

TOP NEWS

Northeast Asia trade in focus at Jilin expo

China to leverage platform to develop closer economic links with five countries

By ZHONG NAN in Beijing and LIU MINGTAI in Changchun

China will leverage the China-Northeast Asia Expo platform to advance policy coordination, forge closer economic links and strengthen cooperation with Northeast Asia, senior government officials said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the expo's 15th edition, which runs from Wednesday to Sunday, in Changchun, Northeast China's Jilin province, they said China's unwavering push for high-level opening-up will not only create new space for its own development, but also offer greater opportunities for Northeast Asian countries to share in the benefits of China's growth.

Northeast Asia consists of China, Russia, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and Japan. The region boasts favorable transport conditions, and covers a vast area with rich human, mining and marine resources, as well as strong industrial capability.

Hu Chunhua, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said Northeast Asian economies, each with their own strengths, form one of the world's most dynamic regions.

China will work with other Northeast Asian countries to promote regional growth, deepen industrial coordination and advance green development, Hu said.

Idesh Bakhui, state secretary of Mongolia's Ministry of Economy and Development, said the expo will play a key role in advancing multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia, driving regional integration, fostering mutual understanding and boosting broader collaboration.

"We will expand trade volumes with other countries in the region, while diversifying product categories, optimizing the trade structure, developing value-added supply chains, and increasing both the quantity and variety of non-mineral exports," he said.

Highlighting the importance of the expo, Yan Dong, China's vice-minister of commerce, said that Northeast Asian countries share geographical proximity, cultural bonds and strong commercial ties, with complementary strengths in resources and enormous potential for regional economic cooperation.

Practical cooperation between China and other Northeast Asian countries has deepened across various fields, maintaining positive

momentum in economic and trade exchanges, he said.

Trade between China and the five Northeast Asian countries amounted to \$901.6 billion in 2024, up 1.6 percent year-on-year, accounting for nearly 15 percent of China's total foreign trade. China has maintained its position as the largest trading partner for all five countries, with the Republic of Korea and Japan ranking as its second and third-largest trading partners, respectively, statistics from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

Two-way investment between China and the five countries exceeded \$7 billion last year, with cooperation expanding into emerging fields, including digital economy, green development, advanced manufacturing and modern services.

Li Xingqian, vice-chairman of the Beijing-headquartered China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said that China and Northeast Asian countries have deepened strategic alignment and open cooperation in recent years, with supply chains becoming more integrated.

"While traditional industries anchor the economy, rising cooperation in emerging sectors is driving new momentum for regional growth," said Li.

Siping Shengya Hygienic Products, an exhibitor at the 15th China-Northeast Asia Expo and a Siping, Jilin-based manufacturer of care wipes and antibacterial agents, saw its export value rise 31.6 percent year-on-year to 353,000 yuan (\$49,292) in the first seven months of 2025, with shipments to Russia, the Republic of Korea and Japan, according to Changchun Customs.

"We will further expand our markets and enable more consumers in Northeast Asia and beyond to experience the unique appeal of traditional Chinese medicine-based care products," said Huo Wei, the company's president.

German chemical group BASF, another participant in the expo, said it will strengthen its surface treatment business by providing paint solutions to Chinese automakers and further enhancing the local automotive industry's value chain.

"China is changing its growth model and placing a strong focus on sustainability. BASF is determined to contribute to this development and enable our local customers' green transformation," said Jens Hildebrandt, vice-president of government relations at BASF China.

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Plans on track



Delegates pose for a photo at the signing ceremony of the Santiago-Batuco rail line project on Monday in Santiago, the capital of Chile. Construction of the 24-kilometer-long railway track, which will bring electric train services to northern Chile, is being undertaken by China Railway Construction Corporation. XINHUA

DPP slammed for distorting WWII history

By LI SHANGYI lishangyi@chinadaily.com.cn

The Democratic Progressive Party's denial of the Communist Party of China's crucial role in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45), along with its bid to stop Taiwan compatriots from attending relevant commemorative events, reveals the DPP's intentions to misrepresent history, incite cross-Strait confrontation and pursue its secessionist goal with every means possible, a Chinese mainland official said on Wednesday.

Zhu Fenglian, a spokeswoman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the remarks at a regular news conference while rebutting a series of erroneous claims made by the DPP.

She said that representatives from all walks of life, including Taiwan compatriots, will be invited to attend events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the war against Japanese aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War to be held in Beijing on Sept. 3. This year also marks the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration to China following Japanese occupation.

Zhu noted that all Chinese people, including Taiwan compatriots, made enormous sacrifices to defeat Japanese militarists, and that the victory in the war and Taiwan's return to China are worth remembering by compatriots on both sides of the Strait. "Compatriots from Taiwan should not and cannot be absent from these commemorations," she stressed.

Taiwan's mainland affairs body recently banned public officials from traveling to the mainland to attend the Sept. 3 military parade and other commemorative events. It also advised Taiwan people against participation in relevant activities, warning that any act of cooperation with the mainland would be subject to legal penalties.

The applications of public officials who had already applied to visit the mainland for such events have been rejected, it said.

Zhu, the mainland spokeswoman, said that DPP authorities are deliberately distorting the history of the war and using threats, intimidation and other measures to prevent Taiwan compatriots' participation in relevant events.

She condemned the DPP's moves as "disgraceful acts of betraying history and the nation" and an attempt to dishonor the sacrifices made by all Chinese people.

The history of Taiwan's restoration irrefutably proves that Taiwan is an inseparable part of the Chinese territory, Zhu said, underscoring the joint efforts made by the CPC and the Chinese Kuomintang party in resisting Japanese invaders, which eventually led to Taiwan's return to China after 50 years of Japanese occupation.

In a social media post on Aug. 15, the day Japan's unconditional surrender was announced in 1945, Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te avoided expressions such as "Japanese aggression" or "victory in the war against Japanese aggression", and instead referred to it as the 80th anniversary of "the end of World War II".

Lai's remarks show that he has completely lost his national stance and intentionally ignored the historical facts, Zhu said.

"Taiwan's recovery was the result of the united struggle of the entire nation, including Taiwan compatriots, and it is a significant part of the victory in WWII and the postwar international order," she added.

Zhu emphasized that any attempt to distort history will not succeed, any action challenging the postwar international order is self-humiliating, and any plot to divide the motherland is a delusion.

In Taipei, the KMT recently held an exhibition commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the war against Japanese aggression and the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration.

According to media reports, the exhibition evoked deep emotions among Taiwan people, and many of them criticized the DPP authorities for touting Japanese rule and downplaying the historical significance of Taiwan's recovery.

Zhu said that across Taiwan, people are commemorating the victory in the war and Taiwan's restoration to China through various events such as memorial gatherings, symposiums and exhibitions.

"We hope that compatriots on both sides of the Strait will remember history ... firmly oppose 'Taiwan independence' separatism and external interference and jointly pursue a bright future of national reunification and rejuvenation," she added.

CHINA DAILY

Political Lens

Top political adviser meets Swiss Council of States president

Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political advisory body, met with Andrea Caroni, president of the Swiss Council of States, in Beijing on Wednesday.

Wang noted that over the 75 years since they established diplomatic relations, China and Switzerland have upheld equality and mutual respect, and supported each other for their respective success.

China is willing to work with Switzerland to take the 75th anniversary as an opportunity to further consolidate political mutual trust, seize opportunities for cooperation, strengthen people-to-people and cultural bonds, and enhance multilateral coordination, he said.

Caroni spoke highly of China's innovation capabilities and development achievements, and reaffirmed Switzerland's adherence to the one-China policy.

He emphasized the need for both countries to speed up negotiations for the upgrade of the free trade agreement and jointly uphold multilateralism and global peace and stability.

Growth: Industrial output boosts improvement

From page 1

Investor sentiment mirrored the momentum in advanced industries. On Wednesday, Chinese AI chipmaker Cambricon Technologies briefly overtook liquor giant Kweichow Moutai to become the country's most valuable onshore stock. Cambricon's shares rose nearly 10 percent in intraday trading to over 1,460 yuan (\$204) per share before closing at 1,372.1 yuan, up 3.24 percent from the previous day.

NBS data showed that the semiconductor industry was among the strongest contributors. Profits in integrated circuit manufacturing surged 176.1 percent last month, while semiconductor equipment makers saw earnings jump 104.5 percent, the NBS said.

The biopharmaceutical sector also maintained solid momentum, with profits climbing 36.3 percent in biomedicine manufacturing and 6.9 percent in chemical drug formulation in July.

"Overall, as macroeconomic policies continue to take effect and the market environment improves, industrial companies are expected to sustain their profit recovery, which will bolster the high-quality growth of the industrial economy," Tang added.

In July, major industrial enterprises saw their total profits dip 1.5 percent year-on-year, following a 4.3 percent decline in June.

For the January-July period, China's industrial profits dropped 1.7 percent year-on-year to 4.02 trillion yuan after a 1.8 percent decline in the first half.

NBS statistician Yu Weining attributed the improvement to the steady growth in industrial output, supported by policy efforts to stabilize prices and boost demand.

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said that China's industrial profits are likely to continue a moderate recovery in the coming months, as the impact of extreme weather fades, supply and demand gradually normalize, and both orders and production regain momentum.

"Industrial profits could see a mild year-on-year increase in a single month, while cumulative growth maintains a steady upward trajectory," Wen said.

He added that the ongoing campaign against rat-race competition is gradually improving market order, helping to make pricing and cost allocation mechanisms more rational.

Li Chao, chief economist at Zhesang Securities, said that policies to stabilize industrial growth, together with the rollout of new initiatives, will continue to provide support from both the supply and demand sides.



A staff member at the Russian booth pours wine for visitors to taste on Wednesday, during the 15th China-Northeast Asia Expo in Changchun, the capital of Jilin province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Avenue blooms with flowers to mark victory

By YANG CHENG yangcheng@chinadaily.com.cn

Visitors have been making a bee-line for Beijing's Chang'an Avenue over the past few days to admire the floral installations that have been put up to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Ten three-dimensional displays

now adorn the stretch between Jianguomen and Fuxingmen, transforming the capital's central boulevard into a vibrant commemoration ahead of the grand parade on Sept. 3.

"The five installations on the eastern side depict the heroic and inspiring victories of the Chinese nation. The five displays on the western side, on the other hand, showcase the remarkable achievements of the new era in the journey toward national rejuvenation," said Song Xuemin, a

senior official at the Beijing Forestry and Parks Bureau.

The installations feature more than 100 varieties of flowers and plants, including 40 new species cultivated by various research institutes in the capital that are being showcased for the first time. Crops such as millet, sorghum and sugarcane have also been integrated into the designs, a first for the city's floral projects, to depict the self-reliance and agricultural resili-

ence of the war years, Song said.

One of the highlights of the floral exhibition is the "Ode to the Yellow River" installation, which combines sound, mist effects and flowing water to portray the Hukou Waterfall on the Yellow River as the patriotic composition *Defend the Yellow River* plays in the background.

Visitors have been making the most of the installations, with teenagers posing in front of them with victory signs, while others paid their respects to war heroes by saluting the installations.

A Beijing resident surnamed

Zhang, who is in her 70s, summed up the mood of the people. "I love this set of displays. I've come to Chang'an Avenue specifically to see them. ... We live happy lives today thanks to the heroes who sacrificed their lives back then," she said.

Adding to the grandeur of the installations are thousands of flowers that have been planted to cover an area of more than 3,200 square meters, and rose-themed decorations at five key bridges. All the installations will remain on display through the National Day holiday in October.