SoftBank 4G 18:23 94%

New *Lion King* arrives

African safari trip prepared director for live-action remake of classic

LIFE, PAGE 16

Climate conditions in most major cities to change by 2050

WORLD, PAGE 7

Downward spiral

Country's automotive market sluggish, with sales dropping by 9.6% in June

BUSINESS, PAGE 8

CHINA DAILY

GLOBAL EDITION 中国日报 THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019

China, Japan can promote environmental cooperation

WORLD WATCH

By Zhou Wenzhong

Leaders of China and Japan met at the G20 Osaka summit in June and confirmed Japan-China relations were fully back on track. In October last year, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited China, he proposed to the Chinese leaders his strong desire to "turn competition into coordination" with China.

In this sense, joint efforts involving the Belt and Road Initiative realm will provide a new platform for the two countries to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation.

There are two things on the agenda of the substantial cooperation along the BRI routes. One is the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the other is third party market cooperation. Japan has not joined the AIIB in view of the United States' position and other factors, but has reached consensus on carrying out third party market cooperation under the framework of the BRI with China.

In December 2017, the Japanese government proposed guidelines for its enterprises on nongovernmental cooperation between Japan and China in the third party market through financial support in areas such as energy conservation, industrial upgrading and logistics.

In May last year, Premier Li Keqiang visited Japan, and the two governments signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between China and Japan in nongovernmental areas in third party markets and agreed to set up a council for this purpose.

In October last year, Abe visited China, and the two sides jointly held the first China-Japan Third-Party Market Cooperation Forum and signed 52 memorandums of understanding to tap into the huge space of cooperation and profits.

The BRI partner countries are faced with the challenges of alleviating poverty, dealing with public hazards and protecting the environment.

My research center has analyzed the potential of energy conservation and environmental improvement in them and has some findings.

If both the energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and countries of the former Soviet Union, other than Central and Eastern Europe, reach the current annual levels of those of Japan, then the annual energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by about 40 to 70 percent. In particular, India and Russia have very low

See **Cooperation**, page 3

RESCUE TEAMS RISE TO CHALLENGE

Civilian groups play key role during emergencies

By LIU XUAN

in-depth

After a devastating earthquake struck Sichuan province last month, an emergency response system was quickly activated and work teams were sent to provide guidance in rescue and disaster relief as well as conduct safety inspections.

The Ministry of Emergency Management acted promptly after the magnitude 6 quake hit Changning county, Yibin, on the night of June 17, killing 13 people and injuring 200.

Along with more than 500 firefighters sent by the government, hundreds of volunteers from civilian rescue teams joined the race against time to find survivors.

Blue Sky Rescue, a nongovernmental humanitarian organization founded in Beijing in 2007, responded to the alert immediately and set up its own coordination center.

Zhang Yong, captain and head of Blue Sky Rescue, said experts from the center launched an assessment process to gather data and deliver a general report on the quake within half an hour, including possible damage and losses.

At the same time, a local information team left for the disaster area to gain firsthand knowledge of the situation, Zhang said.

The team arrived at the quake epicenter in Changning to check conditions and gain a rough idea of casualties and damage to property.

"We then relayed the information back to government departments as well as our own coordination center for further analysis and decisions," Zhang said. "If the situation had been worse than we first thought, the advance team could also turn to a separate rescue squad to provide emergency assistance."

See **Disasters**, page 3

INSIDE

Promoting common development of Northeast Asia

Global Views, page 13

www.chinadailyglobal.com

© 2019 China Daily Global. All Rights Reserved. No. 20

Subscription: ANN

Business phone: 010-84883333 | 010-84883444 | 010-84883555

Sales Hotline: 010-84883666 | 010-84883777 | 010-84883888

Subscription Hotline: 010-84883999 | 010-84884000

STAR set for high-tech debut

Focus of new Shanghai A-share board will be on strategic emerging industries

By SHI JING in Shanghai

In less than two weeks, the first group of listed companies for the technology-focused STAR Market will start trading at the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The first 25 companies, which have had their initial public offering registration approved by the China Securities Regulatory Commission, will start trading at the exchange on July 22, according to an announcement that the Shanghai bourse released on July 5. Before that, the companies will go through stress testing and a comprehensive operation test for the trading system.

Nine of the 25 companies specialize in the computer and telecommunications industry, making up the majority of the first group, and eight others are special equipment manufacturers, according to information made public by the companies.

The much-anticipated STAR Market focuses on high-tech and strategic emerging industries including cutting-edge information technology, high-end equipment, new materials, new energy, energy saving and environmental protection, and biomedicine. This is the most noticeable difference between it and other A-share boards such as the ChiNext or SME Board, said Xin Chen, an analyst of secondary market research at Shanghai-based financial service provider Noah Holdings Ltd.

"Different from the ChiNext, which still resorts to conventional gauges such as company size or profitability, the STAR Market gives science and technology innovation the most prominent place," he said.

"In this sense, the STAR Market has explicitly focused on certain industries. It also answers to the central government's mapping in the strategic emerging industries with the help of the capital market," he added.

Among the first companies, Hangzhou-based computer vision technology provider Arcsoft Multimedia Technology has invested the

See **Market**, page 2

Standing for their nations

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister of Finland Antti Rinne stand for the national anthems at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on Wednesday. Merkel's body shook visibly as she stood alongside her counterpart. [illegible]

Chinese company acquires UK school network CATS

By ANGUS McNEICE in London

Guangdong-based education company Bright Scholar has purchased United Kingdom-focused operator International school network CATS Colleges for 150 million pounds ($197.6 million), in the latest of a string of UK education acquisitions by Chinese buyers.

Bright Scholar, a major operator of international and bilingual K-12 schools in China, called the deal a significant acceleration in the expansion of its overseas portfolio. Bright Scholar has already bought three other UK schools over the last year.

CATS Colleges is a global school network that focuses on international students. The company has seven campuses and 10 international language schools across the UK, the United States and China.

"The acquisition of CATS expands Bright Scholar's significant presence outside of China as we continue to build a global network of premium schools," said Bright Scholar Executive Vice Chairman Jerry Hu.

"CATS has grown into one of the most innovative and successful independent education providers in the United Kingdom and the United States."

Bright Scholar operates 69 schools in China for more than 42,000 students. He said that his company and CATS "share the same beliefs" in combining "traditional values and forward-thinking ideas" to help students realize their potential.

"The addition of CATS' international network of schools will help Bright Scholar share best practices and innovations to raise the standards of teaching and improve the learning experience of our students," He said.

"The acquisition will also set the stage for the accelerating expansion of our overseas school portfolio, distinguishing us as a global premium education service provider."

CATS has campuses in Boston in the US, Cambridge, London, and Canterbury in the UK, and in Shanghai, China. Together with the language schools, these institutions serve more than 2,500 students from around 80 nations.

Chinese companies have increased their interest in British education properties in recent years. The demand stems in part from a rising middle class that is willing to pay for bilingual learning in order to gain entry into elite English-speaking universities.

Last month, Bright Scholar announced it had spent a total of 38 million pounds on the purchase of St Michael's School in Wales and Bootworth Independent College in England. Last year the company bought another British school, Bournemouth Collegiate, and in 2015, Shanghai-based education provider Dipeng agreed a partnership with King's College School in London to set up three British-style schools in China.

Chinese groups have also paid particular attention to the UK's early years education sector. Last year, Chinese Oriental Cambridge Education Group and British nursery chain Busy Bees signed an agreement to open 20 nurseries across China in a deal thought to be worth 75 million pounds.

Chinese company Gaili Education purchased Devon-based nursery group Rainbows in 2016, and announced plans to open British-style preschools in China and acquire further childcare centers in the UK.

In 2017, Chinese investor Langyuan Education partnered with UK company British Early Education to open an international kindergarten in Yibing, Jiangxi province.

Beyond acquisitions, China has stepped up exchange agreements with British schools to boost bilingual learning. The Shenzhen Education Bureau recently selected East Anglian state-funded academy Brayfaun High School and College as a partner for an educational exchange.

CATS schools serve students hailing from around 80 nations. PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

TOP NEWS

Demographic discrepancies cause worry

This divergent trend may threaten the regions' economic gains, analysts say

By PRIME SARMIENTO in Hong Kong
primesarmiento@chinadailyhkg.com

As the international community observes this year's World Population Day on Thursday, policymakers across continents, especially in Asia, have to tackle a demographic paradox.

The United Nations estimates the global population may hit 8.7 billion in 2050 from about 7.7 billion today. However, a wide discrepancy among subregions is apparent across the world.

Southern Asia and Africa are struggling with providing jobs for the growing number of young people as a result of higher fertility rate, but East Asia, Europe and elsewhere are confronted with rapid aging that can pressure their economic and public services.

The ramifications of this divergent demographic trend may threaten the regions' economic gains and the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, analysts noted. The 17 goals include eradication of extreme poverty, halting deforestation and promotion of gender equality.

Sivanandha Thanenthiran, executive director of the Kuala Lumpur-based Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Center for Women, said meeting these SDGs is crucial for Asian countries with a huge youth population. Such "sizable youth power" needs quality education, skills and job opportunities.

The United Nations Population Fund said the total fertility rate for Asia is close to the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman. In East Asia, fertility rate is 1.7 births, while in South Asia, the rate is 2.5 births.

According to the UNFPA, the Asia-Pacific region has nearly 1 billion young people aged 10 to 24 years. More than half of these young Asians live in India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In most "young" countries, youth unemployment is a problem and faster development can ease the pain.

In contrast, East Asians face a different problem, falling birth rates and a growing number of elderly people.

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, over 12 percent of the Asian population is 60 years or older. This is projected to rise to more than 20 percent by 2030. In East Asia, over 20 percent of the population is expected to be 60 years or older by 2030.

Peter McDonald, professor at the School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne in Australia, said having fewer children has served East Asian countries well. Parents with one or two children were able to invest in quality education and produce a more skilled workforce.

Apart from lower birth rates, UNESCAP said the improved living standards and access to health care and nutrition also boosted the number of the elderly.

But the pace of aging in Asia is faster and happening at a much earlier stage of development compared with the more industrialized economies.

It took France 115 years and the United States 69 years to move from an aging to an aged society, according to UNESCAP. In contrast, Japan took only 24 years to become an aged society.

China is expected to make the transition in 23 years and Singapore in 32 years.

East Asian policymakers did not anticipate birthrates would fall at such low rates, Mcdonald said, noting that they enjoyed a "rate big dividend in the short-term (but will have a) big problem in future".

Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan, deputy director of the Center for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore, said policymakers in the region need to take note of how to ensure the health and financial security of the elderly.

"How will people support themselves during old age, especially if they don't work. They also need long-term care because as people live longer, those added years may not be healthy years," she said.

Moreover, developing Asia has to tackle another burden of their young women beside adolescence: the lack of family planning policies and cultural bias against women's reproductive health.

"Never-married women, (including adolescents and young women), have a great disadvantage in obtaining contraceptive largely due to the stigma attached to being sexually active before marriage," Thanenthiran said.

She cited this year's World Population Day theme which focuses on the progress made after the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt. Participants of the 1994 conference recognized that reproductive health and gender equality are essential for achieving sustainable development.

Thanenthiran said most women in South and Southeast Asia still struggle with unwanted pregnancies and forced marriages. She said that 61 percent of the adolescent pregnancies in Asia are unplanned.

"People need to recognize that women have to understand and have control over their reproductive health," said Janice Meligui, executive director of the Manila-based Lilikasan Center for Women's Health.

Meligui said that sex education and access to contraceptive are important in order to reduce high adolescent fertility rate that usually pushes women to drop out of school and remain jobless and poor.

Kee Oh Hoon contributed to the story.

Rain damage

A woman speaks on the phone next to damaged cars after heavy rainfall in Tafalla, Spain, on Wednesday. Authorities in northern Spain say firefighters have found the body of a driver whose car was dragged on Monday evening amid flash flooding caused by intense and sudden downpours. xinhua via | sipa

Market: Board provides 'convenient financing channel'

From page 1

most heavily in research and development. The company's prospectus showed that R&D took up 23.42 percent of its annual turnover of 2018.

Another three companies saw annual R&D investment account for 20 to 30 percent of their annual income, including Shanghai-based integrated circuit and sensor-sector maker Advanced Micro-Fabrication Equipment Inc., integrated circuit manufacturer Anji Microelectronics (Shanghai) Co and medical equipment maker Shanghai Micro Port Endovascular MedTech Co Ltd.

Chen Yiwen, vice-general manager of Jenson (Shanghai) Sci & Tech Co, said the launch of the new tech board will make a huge difference to the Chinese biomedicine industry, which is undergoing a transformation. While China used to be at the lower end of the value chain as a leading manufacturer, it is now climbing up the chain by shifting its focus to technology.

"The core of a biomedicine company is made up of technology and finance. This has been proved by the success of the multinational pharmaceutical companies. Over the past few years, we have seen a growing number of venture capitals and private equities investing in biomedicine startups. The launch of the STAR Market will make a closed loop concerning investment," he said.

Zhao Haizhou, associate partner of Deloitte's A-share department for the East China area, said the new tech board will be extremely attractive to the "hard-technology" companies.

These companies have found it difficult to seek financing from banks because most of their assets are intangible assets at the time. As a result, they have to seek financing from venture capitals.

"The new tech board will provide a more convenient financing channel for technology companies. This would allow investors to not miss the opportunity in another rising company such as (the case with) Alibaba," said Zhao.

Initiated in early November, the Nasdaq-like STAR Market was officially launched on June 13. By Tuesday, the Shanghai Stock Exchange had received listing applications from 144 companies, of which 97 have received their first round of inquiry from the exchange.

Xia, the Noah Holdings analyst, said the STAR Market and the pilot registration system at the Shanghai Stock Exchange are good news for high-tech companies, especially those with science-related technology. As technology evolves rapidly, innovation is becoming increasingly fierce, and let's access to capital will help the companies to stand out from their peers.

But he also stressed that less-mature companies should be more disciplined regarding their corporate governance, since the new tech board will introduce much stricter rules in terms of trading and delisting.

Cai Hong, chairman of Shenzhen Wanquan Zhiye Business Consulting, also suggested that companies that intend to go public on the new tech board — most of which are in their early days — need to properly prepare their business model and brand.

"While helping these companies to make their IPO work, we have noticed that a large number of them have not illustrated clearly their technology or development path. But the market and investors need to know such information very well. As the new tech board raises high requirements on information disclosure, more work should be made in this regard," he said.

Harm that plastic does

Whale sculptures made from plastic waste recovered from the ocean on display at the parliament building in Budapest, Hungary, on Tuesday. They were erected by Greenpeace as part of a protest against polluting of oceans with plastic. PHOTO | AGENCIES

Cooperation: Stable ties in the interest of world

From page 1

energy efficiency, with the maximum potential to reduce emissions at around 75 percent.

Japan has the technological edge, while China boasts a market advantage. The two countries are complementary to each other in terms of capital, technology, labor and engineering, procurement and construction.

China is rapidly catching up on many technologies, and even surpassing Japan in some fields. Their cooperation will not only benefit them, but also the third party countries, a step forward toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

At present, boosting third-party market cooperation remains a common challenge for China and Japan. As two things are suggested.

First, political mutual trust is a must.

Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "If those who are near get pleased, those who are far away will be attracted to come."

China-Japan relations have returned to the normal track through the joint efforts of the two sides. A stable relationship not to be influenced by any third party is in the long-term interests of both countries and the rest of the world.

Second, a mutually complementary and win-win system for third-party market cooperation is needed.

The BRI partner countries are faced with three major problems of developing economies, overcoming public hazards and protecting the planet.

According to the World Bank, Russia's average power generation efficiency in 2016 was 37.1 percent, compared with Japan's 47.7 percent. If China and Japan can work hand in hand to improve it in Russia, all three countries will gain a lot of economic and social benefits.

An approach of market principle plus risk-benefit sharing plus risk-sharing has been put forth. This means the selection and promotion of projects, apart from policy support, should consider the needs of third parties and market principles with a risk-sharing mechanism. Meanwhile, technology transfer or development costs are borne by all three parties.

At the same time, economic benefits are distributed according to market principles, and environmental benefits are distributed according to each party's contribution.

International and inter-regional cooperation is crucial, given the limitations of self-help efforts by developing countries and the scope and extent of global environmental issues.

As based on the status quo of developing countries along the BRI routes, China and Japan can provide effective environmental cooperation through third-party market cooperation, such as technology development and transfer, and support for the development of environmentally friendly industries in developing countries.

The author is a professor at the College of Urban Science at Ritsumeikan University and secretary-general of the Belt and Road Institution Japan-Research Center. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

US colleges allay Chinese students' concerns

By SONG WENZHENG and ZHANG RUIXIAN in New York

Acknowledging the importance of Chinese students and scholars on their campuses, universities and colleges in the United States are working hard to reassure Chinese students they are welcome despite mixed signals from Washington that have raised concerns among current and prospective students.

"The messaging is not consistent across our government" on issues concerning Chinese students coming to study in the US, said Brad Farnsworth, vice-president of the American Council on Education's Center for Internationalization and Global Engagement.

US President Donald Trump, in his June 29 meeting with President Xi Jinping, said there are many excellent students in China and that he always welcomes Chinese students to study in the US, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Before that, the rhetoric in Washington was mostly cautious against Chinese students and scholars, especially in light of security concerns. There were even cases of scholars from China or with Chinese affiliations being dismissed from US universities or research institutes.

"I heard many Chinese students were asked more questions when they came to the US from China after Christmas," said Sherry Lin, who studies civil and urban engineering at New York University. "I didn't go back last winter, but my parents came and visited me."

Some majors, mostly those in high-tech fields, are affected more than others.

"My friend, who is studying mechanical engineering, waited for three months for his visa to be approved," said Cathy Tang, who graduated from University of California, Berkeley, two years ago. "I only waited for less than a week."

"If there is one thing that our government can do to make the US more attractive to Chinese students, it is improve the process of visa approvals. It is something that is taking a long time," said Farnsworth.

The possibility of losing prospective Chinese students is what Farnsworth is worried about. "It's very important to send the wrong message" to potential Chinese students that they are welcome in the US.

In the past decade, many US universities rushed to overseas students to make up for rising costs and shrinking funds. There were 1.1 million international students studying in the US in the 2017-18 academic year, according to the Institute of International Education. Of them, more than 360,000 were Chinese.

Chinese students add to the cultural diversity of US universities and create learning experiences for their US classmates and professors.

The president of Tufts and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the chancellor of University of California, Berkeley, recently sent out a campuswide email highlighting the significance of the Chinese community to their schools.

Chinese and Chinese-American researchers are not only "valuable members of our community" but also exceptional contributors to American society", wrote MIT President L. Rafael Reif in his letter.

"We believe that having a global student population is a fundamental element of our institutional character and academic mission," said Dan Mugdal, assistant vice-chancellor, UC Berkeley. "We will continue to ensure every student on this campus, regardless of their country of origin, feels safe, respected and welcomed."

(Contact the writers at
songwenzheng@chinadailyusa.com
zhangruixian@chinadailyusa.com)