twists and turns, continuing its slump from the previous year. Its growth slowed to 3 percent from 3.6 percent in 2018, the lowest since the 2008 financial crisis. But the fourth quarter saw some positive signs, with orders and consumer demand picking up and the global manufacturing purchasing managers’ index rising above 50 for the first time after six consecutive months of decline. Countries have gained more market confidence, and a growth rate of 3.1-3.4 percent is projected for 2020, higher than last year.

Since the U.S. unilaterally launched a trade war against China, consumer and investor confidence has been undermined, while economic growth in the two countries, as well as the rest of the world, has been hampered. The phase-one deal recently reached between the two sides will help improve the global environment.

In addition, in December 2019, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Conservative Party swept general elections and are now in the midst of passing the Brexit bill, which will help stabilize market expectations and boost confidence by shaking off uncertainties brought about by the prolonged Brexit process.

Meanwhile, the stimulus policies taken by several countries are gradually taking effect, as more policies were introduced last year to encourage economic growth. Central banks have resumed monetary easing policies, while more than 30 have cut interest rates and expanded the balance sheet, injecting liquidity into the weak real economy. Among them, the U.S. Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by 0.75 percentage point in three cuts.

Some countries have also adopted expansionary fiscal and tax policies, increased public investment and carried out structural reforms, which are conducive to long-term growth.

The U.S. economy is showing signs of improvement with stronger consumption, which has pulled it out of its slump in the second and third quarters of 2019, as steady growth in major economies is being seen. In addition, cyclical factors such as inventory adjustment and housing investment recovery have helped.

China is committed to high-quality and sustainable growth. With a series of countercyclical measures to stabilize the economy, it is expected to maintain a medium-high growth rate of 6 percent in 2020 and become the mainstay of the world economy.

The situation in Europe is also improving, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicting a 1.4-percent growth in the euro zone this year. Emerging and developing economies such as India, Brazil and ASEAN countries will recover from last year’s low growth rate and become the main engines of the world economy, with the IMF projecting growth in these economies to increase from 3.9 percent in 2019 to 4.6 percent in 2020.

Formidable risks

Major economies such as the U.S., China, Japan and the European Union account for half of the global economy. However, as the main drivers, they may maintain a medium-low growth over the next few years, making it difficult for the world to return to its previous performance levels. Among them, the U.S. economy, after 120 months of growth, is at a low ebb.

The world economy has moved into a new
mediocrity, with major economies facing population aging, insufficient productive investment, a widening wealth gap and a declining science and technology contribution rate. All of these factors will lead to lower growth potential, a major constraint for future progress.

Since the 2008 global financial crisis, countries have continued to expand their currencies on a large scale, and the issues of high debt, leverage and asset prices have become prominent. At present, total global debt exceeds 300 percent of the world GDP, which is a tough issue to solve, as major stock and bond markets are overvalued. At the same time, as the world economy is in the doldrums, low inflation is persistent. Structural problems in the international financial system have risen, becoming a major hidden danger.

The space for monetary policy has contracted dramatically, as a dilemma emerges. If countries further ease their policies, financial bubbles may be inflated. But if they choose to tighten policies, a crisis may be triggered. Fiscal easing is unlikely to deliver good performance because of high debt stock. The Yellow Vest movement in France is an example of the hardships awaiting structural reform. Countries have almost run out of stimulation for their economies.

Under the banner of America First, U.S. President Donald Trump has been withdrawing from several agreements concerning climate change and free trade, and has been drifting toward protectionism. Though the trade war with China has reached a cooling point, there are still uncertainties ahead. Meanwhile, trade frictions between the U.S. and Europe are heating up again. The U.S. has effectively shut down the World Trade Organization dispute settlement system, global populism is on the rise, and trade and investment protectionism is soaring. According to Global Trade Alert, an organization offering information on international trade barriers, a total of 2,723 policies and measures have been enacted to restrict cross-border commerce from January 2017 to November 2019, with China being the biggest victim. The rule-based global system of multilateral free trade has taken a battering.

As a global leader, the U.S. has even become reluctant to provide public goods, which has had a negative impact on the stability of the world order established after World War II. Moreover, the reform of the world economic system is still up in the air under the resistance of vested interests in Western developed countries. In 2019, the IMF’s 15th quota reform failed. With the rise of China and other emerging economies, the tug of war between existing hegemonic powers and emerging countries will become more complex and intense with possibly more geopolitical and economic conflicts.

A shared future
There are still numerous long-term and potential issues waiting to be solved. Measures should be taken to address them.

Countries should step up structural reform. Monetary, fiscal, economic and trade policies and other countercyclical measures cannot solve real problems. Measures must be taken to advance structural reforms to address profound social and economic issues such as the wealth gap, heavy debts, shrinking labor forces, climate change and the challenges posed by a new wave of technology industries.

The international community needs to bridge differences, rebuild global consensus and jointly promote global governance reform. In the face of profound changes unseen in a century, we must have the determination to take unprecedented measures. No country is immune to the current turmoil; the pressing task for all is to jointly bring the world economy back on track to recovery and prosperity.

Only by forming consensus can we work together to meet challenges. In this regard, a series of concepts proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the WEF Annual Meeting 2017, such as building a community with a shared future for humanity and promoting common development, have been echoed by the international community. China has not only put forward new proposals, but also put them into practice. In recent years, it has carried out Belt and Road cooperation and taken concrete actions to build partnerships.

Countries should abandon Cold War thinking, avoid the trap of hegemony and instead, advance international cooperation based on consultation and for shared benefits.
‘China Should Believe in Its Model’

According to Peter Walker, author of Powerful, Different, Equal: Overcoming the Misconceptions and Differences Between China and the U.S. and senior partner emeritus at U.S. management consultancy McKinsey & Company, China should follow its own development track and not be distracted by the West’s accusations. This is an edited version of his interview with Beijing Review.

Beijing Review: What’s your take on the huge differences between the political systems of China and the U.S.?

Peter Walker: If you start out with the idea that the role of a society over time is to improve the quality of life, the model in China is what I would call a corporate model. There’s really no difference between how China is organized and managed and the way IBM or other corporate giants are managed.

You have a CEO called the president. You have a board of directors of senior people who provide oversight, direction and counsel to the president. You have meritocracy where people rise up in the Party and government based on their performance. The Central Government has five-year plans to make sure that it executes what it needs in the short term, but also invests in the future. And everyone in senior management is aligned on the same goals and once decisions are made, everyone is committed to execution. There are no fundamental differences in ideology, direction or execution as you see in an adversarial two-party system. That’s an exact replica of the corporate model in the U.S.

Before reform and opening up, China was almost a wasteland with its universities shut for 10 years and no economy to speak of. From that position, how did China get to being a strong country in only 40 years? It had to design a model to get things done. That’s very much like a corporation, which is a very efficient system.

The government we have in the U.S. was never designed to get things done. It was really designed as a way of ensuring that the government’s role would be minimalist to ward off interference in people’s lives and the economy.

So the U.S. has two parties that don’t like each other and don’t get anything done; three branches, namely executive, judicial and legislative, which have to agree or nothing gets done. We have elections every four years if you don’t like what the president’s doing.

It’s a model that was designed to define the country based on the performance of its economy. It never set out to use the government to actually build success. The government should not interfere in the people’s ability to take advantage of the country’s rich natural resources and the people’s ingenuity and work ethic. That model has created the world’s largest and most advanced economy for over 150 years. And it worked by that standard.

The Chinese Government is always pragmatic and focuses on what they can actually do and deliver. In the U.S., you have politicians making promises that are appealing to the people but cannot be delivered. In an election-based system, people with very little experience can be elected as president if they are articulate, look well on television and have money.

Look at Donald Trump and Barack Obama. They had little experience relevant to leading a country of the scale and complexity of the U.S. But, they were elected because they had the funding and the media skills to win over enough of the people to prevail.

It’s a ridiculous idea for every country, given very different histories and cultures, to have the same model. The U.S. Government was set for two objectives, one was a world class economy, and the second was maximum human rights and personal freedoms. By those measures, the U.S. has been incredibly successful.

The Chinese model was much more about how to focus on raising the quality of life for the maximum number of people in the population. Against that objective, China has been incredibly successful. Why don’t we celebrate the fact that we’re both doing very well as countries and our people are basically happy?

How do you assess China’s human rights progress?

Many Americans say there are really no human rights in China. That’s totally wrong. China has adopted a relativist approach to human rights because it has always been pragmatic. In other words, the only thing that matters in the Chinese context is the outcome.

Why is that? For a country that has gone through wars and conflicts, social turbulence and starvation in recent history, what are its priorities? They must be food, shelter, safety and health for its people. That doesn’t mean that the higher goals of human rights and freedom are not on that list. But if you don’t have enough to live on, the idea of being free to do what you want to do is a luxury.

When I talk to young people in China and ask how they feel about freedom, they say they can basically do what they want to. Americans don’t understand that because they think that if you can’t vote in a Western electoral democracy, you don’t really have freedom. But the track record of democracy in the U.S. is uneven with 40 percent of eligible voters not voting, many efforts at the state level to suppress voting especially for minorities, a winner-take-all rather than proportional electoral college system and gerrymandering to marginalize the opposing party’s votes.
The U.S. has an absolutist approach to human rights because it has never had any enemy at its borders and has always had plentiful natural resources, water and arable land. It has had it very easy by any global standard. When you have that kind of environment, you can afford to make human rights absolute, as it does in the U.S. Constitution where it says “inalienable rights.”

The U.S. tends to be ideological. Concepts like freedom and democracy are very defining. It’s not the way the U.S. actually works for everybody, but those taglines are very popular.

In the U.S., the story of one dissident who claims that he or she is not treated fairly can be on the front page of The New York Times. When you talk to Chinese people and ask them how they feel, the response I always get is very predictable.

“How many people are we talking about? Maybe 150 people in a 1.4-billion population. What are they doing? They’re doing the one thing that the government says you can’t do, which is undermining the government that has a pretty good track record of taking care of people over time.”

So when you talk about dissidents in China, people normally say, “Why are we even talking about this?”

**Intellectual property (IP) has been a central issue in the China-U.S. trade friction.**

*How do you view the U.S. stance on this?*

The U.S. did nothing to protect its own IP for 25 years. When Trump came to Beijing for his first meeting with President Xi Jinping, he started out by saying China has an IP problem. Then he corrected himself saying the U.S. has an “IP theft” problem. Why? Because every country and every company has always looked to take the IP of its competitor.

Asking countries or companies to stop trying to steal IP is like trying to eliminate greed, envy and lust from the human condition—a noble idea not rooted in reality.

America had an entire department in government in the 19th century whose aim was to steal the IP of the Europeans who at the time had the most advanced IP globally. To this day every country, including the U.S., are doing whatever they can to steal IP.

So the alternative is not convincing people not to take it. It’s what you do to protect it. The U.S. now is much more thoughtful about how to protect its IP. But it’s too late. China was able to access the U.S. IP for decades and has caught up to the U.S. in many areas with the notable exceptions of nano chip manufacturing, biotech and aerospace. China has passed the U.S. in renewable energy, high-speed rail and electric cars.

**What do you think of the misconceptions about China often played up by Western media?**

America is a dualistic society. If people start out with the basis of the dichotomy—good vs. evil, winners vs. losers, it’s easy to play into that story. Harmony is a much more subtle and complex story than duality and only educated people can understand that concept.

As the U.S. position globally was strengthening in the 19th and 20th centuries, it was able to adopt an interventionist model to promote the spread of “democracy” and “human rights.” While many Americans supported that posture, the strategic consequences have been substantially negative. The U.S. has spent over $10 trillion just on the war on terror since 2001 with an enormous loss of life in Islamic countries and has achieved little. If those funds had been directed to infrastructure, education and healthcare, the U.S. would be in a far stronger position today. China has never adopted an interventionist model and has been able to invest heavily in its future.

China has been incredibly successful for the last 40 years. Keep on doing what you’re doing, and whether the U.S. press recognizes what you’re accomplishing really doesn’t matter.

**Look at the support the Chinese Government has from the people and what it has accomplished already in terms of bringing people out of poverty, investing in the future, urbanization, advanced technologies, and the Belt and Road Initiative, which is going to bring trading opportunities outside developed countries. If you execute all of those things well, your prosperity is going to happen.**

So at some point, I would say winning over the U.S. press is far less important than delivering on what you’ve already delivered on and are continuing to deliver on.

I think the most important thing for China is to believe in its model, continue to execute this model and continue to be very responsive to the people. Winning over the support of foreigners is a nice thing to happen but it’s not critical to China’s success. You don’t need America to like or believe in the Chinese model to be successful in executing it your own way.
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There couldn’t be a better place than Dashilar Street in Beijing, southwest of famed Tiananmen Square, to witness the continuity of history in China. The bustling commercial area is full of ancient-style architecture including souvenir shops selling handicrafts and other bric-a-bracs, food stores and shops selling time-honored brands such as boots once made for officials of the royal court. Then there are newer entrants like a Starbucks, said to be the largest of its kind in China; and an outlet of Page One, a popular Singaporean bookstore chain with stores in East and Southeast Asia.

This area, which began to be developed during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), will continue to fascinate visitors well into the future as the Beijing Municipal Government recently announced a draft plan for the protection and preservation of the capital’s core area, a more than 90-square-km neighborhood that was part of the old city of Beijing.

A blueprint

The draft plan, released online on December 30, 2019, complements Beijing’s overall urban development plan for the 2016-35 period. The plan defines the functions of the core area as the nation’s political and cultural center as well as the center for international exchanges. It sets the goal of building the core area into one with efficient governance, charming culture and a good living environment.

Today, the core area comprises two districts: Dongcheng, often called the place with the most densely packed historical and cultural monuments, including the Palace Museum, which used to be the palace of Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) emperors; and Xicheng, also full of landmarks like the Great Hall of the People, where the legislative sessions and key ceremonies are held. The population in the core area was around 2 million in 2018.

With the population and vehicles in the historical area increasing, the new plan is meant to improve the neighborhoods, making them safer and greener as well.

Explaining the objective of the plan, Shi Xiaodong, Deputy Director of the Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design, said protecting the old city is an important responsibility since it is the face of the ancient Chinese civilization.

The plan draws on the virtuosity of the town planners in the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties who developed the capital following a symmetrical spatial design along an imagined north-south axis and an east-west axis that intersect at the center.

The new plan emphasizes preserving architecture along the two axes to show-
case Beijing’s magnificence and dignity. According to the plan, the buildings along the north-south axis, or the central axis, exhibit traditional Chinese culture and modern civilization, while major buildings lining the east-west axis, namely Chang’an Avenue, are venues for national administration and cultural and international exchanges.

According to the plan, construction in the core area will be controlled to protect the environment and conserve resources, echoing a measure implemented by the government in recent years to relocate organizations performing functions non-essential to the capital to peripheral areas.

Preserving history

Protection of Beijing’s old city area became a necessity after many historical sites emblematic of the capital’s culture disappeared in the course of rapid urban development, with highrises sprouting up in their place.

The plan says the old city area bears witness to the long Chinese civilization. It’s the most important foundation for Beijing to become a world renowned cultural city and the national cultural center. Therefore protection should be given the utmost importance and demolition should not happen again.

The future architecture will have to follow height and appearance regulations. The old city will not have buildings taller than the existing ones and hutongs—traditional narrow alleys with rows of single-story houses—will not be widened so that the charm of the old city is maintained.

Historical imprints should be retained to the highest extent. Historical sites, artifacts and place names have been put on the list of protected sites. Intangible cultural heritage protection will be strengthened to preserve time-honored brands, handicrafts and theatrical productions that represent Beijing’s unique culture. There will even be a database of ancient and old trees.

Ten tour routes are being planned to showcase Beijing’s history and traditional culture. One of them will be along the central axis.

Bian Lanchun, a professor at the School of Architecture at Tsinghua University, said these routes will enable people to explore and experience Beijing in the long term.

Li Xiaojiang, former President of the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, pointed out that the plan doesn’t mean all architecture in the old city area will be preserved. For instance, some court-yards have been damaged and become dangerous. These should be demolished as well as unauthorized constructions. Streets and alleyways should be maintained and the difficulty of parking cars in the area should be addressed.
“The functions of the core area should be optimized and improved by introducing high-end functions such as promoting cultural and international exchange. World-class cities such as Tokyo, New York, London and Paris all have high-end functions in their core areas,” Li said.

Gao Yicun, chief planner of the Urban and Rural Construction Research Institute under the China City Development Academy, said scientific and technological industries are not to be developed in the area, an absence which better suits the old city.

**Planned for people**

To develop the core area, a people-centered approach will be taken, focusing on providing education, employment, healthcare and housing for residents. The aim is to build a premium and balanced public service system, green and efficient transportation, a comfortable and a harmonious living environment and intelligent urban management.

Many people still live in traditional one-story houses in the core area. These will be improved and modernized, equipped with kitchens, bathrooms and storage rooms, while old compounds will be renovated by increasing green spaces.

“The plan focuses on how to enable people living in traditional hutong houses to live a new life,” said Li Guoping, Director of the Beijing Development Institute at Peking University.

He said the original families should continue to live in the core area because without them the area will be soulless. Intangible cultural heritage, including language and living habits, is passed on by these indigenous residents.

However, since the current high density of residents in the core area doesn’t match the standards of a high-quality life and hampers improving urban functions, some relocations will be necessary. If some people living in traditional houses owned by public institutions relocate voluntarily, they will be helped to resettle and given a subsidy to improve their living conditions.

However, relocation should be done on a voluntary basis. If people can live a better life after leaving Dongcheng and Xicheng, I think some of them would be willing to move out,” Li Guoping said.

The core area will be divided into 183 blocks for better management. Li Guoping applauded the plan, saying it will enable the residents to enjoy the results of the adjustment of urban functions, improvement of the environment and cultural protection.

The plan envisioned promoting green transportation so that over 85 percent of it is public transport, which will alleviate traffic congestion and pollution. Commuting times will be reduced, while medical care and cultural facilities will be within 10 to 15 minutes’ travel for all residents. Green space will increase by a quarter on average. Big data will be used for urban and emergency management.

The plan is part of the “one core, two wings” blueprint for Beijing’s urban development. The two wings are Beijing’s sub-administrative center of Tongzhou District and Xiong’an New Area, a new development zone about 100 km southwest of downtown Beijing. They were established to relieve the capital city of nonessential functions and resolve “big city malaise” such as pollution and traffic congestion.
A Peaceful Approach

Civil mediation contributes to dispute resolution with minimum harm to social relations

By Sun Xuan

Yang Jiuzhou, a people’s mediator in Luhe District of Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in east China, has a natural flair for mediation. When he lived in a village, he used to settle disputes among the villagers and his efficiency earned him their trust.

In 2009, when a local dispute-settling center was instituted, Yang was chosen as one of its mediators. Three years later, because of his conflict-resolution skills, a new center set up in Hengliang sub-district in Luhe was named after him. He has since worked in the center, settling disputes between local residents.

Yang’s daily work is to promote mutual understanding between the parties involved in a dispute after counseling and educating them. The disagreements have to be resolved based on the principles of fairness and equality. He also needs to make sure all steps are in accordance with laws and regulations.

“Mediation is sacred work,” he said. The life of a mediator is not easy. The 59-year-old usually gets up at 5 a.m., then he takes a walk in the village. He has found it a good time to talk to people to know more about them, which helps his work. Then it’s time to start mediating, which continues until lunch time. Sometimes, he is required to visit the people or places involved. In the afternoon, he analyzes the cases and reviews previous ones. If necessary, he asks for feedback from the people involved.

At night, he studies laws and state policies to improve his knowledge. Watching mediation programs on TV is one of his favorite pastimes, as they provide skills and experience for his work. However, when there are emergencies, he has to forego his recreation and rest and focus on the complex issue at hand.

Chinese culture values peace and harmony. The advantages of mediation are that it is flexible, convenient and low-cost. Today, mediation serves as a necessary supplement to judicial work.

The modern mediation system in China was established in the early 1950s, after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, and gradually developed into a non-governmental legal practice with Chinese characteristics. The process of people’s mediation is simpler than litigation and alleviates the problem of insufficient litigation resources in China, a country with 1.4 billion people. To guide the people’s mediation system to operate in accordance with the law, the People’s Mediation Law came into force on January 1, 2011.

According to the Ministry of Justice, as of 2018, there were 3.67 million people’s mediators in China. Nearly 14 percent of them were professional mediators. On average, they dealt with 9 million disputes per year, 96 percent of which were successfully settled.

Since the center bearing his name opened, Yang handles 220 reconciliation cases annually on average with a 100-percent success rate. Yang talked about a case in his decade-long career in mediation. It involved a 90-year-old, identified only by his family name Zhang. Zhang had four sons and a daughter but his youngest son was his favorite. He went out of his way to help the son, including giving him his pension. However, the son refused to take care of him. The other children were angry at their father’s partiality and so they did not want to support him either. The family conflict escalated and in the end, Yang was asked to help.

Before beginning mediation, Yang invited the residents in Zhang’s village to work on the issue together. He then criticized the youngest son and educated him on providing support in accordance with the law. He also encouraged the father and his children to air their grievances to dispel misunderstandings and increase cohesion in the family. Finally, they came up with the best solution: the father would live with the youngest son while the other children would provide support in terms of money and care.

“In our village, people are keener to seek help from mediators, rather than lawyers,” Yang said. “Mediation emphasizes mutual understanding based on facts, the laws and morals,” Yang said. In the traditional way of thinking, confrontations in courts can hurt feelings, especially when the people involved are relatives, friends or neighbors, whereas conciliation can settle conflicts in a peaceful manner.

Copiedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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The glittering white world of snow and ice in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province in northeast China, was transformed into a stunning sight as colorful lights illuminated ice castles and other sculptures at the opening ceremony of the 36th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival on January 5.

More than 600 guests from 44 countries were in attendance at the grand gala, which was held at the enormous amusement park known as Harbin Ice and Snow World built out of ice every winter.

During the festival, various activities including forums, business meetings and performances will be held, as tourists from home and abroad flock to the city for winter fun.

The annual festival has become one of the world's four largest ice and snow events, along with the Sapporo Snow Festival in Japan, the Quebec Winter Carnival in Canada and Norway's Ski Festival.

(Photos by Xinhua News Agency)

Harbin’s ice and snow festival brightens up the chilly season By Wang Hairong
International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin Ice and Snow World, Heilongjiang Province in northeast China, on January 5.

1. A fireworks display takes place at the opening ceremony of the 36th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin Ice and Snow World, Heilongjiang Province in northeast China, on January 5.

2. Ice structures stretch across Harbin Ice and Snow World.

3. Tourists bike around Harbin Ice and Snow World.

4. Figure skating is featured at the opening ceremony of the event.

5. Tourists enjoy a hotpot meal at Harbin Ice and Snow World.
A New Year Gift
State guideline brings more perks to the private sector By Li Xiaoyang

The Second China International Import Expo held in Shanghai in November 2019 offered diabetes patients a wide array of treatment products. They ranged from tiny insulin injection needles from Japan to blood glucose monitors using biosensors, an innovation by health and wellness company Sinocare, headquartered in Changsha, Hunan Province in central China.

Huang Guoan, chief financial officer of Sinocare, said supportive government policies for private firms, including tax cuts, had helped the company innovate. “Value-added tax cuts saved around 7 million yuan ($1 million) for Sinocare in 2019, which allowed us to invest more in technological research and development,” Huang told Chinanews.com.

In 2019, China’s business environment saw remarkable improvements, boosting the private sector. The year’s Fortune Global 500 list had 129 Chinese companies, of which 39 were private ones.

Since these companies have played a key role in driving innovation, creating jobs, improving people’s wellbeing and expanding opening up, the government will continue to provide more support and ensure fair competition for them, a guideline released by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council in December 2019 promised.

On January 6, the People’s Bank of China (PBC), the central bank, cut the amount of cash that financial institutions are required to hold in reserve by 50 basis points to release an estimated 800 billion yuan ($115 billion) into the financial sector to bolster the economy and reduce social financing costs.

The measures will inject impetus into the market and boost the confidence of private enterprises, Liu Zhe, Vice President of WANB Institute, a Beijing-based economic think tank, told China Business Journal.

An impressive role
Private enterprises have made significant contributions to the Chinese economy. They have contributed around 50 percent of tax revenue, 60 percent of GDP, 70 percent of technological innovation, 80 percent of urban employment and 90 percent of new jobs and new firms, according to official statistics.

A report on China’s fourth economic census released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in December 2019 put the number of private small, micro and medium-sized companies at 15.27 million at the end of 2018, accounting for 84.4 percent of all business entities.

Data from the General Administration of Customs of China showed that the imports and exports of private firms totaled 12.12 trillion yuan ($1.7 trillion) in the first 11 months of 2019, up 10.4 percent year on year and contributing 42.5 percent of the country’s overall foreign trade.

Private firms today have wider access to many areas that their state-owned counterparts used to dominate, such as the civil aviation and space industries. A 2019 report from FutureAerospace, a Chinese industry think tank, said the number of private space companies has surged in recent years, with 57 established in three years.

In 2018, China had 141 registered commercial space companies, of which 90 percent were private.

To give full play to the role of private businesses, the government has reduced their burdens and developed a more favorable business environment with substantial tax and fee cuts, which include the reduction of the value-added tax and social security contribution rates in 2019.

Minister of Finance Liu Kun said in a report to a session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the country’s top legislature, last December that private businesses were the main beneficiaries of the tax cuts. In the first 10 months last year, reductions for them amounted to more than 1.05 trillion yuan ($151 billion), 63.8 percent of total tax cuts.

During the first 11 months of 2019, profits and value-added industrial outputs of private companies surged 14.7 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively, the NBS said.

Further support
Amid global uncertainties and domestic downward economic pressure, the government has stepped up support for the private sector.
According to the guideline, private firms will be allowed to enter key sectors including oil and gas exploration, telecommunications, railway, power generation and financial services. The government will also support qualified private companies to engage in crude oil import and export of refined oil products.

“The opening up of the sectors is expected to create a more level playing field and add vitality to the industries,” Jiang Zhen, a research fellow at the National Academy of Economic Strategy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said.

As a report by brokerage company Huatai Securities suggests, the participation of private firms can improve the export of refined oil products, which will help address overcapacity at home.

Besides ensuring fair competition, the guideline also raised of further tax and fee cuts, improving the legal system and upgrading financial services, especially making financing more accessible and affordable.

According to a report on China’s top 500 private enterprises released by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce in 2019, financing problems are still largely hampering the development of the non-state sector. Over half of the 500 companies felt funding pressures in 2018.

The PBC said after the latest reserve requirement ratio cut that the move will improve the lending capacities of small and medium-sized commercial banks, which are the main sources of loans to private firms. It is expected to bring more than 120 billion yuan ($17.2 billion) to these banks.

The interest rate of targeted medium-term lending facilities—the price of the central bank’s lending to financial institutions—can also be lowered to make small and medium-sized banks’ loans much cheaper, Dong Ximiao, a researcher at the National Institution for Finance and Development, said.

While banks are making loans more affordable, many private firms still find it hard and costly to obtain money mainly due to high collateral requirements and excessive intermediary charges, Dong Ximiao, a researcher at the National Institution for Finance and Development, said.

According to Chen Yongjie, former Deputy Secretary General of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, China’s private enterprises enjoy only around 40 percent of credit resources, since a high bad loan ratio results in unfavorable treatment when seeking bank loans. A report by the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission in 2019 said the bad loan ratio of small and micro enterprises with credit lines of less than 10 million yuan ($1.4 million), mostly privately owned, was 5.9 percent, compared to 1.4 percent of large companies and 2.6 percent of medium-sized ones.

To address the problem, the guideline said credit loans will be increased, and intermediary and approval procedures will be slashed. For more sources of financing, private companies are also encouraged to go public or issue bonds for direct financing. Financial institutions that mainly lend to private enterprises will also be further improved. According to Liu Zhe, banks with customized services need to be developed to meet the differentiated demands of private firms.

“The measures can help private enterprises further reduce costs, improve efficiency and expand financing channels,” Wen said.

The way forward

Despite the signs of vitality, rising competition and weak performance have made it hard for many private enterprises to survive. As PBC Governor Yi Gang told the Lujiazui Forum in Shanghai in 2018, small and medium-sized enterprises in Japan can operate for 12 years on average, while their Chinese counterparts can survive for just three years.

The decline in global demand has also dampened market expectations of private enterprises in 2019, which led to weak investment growth. NBS data showed private fixed assets investment increased 4.5 percent in the first 11 months of 2019, 4.2 percentage points lower than that in the same period in 2018.

The guideline pointed out that private firms need to enhance technological innovation and industrial upgrading. As Shang Fulin, former Chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, told a forum in December 2019, rising operational costs and a slowdown in imports and exports have added to the pressure on private companies. “Since problems such as business overexpansion and financial irregularities have been exposed, firms need to improve their competitiveness against internal and external challenges,” he said.

Although some measures have been initiated, more targeted measures are required, according to Wu Changhai, Deputy Dean of the Institute of Capital and Finance of China University of Political Science and Law. He also suggested incorporating some initiatives in the guideline into laws to provide stronger support for the private sector.
Fair and Equal
Major fixes to China’s anti-monopoly law drafted By Ma Xiaowen

Is Google a monster that must be tamed by regulators and governments around the world or will it eventually rule the world?

These were the questions U.S. economist George Gilder raised during the 2020 New Economy Think Tank Summit in Beijing on January 4, where digital economy professionals discussed trends and exchanged insights.

The reality is that the world economy is becoming more and more digitalized with the development of the Internet, big data technologies and artificial intelligence, posing opportunities as well as challenges. In 2019, major Internet and IT companies occupied seven of the top 10 spots of the most valuable companies in the world, according to statistics.

A major fix
Digital transformation is affecting policy-making across a large spectrum, including competition, consumer rights and interests, and the digital economy (privacy, security, infrastructure, economic impact), among others. The U.S. and European countries have all ratcheted up measures to control Internet giants’ misconduct with multiple investigations.

China, home to an increasing number of Internet companies that are growing exponentially, is taking steps to regulate the digital economy. On January 2, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) rolled out a draft amendment to the Anti-Monopoly Law, which is considered a major fix since its adoption in 2008 and will solicit public opinions for a month.

SAMR, founded in 2018 as part of an overall reform of state institutions, is responsible for market regulation, anti-monopoly law enforcement, investigations into price violations and competition through inappropriate means, and management of intellectual property rights.

The decision of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China released on October 31, 2019 stressed the importance of anti-monopoly policies for the Chinese economy.

The government should “strengthen the basic status of the competition policy, implement a fair competition review system, and strengthen and improve anti-monopoly and anti-unfair competition law enforcement,” according to the decision.

Compared to the current Anti-Monopoly Law, the draft seeks to include digital economy patterns. The present version stipulates that proprietors who occupy a dominant market position shall not abuse their position to exclude competitors or restrict competition. Such proprietors are identified according to market share, related market competition and ability to control sales and raw material procurement.

The draft identifies Internet company proprietors and gives extra consideration to network effect, economy of scale, lock-in effect and capacity to control and handle data. It also stipulates that proprietors and industry associations who violate the law will be subject to a maximum fine of 50 million yuan ($7.2 million), a hundred times more than the current law.

Provisions concerning the fair competition review system have also been added, requiring the standardization of government administrative action to avoid policies that limit competition. When administrative organs and public organizations formulate regulations concerning the market, they should guarantee fair competition in accordance with relevant state provisions.

Meng Yanbei, a professor of economic law at Renmin University of China, told Beijing Review that regulation of the digital economy is a systematic project involving multiple laws and regulations regarding data, algorithm, piracy, transaction principles and others.

The draft highlights the importance of the fair competition review system, improving the regulatory framework concerning the new features of the digital economy and providing a Chinese solution to challenging digital economic patterns, Meng said.

China’s Anti-Monopoly Law has a history of only 12 years, thus it lags behind advanced countries in theoretical studies and practical experiences when it comes to anti-monopoly issues. But the thriving digital economy is providing major countries with a level playing field, according to Meng.

“The draft’s attempt to include the digital economy reflects legislators’ effort to keep up with the times,” he said.

Common concerns
Scholars who attended the summit discussed the digital economy, innovation and competition, agreeing that innovation and dynamic competition have injected great vitality into the economy and brought increasing value to society.

In Gilder’s view, China has created a new kind of platform company that empowers its customers and even its competitors, and thus is a new feature of the world economy and a positive development.

He said he believes that one of the reasons behind China’s entrepreneurial success is that it has platform companies like Alibaba and Tencent that provide opportunities for entrepreneurs across the country to feed on their innovations.

“Alibaba is not a dominant force that rules and centralizes people, powers and facilities,” Gilder said. “It is a new kind of company that fosters new enterprises and entrepreneurs. It also develops fundamen-
Xue Lan, Dean of Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University, said the productivity paradox, the innovation paradox and the failure of supervision are three growing pains of the digital economy.

To tackle these problems, Xue proposed agile governance, which means policies should strike a balance among multiple targets. In the case of the digital economy, it should promote innovation and protect customers’ interests, and respond in a timely manner to industrial innovations.

“Regulators should learn from companies before making decisions and companies should also be accustomed to more regulations,” Xue said, citing the example that in the U.S. state of California, drone companies and regulators formulated rules together to protect the public interests from drone flights. “Mutual learning should be encouraged,” he stressed.

The best solution for all is to achieve a fair market environment while leaving enough room for future innovation, Xue said. Together with the government and legislators, companies and industry associations, whose business concerns the public interest, are also encouraged to shoulder their responsibilities in establishing rules.

Gao Hongbing, Vice President of Alibaba and Director of AliResearch, said it is very important for an enterprise to be strong in market innovation and competition. “It is what we call common values in business.”

“Most importantly, a digital economy platform should guarantee consumers’ interests,” he said, adding that Alibaba is not just an e-commerce company, but also a hi-tech company that is devoted to innovation, exemplified by its advanced logistics and trade platforms. It is leveraging digital technologies and its platform systems to connect production with demand, increasing productivity and lowering financial costs.

Zhang Qiong, former Deputy Director of the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, said future legislation should uphold principles such as maintaining neutrality, inclusiveness and prudence. And the laws must be devised with a global and future-oriented perspective, while encouraging the development of advanced productive forces.

“A fair and equal market environment is the foundation for the coexistence of large and small companies,” Zhang said. “Achieving a fair market environment, while leaving enough room for future innovation is necessary for all companies, both big and small.”

Harmonious coexistence

Large and small companies must cooperate in order for the digital economy to innovate and grow, said Gao Hongbing, Vice President of Alibaba and Director of AliResearch.

“The best solution for all is to achieve a fair market environment while leaving enough room for future innovation,” Xue said. Together with the government and legislators, companies and industry associations, whose business concerns the public interest, are also encouraged to shoulder their responsibilities in establishing rules.

Gao Hongbing

http://www.bjreview.com
Corporate Giants Add Wings to Air Cargo Market

China’s air cargo market is seeing a new round of industrial layout competition by giant companies from home and abroad, who have taken intensive steps to strengthen their positions. They are injecting capital and confidence into the arena with larger fleets, more complete route networks and stronger infrastructure and service support.

On December 24, 2019, China Southern Air Holding (CSAH) launched an air cargo company to further tap the market. With a registered capital of 1 billion yuan ($143.87 million), the new company is registered in Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, south China. CSAH is the parent company of China Southern Airlines, the country’s largest air carrier with a fleet of more than 860 aircraft. The move is aimed at consolidating its position in the air cargo market with services throughout the industrial chain.

On December 31, 2019, SF Airlines announced its all-cargo freighter fleet had reached 58 on its 10th anniversary. The Shenzhen-based airline is a subsidiary of the SF Express Group and is the first airline founded by a private courier company in China. It has become the country’s largest air cargo carrier and created a global air cargo service network with 65 destinations. In 2020, its all-cargo freighter fleet is expected to exceed 60 with over 70 global destinations.

“Chinese enterprises are optimizing their global industrial distribution and strengthening their global performance while Chinese customers have shown their great cross-border consumption capacity,” SF Airlines President Liddel Li said. “All these factors foster our sustainable growth and confidence in the Chinese air cargo market.”

SF Airlines has evolved into a medium-sized cargo airline over the past 10 years, a golden decade of China’s booming express delivery and civil aviation industries.

China has become the world’s fastest growing and most dynamic emerging post and delivery market. The volume of its express packages has exceeded the sum of those of the U.S., Japan and Europe combined.

The civil aviation industry is also a highly sensitive barometer of the economy. The Chinese market has generally maintained its growth momentum, and the air cargo sector is particularly impressive.

Thanks to sustainable economic growth and persistent support, China’s civil airport sector has gained high-speed and high-quality development in the past decade, according to Zhang Rui, Deputy Director of the Airport Department of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

Over the 2009 to 2019 period, the number of certificated civil airports went from 158 to 238 in China. Eight airports advanced into the world’s top 50. In the same period, the cargo throughput of civil airports across the country expanded from 8.83 million tons to 16.74 million tons. “The enhanced air cargo capacity is a highlight in the new round of airport renovation and construction,” Zhu Qianhong, General Manager of Guangdong Airport Authority, said.

In the airport construction plans newly approved by CAAC, the designed annual cargo capacity of Kunming, Chongqing and Xiamen airports will all exceed 1 million tons. The Beijing Daxing International Airport, which opened in September 2019, is expected to handle more than 2 million tons of air cargo in 2025. Major air hubs in Shanghai and Guangzhou will also gain enhanced air cargo throughput capacity.

SF Express has also invested heavily in constructing an international logistics hub in Ezhou in Hubei Province, central China. With a cargo-focused airport in the hub, the company will strengthen its worldwide air express delivery system.

“The intensive moves of the corporate giants in the Chinese air cargo sector are driven by market potential. China’s huge consumption market and unleashed spending power will drive the industry into a new round of development.”

— Zhu Qianhong, General Manager of Guangdong Airport Authority

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Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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Delivery firms in China handled a total of **63 billion** parcels in 2019, up 24 percent from 2018. The country remained the world’s largest express delivery market for the sixth consecutive year.

The total revenue of China’s home appliance industry hit **1.44 trillion yuan** in the first 11 months of 2019, up 43 percent year on year. The government has encouraged people to replace their old home appliances and electronics with greener and smarter alternatives through incentives.

The output of China’s forestry industry reached **7.56 trillion yuan** in 2019 and is expected to hit 8.1 trillion yuan in 2020. The industry has helped over 3 million rural residents increase their income or get out of poverty.
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中国3分钟
Brothers Without Any Label

An author focuses on clearing misunderstandings with his Xinjiang trilogy By Li Fangfang

When photographer Kurbanjan Samat’s flight landed at Los Angeles International Airport and he proceeded to the immigration desk, the official asked him twice if the Chinese passport he was showing was actually his.

“Sorry, you carry a Chinese passport but you look Mexican,” the doubtful officer said.

“You may have heard of the Uygur ethnic group in China,” Kurbanjan answered, explaining why he looked different. China has 56 ethnic communities and some of them have different features from the Han Chinese, the majority community.

The above conversation, which took place in July 2016, forms the beginning of his new book I Am From China.

The United States was one of his stops to meet some of the subjects for his book, people from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China who now live outside China. He also went to France, Italy, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea and many more places.

The book, published in December 2019, is the last one in his Xinjiang trilogy. The earlier two volumes are I Am From Xinjiang on the Silk Road and I Am Going to Xinjiang. The third book involved the most investment and risks.

Getting rid of labels

Kurbanjan’s books introduce China’s ethnic minorities with different beliefs and customs. But one common trait runs through all of them. They all show a desire to work hard for a better life.

Kurbanjan grew up in a diverse culture in Xinjiang where more than 40 ethnic groups, including Kazak, Han, Uygur and Mongol, live in harmony. Even the children are educated in the customs and taboos of different ethnic cultures.

Xinjiang is a place of mystery, due to its remoteness and the huge Gobi Desert standing as a barrier, and outsiders tend to misunderstand the region. In the past, it was stereotyped as a land of beautiful scenery and dancers as well as different cultures. In recent times, Xinjiang and Uygurs are invariably associated with terrorism.

The frustration caused by misunderstanding drove Kurbanjan to do something about the information gap. His effort is to present the real Xinjiang without any label.

As he sees it, people in Xinjiang are no different from others. It is the stereotypes that color people’s judgment about the region. “Everyone is born as crying babies and we will all go back to nature after we die, only in different ways,” the 37-year-old told Beijing Review. “We need to think about human nature regardless of ethnicities and skin colors.”

He said he believes his readers may know Xinjiang better after they read his first book. “Actually, I think it’s more than that. They will see themselves in those stories,” he said. “Ask themselves where they come from and where they are heading.”
After the first book, he felt it was necessary to write another to explain that, Uygur alone can't represent Xinjiang. People from different groups have shaped the region together.

I Am Going to Xinjiang presents the stories of 26 people, both Chinese and foreigners, who moved to Xinjiang, a developing region that has been receiving financial aid and talent from other provinces for more than 20 years. These people have given their life to the region. Some have lived there for about 50 years, soon after the autonomous region was carved out 65 years ago. Even today, university graduates in big cities are encouraged to go to Xinjiang to assist in the region’s development.

Kurbanjan himself is one of the beneficiaries of that trend. He was mentored by Meng Xiaocheng, a documentary maker from Beijing who made a film on the desert poplar growing in Hotan, Kurbanjan’s hometown near the Taklamakan Desert. Meng helped Kurbanjan with his further studies in Beijing and inspired his career choice.

On Weibo, the Chinese Twitter-like platform, the two hashtags of his first two books have been viewed 360 million times and 52 million times, respectively. People’s stories

As an independent photographer seeking Chinese Uyghurs in the U.S. to interview, Kurbanjan faced online threats by separatists who are trying to create instability in Xinjiang. There were attempts to sow doubts about his credentials and intentions.

Some people he wanted to interview also received threatening e-mails telling them not to talk to him and some refused to be interviewed, worrying they would be targeted by online smear campaigns.

One day, after an interview, three young men, each holding a baseball bat menacingly, closed in on him, accusing him of being a spy. He managed to persuade them that if they hurt him it would recoil on their heads and they finally left.

In I Am from China, he also tells the stories of women from Xinjiang. They are doctors, lawyers, dancers, scholars, cooks and teachers. They are positive and ambitious and rise above adversities. The empathy was inspired by his father, who would always tell him, “If you want to delight Allah, you should delight your mother first.”

When his mother suggested that Kurbanjan’s 19-year-old sister give up her studies and get married when the family business was in difficulties, Kurbanjan refused. He looked after the family and supported his sister until she graduated.
from college and became a teacher.

A part of the preface to I Am From China is by Zhang Xingang, a Hong Kong-based Chinese scholar who has lived overseas for 28 years. “Some people from Xinjiang who are living abroad are easily misled because they are not aware of the real history of Xinjiang and their ethnicities. Xinjiang has been governed by the Central Government since the early Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), following which the region has always been an important area for the Central Government of China,” Zhang wrote.

To Zhang, people from Xinjiang are “confident in learning new languages and getting along with different ethnicities since they grow up in an environment mixed with many ethnicities and languages.”

“The stories in the book prove that everyone is different but similar. Those from Xinjiang and from the rest of China are also hard working, just like you and me,” wrote Wang Hui, a Chinese author and professor with Tsinghua University, in another part of the preface.

Communication and understanding is
Xinjiang’s TCM Envoy

Tursunjan’s story is a telling example of how culture—and medicine—transcend borders.

As a young boy growing up in Shihezi, a city in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, he was the only Uygur student in his class in high school, coming from the ethnic minority that mainly resides in Xinjiang. Although there were many brilliant students who did well in other subjects, he outperformed everyone when it came to English, which probably built the foundation of his career overseas.

Later he enrolled in Xinjiang College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), which subsequently became the Xinjiang Medical University. It equipped him with solid TCM knowledge and skills. This time, he was no longer the only student from a minority group. Instead, he met students from various ethnic groups such as Mongol and Kazak. His class had been developed specifically for ethnic minorities who enjoyed a preferential policy when they were graded.

He met Adine, his future wife, in college and they got married the year they graduated and headed for Beijing, where he worked in a foreign-funded company. There he met foreign colleagues and decided to go abroad. The couple, together with their 2-year-old daughter, applied for skilled immigration to Canada.

While in Canada, they found life in a foreign country was no bed of roses. Despite his English skills, Tursunjan had to struggle with the language and the only job he could find was as a car washer, while Adine became a laundry worker.

After the day’s work, Tursunjan had to sprint over 800 meters in five minutes to catch the bus to his language class. If he missed that bus, he would be late for class. When the class finished at 9 p.m., he would trudge back home wearily only to pore over his lessons for two more hours before going to sleep. Life was an endless cycle of work and class and hardship.

A few years later, they learned about local TCM clinics and went to work for one run by someone from Hong Kong. Cantonese is the predominant language in Hong Kong and Tursunjan picked up Cantonese as well. Two years later, the couple opened their own TCM clinic.

While treating his Canadian patients, Tursunjan explains Chinese culture. At the same time, he also learns theirs.

According to him, nearly one third of the TCM doctors in Canada are Canadians. They studied TCM either in Canada or in China. In addition, there are private TCM institutes and TCM management departments.

His aspiration is to expand his clinic within two years and recruit students to convey the TCM culture to more Canadians.
Will More Exam Points Help Improve Student Physical Education?

Yunnan Province in southwest China recently released its reform of the high school entrance exam, where the total score allocated to physical education (PE) will be raised from 50 to 100 points, equal to the so-called “three major subjects” of Chinese, Math and English.

The reform will be implemented in the fall semester of 2020 for middle school students seeking to get into high school, which comprises grades 10-12. They will be required to take PE tests every year of middle school, in seventh, eighth and ninth grade, with the proportion of each year’s test set to 20 percent, 40 percent and 40 percent, respectively. The exams include two parts: a physical exam and a sports skills test. The former, accounting for 60 points, will be conducted according to the national standards of students’ physical health, while the latter, accounting for 40 points, will test skills in soccer, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, martial arts and boxing, among others.

Detailed rules, plans and related documents are yet to be released, but the announcement has already triggered a lot of discussion and debate. Some praise the increased emphasis on PE, while others are worried that it will become another victim of exam-oriented education, adding to students’ already heavy burden.

Fitness for fun’s sake
Xiong Bingqi (The Beijing News): Yunnan education authorities said the reason for the province’s PE reform is that “middle school is a critical period for the development of students’ physical and mental health, and regular exercise is needed to promote students’ health.”

PE has been incorporated into the high school entrance exam for years across the country, but Yunnan is the first province to designate 100 points to this discipline.

It’s not a secret that PE classes in middle schools are often commandeered by teachers of the three major subjects. Therefore from this perspective, the reform will effectively curb the theft of PE classes and bring the goal of students’ well-rounded development closer to fruition.

If students only spend time on what is to be tested in the entrance exam, however, this will distort the original intent of the reform. Students are supposed to develop interests as well as skills through this reform. Schools should design and conduct the new PE agenda in a way that lives up to the reform. Students are supposed to develop interests as well as skills through this reform. Schools should design and conduct the new PE agenda in a way that lives up to this goal. For example, schools can set up sports teams or clubs so that students can develop sports skills through joining them. This will help to increase their interests and skills, and improve their fitness, while at the same time, helping them get more points on the entrance exam. But for now, we still have to wait and see what effect Yunnan’s reform will have.

Dai Xianren (Nanfang Daily): Yunnan has taken the lead in raising the points of PE to 100 for the high school entrance exam. For years, PE has been regarded as expendable in middle school education and its downplaying is thought to be responsible for the continuing deterioration of student fitness across the country.

Although much more attention has been paid to PE in recent years, classes are still mostly marginalized in practice. To give PE an unprecedented high status in the high school entrance exam will undoubtedly correct schools’ negligence of this discipline in Yunnan.

Some people are worried that the province has gone too far by giving PE 100 points, but this is a groundless worry. Physical ability is an important part of students’ overall qualities. To enhance sports education is conducive to students’ health and fitness. Yunnan’s reform is actually an overdue correction of the guidelines for middle schools. The gap between reality and what PE should be is too big and Yunnan is only trying to fill the gap.

However, it’s necessary to keep PE from becoming a subject that is abused. For example, some parents have already taken measures to pull strings through bribes and the like in order to have their children get high scores in their middle school PE tests, creating unfairness that needs to be curbed.

A level playing field
Li Yiling (Guangming Daily): Nowadays, it’s quite common to see PE classes used for other purposes. Often, they are requisitioned by teachers of the major subjects to give their classes. In Yunnan, a survey conducted in 2018 showed that every week, the hours devoted to math classes were 60 percent higher than they should be for the fourth grade, while only 61.2 percent of PE classes for this grade were given and the PE class rate for the eighth grade was 38.7 percent.

Given this dire situation, Yunnan’s reform aims to prevent PE from being taken over or marginalized by raising its point score in the high school entrance exam so that teachers and students alike will have to respect PE classes.

However, to raise PE to such a high status has inevitably sparked some debate and practices may actually deviate from the original intent of the measure. The basic reason that PE classes are hijacked to teach...
other classes is the low score requirement PE now has, so its sacrifice is inevitable. But is this the only way to encourage schools and students to respect PE?

Some worry that to raise PE points so high is somewhat unfair to those students who are born with relatively less physical ability. In addition, for students in remote areas, PE classes are harder to ensure and even if they are given, resources may be poor. Besides, schools in backward areas also tend to lack facilities and stadiums. All this will make it difficult for these students to compete with their urban counterparts. How to ensure students from different provincial areas are able to compete on a fair platform will prove to be a thorny problem.

Aside from concern for fairness, where will the reform lead PE? We have to be alert to the possibility that it is likely to be made a totally test-oriented class, although its aim is to stir up students’ interest in physical exercise and healthy habits.

For years, PE classes have been relatively well ensured in early grades, but tend to be totally abandoned before the high school entrance exam. So when the reform is in place, this could totally be reversed. However, since it is still not valued in the college entrance exam, PE in high school is expected to continue to be neglected.

The key to the reform is to help students really enjoy physical exercise and make it possible by alleviating their heavy schoolwork burden and offering them more time for exercising, not by adding more to their burden. All these issues need to be taken into consideration as the reform is pushed forward.

Ran Yu (www.xinhuanet.com): For years, PE classes were neglected and casually taken over by other subjects. Yunnan’s reform aims to have schools, families and students pay more attention to PE. This is a good policy, but to make it successful, good supportive measures are necessary.

According to relevant regulations in Yunnan, PE tests will be comprised of students’ physical health and fitness, and sports skills. Regarding the first, most students can live up to the standards, but naturally some students will find it harder to get more points than others, due to their own physical attributes. Thus, it’s necessary to develop specific measures targeting students who are less physically able or healthy. Another issue is whether schools in rural areas have enough teachers and facilities to successfully conduct PE classes. There should be special measures aimed at this difficult situation, or it will be very unfair for these students when it comes time to take the entrance exam.

There are other pitfalls that schools must keep from falling into. For example, in order for their students to get high scores in the entrance exam, some schools may overload them with excessive physical training while some students might also overreach their physical capability and incur serious consequences. Thus, without risk assessment, process monitoring and a rational agenda, it’s possible that the reform may backfire to some extent.

Of course, we know that reform of PE classes in middle schools is a difficult job, and Yunnan’s reform is just the first step forward. Many hope that scientific ways of giving classes and rational assessment mechanisms will follow in the coming years so that PE will play its due role in improving students’ fitness and sports skills.
Deciphering the RRR Cut

By Lan Xinzhen

When the People’s Bank of China (PBC), China’s central bank, cut commercial banks’ reserve requirement ratio (RRR) by 0.5 percentage point on January 6, a move expected to unleash 800 billion yuan ($115 billion) in the market, many read it as a sign of China relaxing its monetary policy. The central bank’s efforts were seen as an attempt to stabilize the economy amid the economic slowdown.

However, given China’s current economic picture, the reading is groundless. It’s impossible for China to stimulate its economic growth through this means at this moment.

China has pursued a prudent monetary policy since 2010, a crucial measure by the government to ensure economic transition and upgrading while maintaining stable growth. The goal of economic transition has been partly achieved, and thus the odds of relaxing the monetary policy are low.

A relaxed monetary policy is likely to see some funds flow to energy-intensive and polluting industries and the property sector, which could negatively impact the development of industries of high economic value added and hinder the pace of economic transition and upgrading.

Also, the economy does not need to be spiced up by a relaxed monetary policy at the present stage. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the economic growth rate has been kept at about 6.5 percent in recent years and despite a dip in the first three quarters of 2019, it was still 6.2 percent. This rate can meet the demand of the economic transition, support employment and ensure resident income growth.

More importantly, this growth rate has been achieved on the basis of new economic drivers like Internet Plus, the Internet of Things, big data and cloud computing. The proportion of strategic emerging industries and hi-tech manufacturing has sharply risen in the overall industry.

The economic growth pattern has also been upgraded, with the tertiary industry becoming a major force of growth.

In November 2019, the broad measure of money supply rose by 8.2 percent year on year. To ensure a successful economic transition and stability, and to curb inflation, the currency circulating in the Chinese market is not stretched yet. Thus there is no ground for relaxing the monetary policy.

The swine flu raised pork prices in 2019, which in turn pushed up the cost of living index. The consumer price index in November saw a year-on-year increase of 4.5 percent, implying a trend of inflation. Relaxesing the monetary policy would be likely to trigger inflation.

The central bank probably has two goals for cutting the RRR: the first is to implement financial policies in a more accurate way to serve the real economy and lower financing costs for micro and small enterprises (MSEs). The second is to increase the flow of consumption funds during Spring Festival.

In China, MSEs have difficulty getting bank loans. Though governments at various levels are trying to resolve this issue, financial institutions still find it difficult to satisfy the demand for funds from a swelling number of MSEs.

Private enterprises, particularly MSEs, are challenged by the economic downturn and China-U.S. trade friction, and some are in urgent need of funds to cope with current volatilities.

Besides, as people across the country go back home for the traditional family reunion during Spring Festival, enterprises have to pay off debts and wages, another reason for requiring big amounts of cash. The three factors combined cry for an increased flow of funds.

The PBC announced on December 23, 2019 that it would consider measures including RRR cuts as well as relending and refinancing, together with efforts to lower the real interest rate and comprehensive financing costs and help MSEs with easier access to loans. The news of the RRR cut soon followed this announcement.

A clue to current currency policy can be found in the Central Economic Work Conference convened on December 10-12, 2019. It determined stability as the priority of the country’s economic work in 2020, including financial stability and a prudent monetary policy.

China’s current economic growth is mostly impacted by external factors, not least U.S. unilateralism and trade protectionism. The China-U.S. trade friction has posed uncertainty to economies around the globe. This is not a problem that can be solved through relaxing the monetary policy.

In 2019, the U.S. Federal Reserve adjusted monetary policies several times, which was followed by many major economies in the world. But China is an exception. China has been carrying on with its prudent monetary policy in line with its own economic situation, reflecting the independence of the Chinese market as well as the resilience and confidence of the Chinese economy.

China’s current economic growth is maintained within a reasonable range, a trend that is expected to continue in 2020. ■
Planting The Seeds

Winning the battle against poverty in 2020