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Pu Yucong, a designer and a livestreaming host who has about 300,000 followers on a popular online broadcasting platform



World's highest tunnel

Buses enter the Que'ershan Tunnel — on National Highway No 317 — in Ganzi, Sichuan province, on Tuesday. The tunnel, whose highest point is 4,378 meters above sea level, opened to traffic 15 years after the project started. It is said to be the world's highest highway tunnel. HE HAIYANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Cooperation 'urgent' for intl disputes

Countries along Belt and Road routes urged to improve their case handling

By CAO YIN

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Liu Guixiang, member of the top court's judicial committee

China's top court called on countries and regions along the routes of China's Belt and Road Initiative on Tuesday to increase judicial cooperation and improve the quality of foreign-related hearings by setting up legal research bases and information centers.

In the past, cross-border disputes relating to trade, infrastructure construction, maritime issues and international logistics were mainly solved by mediation and arbitration.

“But such solutions may not be enough as the Belt and Road Initiative progresses,” said Liu Guixiang, a member of the judicial committee of the Supreme People's Court.

The initiative, proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, has brought more trade contracts to the countries and regions involved, but also disputes.

Figures from the top court show that Chinese courts concluded 25,916 foreign-related cases in 2016, up 9.3 percent year-on-year, with ones related to the initiative increasing rapidly.

“Joining hands with the countries and regions to study initiative-related cases is important, while building a quick, transparent and convenient system to solve cross-border disputes is urgent,” Liu said during the Silk Road International Forum on Judicial Cooperation in Dunhuang, Gansu province.

“Also, we are about to establish a work mechanism to help the participants in the initiative understand each other's rulings and laws, ensuring

that our verdicts can be approved and enforced,” he said.

Irina Gorskova, a judge from Kyrgyzstan, said that applying for judicial assistance and taking

the proper steps in a case is complicated, which may slow the dispute resolution process.

It is necessary to make legal treaties with countries that are proficient in handling cases, she said, which will contribute to improving legal efficiency in China.

Since last year, the top court has undertaken efforts to improve the efficiency and quality of case handling using international judicial assistance, where other countries' courts will provide any information they possess to help resolve cases.

Thanks to an internal online system created by the top court to help follow and resolve lawsuits, Chinese courts concluded 2,967 lawsuits brought for judicial assistance in 2016, up 34.2 percent year-on-year, Liu said.

“We also cooperated more with Chinese colleges, providing our judges with more convenient ways to search for foreign laws, as well as opening a website for them to trace and study foreign-related cases and hot issues in other countries,” he added.

Liang Mingyuan, president of the Gansu High People's Court, added that initiative-related judicial cooperation should be expanded to the fight against terrorism, human trafficking and drug crimes.

Association defends improperly treated lawyers

By ZHANG YAN

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The All China Lawyers Association and its local branches received 59 complaints in August involving the infringement of lawyers' rights, the association said on Tuesday.

Of those, 25 cases have been resolved, with lawyers' rights being protected. The other cases are still under investigation, Lyu Hongbing, vice-president of the association, said on Tuesday.

Lyu said most complaints involve claims that defense lawyers' rights were harmed — for example, lawyers being prevented from meeting clients during investigations or from reviewing case files or collecting evidence.

In recent years, a growing number of such violations have occurred across the country, drawing attention from the public and media, observers said.

To tackle the issue, the lawyers' group at the national and local levels set up two

centers in March — one to protect lawyers' rights and the other for handling complaints and reports against lawyers.

“If we receive reports about serious violations of lawyers' rights, we will immediately set up a team for further investigation and coordinate with other departments to deal with the cases in a timely manner and give feedback about the results,” Jiang Min, the association's spokesman, said on Tuesday.

In a typical case, the Wuhan

Lawyers Association in Hubei province received a report in August claiming that Liu Bo, a lawyer at the Yingchu Law Firm, was beaten by opposing parties when the court mediated a case, the association said.

After receiving the report, the association immediately launched its quick-response mechanism and sent a formal document and evidence to Hongshan District People's Court in Wuhan.

After further investigation, the guilty parties were

required to apologize to the lawyer and the court issued a serious warning to them, the association said.

Lyu said the association will gather the valuable experiences and best practices of local branches to smooth the channel for receiving reports and handling the cases.

Moreover, it will call on authorities to speed up the enactment of a so-called Law of Lawyers, which will offer a legal basis for lawyers to better serve clients and protect their rights, he said.

NAN RENDONG: 1945-2017

FAST project's chief scientist refused to be average

China's Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST, the world's largest radio telescope, celebrated its first anniversary on Monday. But its founding father was not there to enjoy the moment: Nan Rendong, chief scientist of the FAST project, died from lung cancer at the age of 72, just 10 days before the celebration.

He underwent surgery after being diagnosed with the disease two years ago. When he was discharged from hospital, Nan was moved to a house on the outskirts of Beijing where he could grow flowers and walk his dog.

However, the old man could not bear such an idle life, describing it as “like being in jail.” Nan continued to work despite illness, invoking the spirit of his own personal motto: “Refuse to be average.”

The astronomer was known to often gaze at the starlit

nighttime sky, pondering life's big questions. Who are we? Where did we come from? Are we alone in the universe?

This curiosity, as well as a sense of patriotism, prompted Nan to bid farewell to the good salary and world-class research environment he enjoyed as a visiting professor at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

Nan had been in charge of FAST since 1994, leading the research team to work around the clock, pouring all his energy into the project, which some considered an impossible mission. He aimed to build the largest supersensitive “ear” on Earth to listen for distant signals in the universe and decode cosmic messages.

The main structure for the project — a 4,450-panel reflector as large as 30 soccer fields — was installed last year. It is capable of amplifying signals and searching for sun-like

“The building of FAST is not driven by economic interest but by the human desire for innovation and exploration.”

Nan Rendong, chief scientist of the FAST project



stars using technology five times more powerful than what was previously available. It can receive electromagnetic signals from 10 billion light years away, and perhaps bring the search for extraterrestrial life closer to what would be an astonishing conclusion.

Arduous task

Site selection was the most important challenge — and the biggest — at the initial stage of the project. Nan began site surveys in 1994,

considering geomorphological features, climate, the engineering environment and radio interference.

Trudging up and down rugged mountains in Southwest China for more than 10 years, Nan finally found the ideal site, a karst valley deep in mountainous Guizhou province.

With little mature technology for reference, Nan encountered numerous technical difficulties. The team overcame more than 100 failures to solve a cable-net problem,

for example, with Nan always at the forefront of trials during the construction process.

“The building of FAST is not driven by economic interest but by the human desire for innovation and exploration,” Nan said. “You will always make unexpected gains during scientific adventures.”

The radio telescope is expected to be the global leader for the next 10 to 20 years, according to Zheng Xiaonian, deputy head of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' National Astronomical Observatories.

The man behind this unprecedented project, though mourned by families, students and colleagues, wished for his funeral to be simple, with no event held.

“Attracted by its mystery and glory, we can go beyond mediocrity and step into the vast beautiful universe,” Nan wrote.

XINHUA

Wuhan to open livestreaming base

By LIU KUN in Wuhan
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A large livestream hosting center is expected to open in Wuhan, Hubei province, next month.

The center, Damara Village, covers about 146 hectares and has room for around 100 hosts, said Hu Huanhao, a business consultant from Wuhan Yuejinghui Investment Co, the entity behind the center.

Hu said that along with studios and accommodations, the area also features European-style architecture, such as

a chapel, bell tower and wine cellar.

The center is located within a flower-themed tourist park, which opened this spring.

More than 30 livestreaming hosts have been negotiating with Damara, Hu said. “We want to promote the development of the leisure industry in this area with online broadcasting, which is a very popular among young people,” Hu said.

“The broadcasting base will also provide job opportunities because more university graduates want to join the online

broadcasting industry,” he said.

Pu Yucong, a graduate of Tsinghua University, is a designer and a livestreaming host who has about 300,000 followers on Douyu, a popular online broadcasting platform in China.

“Livestreaming is not a job for me but a way of life — sharing with others,” Pu said.

“My first online show was the graduation ceremony at Tsinghua University. The debut turned out to be a big success that was beyond my expectations,” she said.



Two hosts work on a video program at Damara Village, a livestream hosting center in Wuhan, Hubei province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Pu plans to open a clothing shop offering her own brands in Damara Village. The shop will also be a place

where she can meet her fans.

Zhang Yi contributed to this story.

Briefly

SHANGHAI

Heavy rain brings floods to city

Heavy rainstorms battered Shanghai on Monday morning, causing flooding in many areas of the city. Accumulated rainwater exceeded 25 centimeters on some roads, and about 200 shops along Xinyuan Road were flooded, according to the municipal flood control headquarters. The most serious flooding occurred at a pedestrian crossing on Luoshan Road, where water was more than 1.2 meters deep, the headquarters said.

TIANJIN

Insurance claims over blasts settled

More than 8.1 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in insurance claims related to two huge explosions in Tianjin in 2015 were settled as of the end of 2016, the Tianjin bureau of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission said on Tuesday in its annual report. Two warehouse explosions rocked Tianjin on Aug 12, 2015, claiming 165 lives. The blasts led to one of the most costly catastrophe claims in the Chinese insurance sector in years. By the end of last year, more than 6,000 insurance claims were settled. The total settlement amount is expected to exceed 10 billion yuan, the bureau said.

HENAN

12 die, 11 injured in bus-truck crash

Twelve people died and 11 others were injured after a truck ran into three minibuses on an expressway on Tuesday. The crash occurred on Tuesday morning on the Xinxiang section of an expressway linking Beijing with Guangzhou. A truck ran over the median barrier and crashed head-on into three minibuses in the oncoming lane, the Henan expressway police said. Twelve people died, and one passenger was critically injured. Ten others sustained slight injuries. The injured people were taken to local hospitals. The truck driver is in police custody.

HUBEI

3,000 shared bikes seized for bad parking

Urban management authorities in Wuhan seized more than 3,000 shared bikes after receiving complaints about haphazard parking. The bikes were moved to a parking lot, and the sharing companies will face penalties, said Hu Hanjin of the city's urban management commission. The city of more than 10 million inhabitants has almost 700,000 shared bikes and haphazard parking has caused traffic problems.

XINHUA