

OPENING-UP

Global firms eye opportunities, bolster presence



Employees at work at the Shanghai plant of Tesla Inc. (Photo by Xinhua)

Despite rising external uncertainties, multinational companies remain committed to China as they plan to expand their local footprint and investment, and are impressed by the nation's latest commitment to high-standard opening-up and high-quality economic development, global business leaders said.

In a report that Xi Jinping delivered at the opening session of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 16, he stressed the need to promote high-standard opening-up and accelerate efforts to foster a new pattern of development.

Seeing big opportunities in areas such as carbon neutrality, advanced manufacturing and innovation-driven development, foreign companies increasingly value China's multiple roles as a vast market, a crucial part of global supply chains and a pioneering research and development hub, senior executives said in a series of interviews with China Daily.

Tao Lin, vice-president of US electric carmaker Tesla, said the report highlighted that further advancing opening-up is a key feature of the new era, and as a beneficiary of such efforts, the company is convinced that "it will create more value in this vigorous and dynamic land".

"Thanks to the Chinese government's decision to scrap limits on foreign ownership of electric vehicle companies, Tesla became the first wholly foreign-

owned vehicle manufacturer in the country," Tao said.

"Now, Tesla is even more deeply engaged in China's promising domestic market," Tao added.

Hou Yang, chairman and CEO of Microsoft Greater China, said that due to China's increased opening-up and its economic vitality, foreign companies have more opportunities to invest in the nation, and the Chinese market has become increasingly appealing.

"China's ever-improving economic foundations and technological innovation capabilities have enabled it to demonstrate its strong resilience and flexibility in the face of risks," Hou said, adding that the company will increase its local workforce to over 10,000 next year by adding about 1,000 new jobs.

Such sentiment is in line with recent figures pointing to the strong momentum of foreign direct investment in China. FDI in the Chinese mainland, in terms of actual use, grew 16.4 percent year-on-year to 892.7 billion yuan (\$123.5 billion) in the first eight months of this year, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

Wu Dongming, CEO of DHL Express China, said that amid challenges and pressures, China's economic stability is the biggest contribution to the world economy and global supply chains.

"Looking forward, China's focus on sustainable development will greatly benefit international trade," Wu

said, adding that the company tested its first pilot hydrogen fuel cell truck in Shanghai last month, as part of the German logistics firm's broader push to experiment with the latest green technology and boost investment in the country.

China's high-quality development agenda and its growing innovation prowess are also boosting business leaders' confidence, as these promise big potential for future growth. It has moved up to 11th place in the 2022 Global Innovation Index from 34th a decade ago, and remains the only middle-income economy in the top 30, according to the latest ranking published by the World Intellectual Property Organization in late September.

Wang Lei, global executive vice-president of British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, said he was encouraged by the report's emphasis that innovation will remain at the heart of China's modernization drive.

"China's innovation-driven development strategy will create more opportunities for us, as the country has become a very important part of our global innovation as well as our R&D network," Wang said.

Looking ahead, experts forecast that China's growth engines could be revving up as it heads into 2023, which will motivate more foreign businesses to increase their investment in the nation.

(China Daily)

OPINION

China's new journey a boon to world development

A report delivered on October 16th by Xi Jinping at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), "Chinese modernization" was deemed by most of the foreign experts to be one of the main messages that readers would get from this report.

"For other developing countries, Chinese modernization offers a new choice for achieving modernization, based on their own conditions and more international cooperation, rather than plunder, war and blood," said Yahia Mustafa, 65, who was responsible for editing the Arabic version.

Peggy Cantave Fuyet has always wanted to know what

the world's largest socialist country looks like. The report offered her an insight.

"People," "the environment" and "peace" were her key takeaways from the report.

For the French-language expert, the words indicate that Chinese modernization is a modernization that benefits everyone in the country instead of just a few, that China will honor its words in achieving the goals of peaking carbon emissions and gaining carbon neutrality, and that the path China has chosen is not imperialism, colonialism or hegemonism, but a path of peaceful development.

(China Daily)

TEN YEARS ON

Yunnan's green effort pays off



Baihetan hydropower station in Yunnan Province, China (Photo by Xinhua)

The snow-capped peaks and the lush Gaoligong mountain that extend for hundreds of miles are species gene pools straddling the China-Myanmar border, while the Three-parallel Rivers in China's southwest Yunnan province is a treasure house for conserving national ecology and biological diversity.

"In the past decade, Yunnan has seen marked improvement in ecology. Provincial forest coverage increased from 50.03% to 65.04%, and the forest stock mounted from 1.693 billion cubic meters to 2.067," said Liang Xudong, deputy director of Yunnan Development and Reform Commission, on August 12.

When visiting the Erhai lakeside village of Gusheng in west Yunnan's Dali Bai autonomous prefecture in January 2015, Xi Jinping emphasized that economy should be developed, but not at the expense of destroying the ecological environment.

Since Xi's inspection tour to Yunnan, the province has further shown its capacity in green development, featuring green food production, clean energy generation, biodiversity protection,

and smart tourist services.

Last year, the province registered 1,528 geographical indications for local green food, organic products and agricultural products. Now Yunnan holds 1,781 valid certificates of organic products, ranking second in Chinese provinces, said Xinhua on March 10, adding Yunnan green foods have been exported to more than 110 countries and regions.

Moreover, Yunnan has joined hands with the neighboring Mekong countries in power supply. From January to June this year, Yunnan International Company of China Southern Power Grid finished trading 1.43 billion kWh of electricity with the Mekong countries of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, a year-on-year increase of 59.24%.

At the opening session of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 16, Xi Jinping said, China will prioritize ecological protection, conserve resources and use them efficiently, and pursue green and low-carbon development.

(Yunnan Gateway)

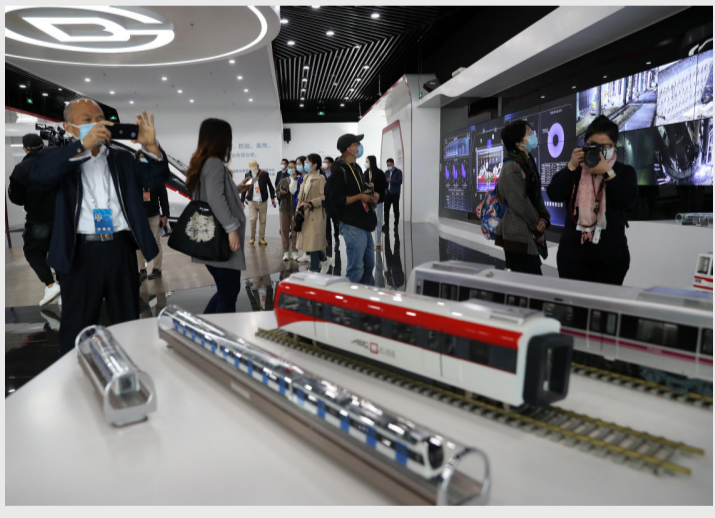
IN-PICS

The news center of the 20th CPC National Congress organized a visit to the Beijing rail transit command center for domestic and foreign journalists on Oct 17, 2022.

The journalists explored the secret behind Beijing subway's efficiency, experienced the modern management of the city's rail transit and learned about its construction process.

(China Daily)

(Photo by Wang Zhuangfei)



STORY

Yannick: Yunnan is my dream land

"When I traveled to Yunnan for the first time in 2006, I was charmed by the splendid views and diverse cultures here," says Yannick Benichou, from France. Since then, coming to live in Yunnan has become his biggest dream.

In 2016, Yannick took the job opportunity to become the general manager of a joint venture enterprise in Anning, Yunnan province. The enterprise focuses on producing shellac, a resin

that can be manufactured into food glaze. Yannick, apparently, felt excited to be back to his dream land. Looking back, he calls all this a destiny.

Today, the shellac products manufactured by the factory have already been exported to several countries, including the US, Spain, Italy, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Australia, Israel and Mexico. "Recently, we have imported some raw materials via the newly-

opened China-Laos Railway. It's both convenient and time-saving," he smiles.

In his spare time, Yannick is an outdoor enthusiast who loves hiking and camping in particular. He goes out with his family and friends to enjoy the natural and cultural diversities of Yunnan almost every weekend.

"Thanks to shellac," says Yannick, "I'm able to live in Yunnan - my dream land."

(Yunnan Daily)

MODERNIZATION

Life in China is safer than ever thanks to efforts

People's sense of security has been significantly improved over the past decade, and China has been recognized as one of the safest countries in the world, a senior public security official said on October 19.

China has one of the lowest homicide rates — 0.5 cases per 100,000 people — one of the lowest crime rates and it is among the nations with the fewest gun-related cases in the world, Xu Ganlu, vice-minister of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, said.

Compared with 2012, the number of cases involving eight major crimes, including homicide and rape, decreased 64 percent in

2021, according to statistics.

Furthermore, the number of drug-related cases declined 56.8 percent; the number of robbery cases fell 96 percent; the number of theft cases decreased 62 percent; and the number of traffic casualties with more than three casualties at one accident dropped 59.3 percent, all during the same period.

"People's sense of security has been significantly improved. According to the surveys conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics, the sense of security reached 98.6 in 2021, up 11 percentage points from 2012," he said.

(China Daily)