

NEWS DIGEST

Quotable

China welcomes all types of businesses, including foreign ones, to participate in the ownership reform of SOEs.”

XIAO YAQING, chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission

“The Chinese leadership’s focus on environmental protection has never been higher.”

ALEX WANG, assistant professor at the School of Law of the University of California, Los Angeles

“More policies and measures on financial reform and opening-up will be announced at the upcoming forum held in Boao, Hainan province, next month.”

YI GANG, governor of People’s Bank of China, the central bank



Tourists brave snow flurries to take photos in front of the Forbidden City in Beijing on March 17. The capital had just recorded 145 consecutive days without precipitation, its longest dry spell in 47 years. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Novel hydrogel to aid post-surgery treatment

A novel hydrogel developed by Chinese scientists has proved helpful in eliminating residual tumor tissues and preventing infection, according to the findings of the researchers published this month in the journal *Advanced Science*. Since radiotherapy and chemotherapy are often blamed for serious complications and side effects, an increasing number of patients are opting for photothermal therapy, or PTT. “PTT can treat cancer with minimal invasiveness, yet it has been stifled in clinical adoption for the insufficient biodegradability of the PTT agents. Our hydrogel tackles this problem,” says Yu Xuefeng, the leading researcher of the team from the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology. “Our team is filing for a clinical adoption license in hope that the product can be applied for clinical uses at an earlier time,” Yu says.

China to recycle waste from Pacific countries

China Navigation Co and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment signed a memorandum of understanding on March 21 to address the critical waste management issues of Pacific islands. The agreement will allow CNCo vessels to carry containers of recyclable waste from eligible Pacific island ports to be sustainably treated and recycled at ports in the Asia-Pacific region. Under the

agreement, Pacific island countries that have insufficient or inappropriate landfill space or waste treatment facilities and the financial inability to ship recyclable waste are eligible. The types of materials considered recyclable include plastics, aluminium cans, waste oil and ozone-depleting substances.

Fastest wind tunnel to spur space progress

China is building the world’s fastest hypersonic wind tunnel to help with the development of space planes, according to Xinhua News Agency. “The 265-meter-long tunnel can be used to test hypersonic aircraft that can travel at speeds of up to Mach 25 (30,620 kilometers per hour), 25 times the speed of sound,” Xinhua quoted Han Guilai, a researcher with China’s State Key Laboratory of High Temperature Gas Dynamics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying.

Launch planned for Long March 5B rocket

China will launch a Long March 5B carrier rocket around June next year, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the rocket’s developer. The rocket, the new generation of carrier rocket, has entered the model-testing phase in preparation for space station missions, the company said on March 19. It will have a total length of 53.7 meters, with a core-level diameter of five meters, a booster diameter of 3.35 meters and a takeoff weight of 837 metric

tons. The rocket will have a carrying capacity in low Earth orbit of greater than 22 tons — the largest among Long March carrier rockets.

New internet voice technique developed

China has developed a technique to identify internet users based on their voices. The technique, jointly developed by Tsinghua University and a Beijing technology company, is aimed at providing identification services for users. The technique can be applied to such services as finance, medical care and education, developers say. The project is based in the Guian New Area of Guizhou province, which focuses on emerging industries.

Lead-based reactor supply chain to be built

A lead-based reactor industrial supply chain will be built in China, according to the Institute of Nuclear Energy Safety Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. A lead-based reactor is a type of advanced nuclear system that uses lead or lead alloy as the coolant. It is safer and more affordable, according to the institute. The reactor is expected to support power supply, ocean development and aerospace power. It can also be used in nuclear waste treatment and fusion power plants. A lead-based reactor industrial alliance was established earlier this month in China, led by the institute.

2,000-year-old liquor unearthed from tomb

Archaeologists have unearthed a bronze kettle containing liquor from a tomb dating back more than 2,000 years in western China’s Shaanxi province. The kettle is a sacrificial vessel. It was among 260 items unearthed from a graveyard of commoners’ tombs from the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC). Most of the relics were for worship rituals. Xu Weihong, a researcher with the provincial archaeological institute, says about 300 milliliters of liquor was found in the kettle, which had its opening sealed with natural fibers. The liquor is a transparent, milky white. Researchers believe it was made using fermentation techniques. Researchers need to further study the liquor to better understand the brewing technology and wine-drinking culture in Xianyang, the ancient capital of the Qin Dynasty.

Kenya campaign aims to woo Chinese

Kenya plans to launch a digital media campaign to woo more Chinese tourists to the country, Kenya’s tourism agency said on March 19. Betty Radier, CEO of the Kenya Tourism Board, said the campaign will run from this month to the end of June in five large Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Kenyan government data indicate that in 2017, around 69,000 Chinese tourists visited the East African country. The total number of visitors reached 1.4 million last year. Radier said that the challenge in targeting Chinese tourists is for Kenya to be China-ready.