

TOP NEWS

Heavy rains drench southern China

121 stations have broken precipitation records as significant flooding occurs in Guangdong

By ZOU SHUO in Beijing and ZHENG CAIXIONG in Guangzhou

Southern China has been hit by the heaviest rainfall since the start of the flood season in mid-May, with 121 national meteorological monitoring stations breaking monthly precipitation records, according to the National Meteorological Center.

Meanwhile, another round of heavy rain is expected to affect central and eastern China until May 29, which is likely to hit the main region in Hubei province, the central parts of Jiangsu and Anhui provinces, northern parts of South China and western parts of Southwest China, the center said.

Most of these areas are likely to see cumulative rainfall of 100 to 150 millimeters, with some places exceeding 250 mm.

Chen Boyu, chief forecaster at the center, attributed the prolonged heavy rains to a stable moisture transport belt from the Indian Ocean via the Indochina Peninsula to Hainan province, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and Guangdong province.

It was also related to stronger-than-

usual subtropical highs, as well as abnormal geopotential heights over eastern China's coastal waters that enhanced moisture transport and slowed the westerlies, causing rain belts to move slowly and resulting in persistent downpours, Chen said.

Between May 15 and 21, the regional heavy rain process featured large cumulative precipitation, long duration and high intensity. From 6 am Wednesday to 6 am Thursday, 52 national meteorological monitoring stations recorded extremely heavy precipitation, 442 stations recorded heavy rain and two stations broke historical precipitation records.

The heaviest rainfall was mainly in Guangdong and Guangxi. The largest cumulative rainfall was almost 673 mm in Enping, Guangdong, and the maximum hourly rainfall was 124.9 mm in Huidong county, Guangdong. A total of 121 national meteorological monitoring stations broke monthly precipitation records during this period, while five stations broke historical precipitation records.

Guangdong has activated a Level IV emergency response for disaster relief as torrential rains and flooding

swept the province beginning on Thursday, with more than 23,000 residents evacuated and no casualties reported as of Friday.

In a statement released on Friday, the Guangdong Provincial Disaster Reduction Commission said that prefecture-level cities and relevant provincial departments had been instructed to prioritize emergency relief operations to ensure that affected residents were safely resettled.

Guangdong entered its annual "dragon boat rain" season — the colloquial name for the province's early summer monthlong rainy period — on Thursday, water conservancy authorities said.

The most severe flooding has centered on the Moyangjiang River in Yangjiang, southwestern Guangdong. At 11 pm Thursday, the Guangdong Hydrological Bureau issued an orange flood warning — the second most severe in the country's four-tier system — for the Jiangcheng section of the river. By Friday morning, the station had recorded a flood peak discharge of approximately 4,000 cubic meters per second, with the peak water level hitting around seven meters.

On Thursday evening, the office of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters held an emergency consultation with three other



Warm-hearted people distribute free rice noodles on Thursday to disaster-stricken locals at a town in Changde, Hunan province. Shimmen county in Changde has recently experienced the first heavy rainfall of the year. The downpour impacted 23 townships across the county, said local officials. Rescue efforts are still underway.

YANG HUAFENG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

ministries to assess the ongoing rainfall in central and eastern China, and to coordinate flood prevention efforts.

The authorities emphasized the importance of a people-first approach, stepped-up monitoring and early warnings, and highlighted that key locations such as embank-

ments, reservoirs and crowded places should be inspected. They added that rescue teams, supplies and backup communication equipment should be pre-positioned.

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Political Lens

Top legislator to visit Kazakhstan, Russia

Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, will pay official goodwill visits to Kazakhstan and Russia, and attend the 11th meeting of the China-Russia committee for parliamentary cooperation in Russia from May 25 to 30.

Zhao's visits are at the invitation of Yerlan Koshanov, speaker of the Mazhilis, or the lower house of Kazakhstan's parliament, Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko and Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian State Duma.

XINHUA

Project: Canal now a popular tourist spot

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"Now I have returned, and changes have occurred. The canal remains, and the surrounding environment has significantly improved. ... What touches me most is that this canal, like the Great Wall, has become a legend and symbol of the country and its people," Clement said in the documentary.

Decades later, visitors to the Youth Cave — the project's most difficult section that was finally completed by 300 young people with extraordinary determination — often press their palms against the chiseled rock walls, fitting their fingers into the same hollows left by earlier hands, as if measuring the distance between past and present.

"Before building this canal, people in Linzhou bathed only three times in their lives: at birth, before marriage and in death. In many villages, they had to walk five or six kilometers just to carry water back home. Without this canal, there would be no Linzhou as we know it today," said Wang Qinghai, director of the canal source division of the Red Flag Canal irrigation district service center in Linzhou.

Tian Lingli, director of the Red Flag Canal memorial hall, noted that for tourists, visiting the canal provides the dual experience of feeling shocked and moved at the same time. "They will not only see an engineering marvel, but will also feel the spirit of the endless struggles of that era," she said.

Tian added that visitors should first visit the memorial hall for a basic understanding of the canal's history, then take a shuttle bus to the Youth Cave to see the real traces of the past.

Song Shangju, head of Linzhou's bureau of tourism, culture, radio and television, said: "You can take a boat through the cave. Walking along the canal bank on the cliffside also gives you a vivid sense of the project's peril and the immense power of human endeavor."

He added that although a silt-removing project is currently underway, leaving less water in the canal, it will soon return to looking its best.

Leaving the cave and taking a taxi for less than 20 minutes, visitors arrive at Luosi Pool, a treacherous, deep pool on the Zhuozhang River, from which the canal draws its water. It has distinctive canyon topography, with a natural waterfall that flows in summer and forms an icy screen in winter, Song said.

"A marvelous blend of human ingenuity and natural grandeur, the Red Flag Canal reflects the monumental feat of human endeavor, alongside the breathtaking work of nature itself, where mountains and waters embrace, and scenery and emotions intertwine," Song said. "This allows visitors to not only gain spiritual insight, but also appreciate the majestic beauty of the Taihang Mountains."

Qi Xin contributed to this story.

Travel Tips

Ticket: 80 yuan (\$11.76) per person, including the memorial hall, the Youth Cave and the shuttle bus. The Luosi Pool is free to visit. Tickets can be purchased on site, or through the scenic spot's official WeChat account and mini app.

Meeting: Cooperation key for region

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Li, who is also vice-minister of commerce, said that China hopes the meeting will send a strong signal that APEC economies remain committed to multilateralism and mutually beneficial cooperation, reinforcing confidence in regional economic cooperation.

Data from the ministry shows that China was the largest trading partner of 13 APEC economies in 2025, with the total value of trade with those economies reaching \$3.7 trillion. It accounted for 57.8 percent of China's total foreign trade. The nation has also attracted \$90.61 billion in investment from APEC economies and invested \$136.58 billion in those economies.

Lin Feng, director-general of the department of international trade and economic affairs at the Ministry of Commerce, said that economic and trade cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region has entered a more complex and challenging phase.

Discussions among APEC economies are moving beyond traditional areas into emerging fields, such as the digital economy, green development and low-carbon development, as well as industrial and supply chain resilience, helping foster new drivers for economic growth, Lin said.

Carlos Kuriyama, director of the policy support unit at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore, said that amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, joint efforts by APEC economies to safeguard energy secu-



Delegates from Indonesia attend the opening session of the 32nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, on Friday. ALEX PLAVESKI / EPA

riety, strengthen the trading system and maintain fiscal stability are no longer optional, but essential.

He urged APEC economies to improve supply chain resilience through digital platforms, expand logistics and support services, diversify energy structures, boost infrastructure investment, and provide tangible assistance to households and businesses affected by external shocks.

Executives from foreign and Chi-

nese companies said that deeper regional integration is strengthening supply chains and accelerating cross-border industrial collaboration across the Asia-Pacific region.

Marelli Holdings Co, a Japanese multinational automotive parts manufacturer running 17 factories in China, plans to deepen its presence in China as the country evolves from a manufacturing base into a key global center for automotive innovation, research and supply-

chain collaboration.

"China is increasingly becoming a hub for innovation, manufacturing and global collaboration within our operations in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond," said Shen Keli, executive vice-president of Marelli Holdings.

According to data from Shenyang Customs, Sailun (Shenyang) Tire Co, a tire maker based in Shenyang, Liaoning province, saw its exports to APEC markets soar 68.2 percent

year-on-year to reach 70 million yuan (\$10.3 million) in the first four months of 2026.

"Deeper regional integration is helping Chinese manufacturers expand exports and enhance supply-chain connectivity across APEC markets," said Cui Shide, the tire company's director of executive office.

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Xizang: Improved livelihoods show deep care for people's well-being

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Driven by this "peach blossom economy", Galai's average per capita annual disposable income increased to 41,300 yuan (\$6,072) in 2025, compared with less than 2,000 yuan in 2000. The collective income of the village of about 150 residents exceeded 8 million yuan last year.

To share their joy regarding the village's development, the residents of Galai wrote a letter to Xi, expressing their heartfelt gratitude, and Xi replied to the letter in June last year.

"Learning that the village has undergone new changes in recent years and villagers' incomes have increased, I feel happy for you," Xi wrote in his letter.

He also voiced hope that the villagers will, under the guidance of the Party's policies to develop border areas and improve people's lives, do an even better job in pro-

tecting the natural beauty of the plateau region, developing the village's tourism brand and contributing to building a prosperous and stable border area.

Dawa Gyaltzen said: "We cannot believe that President Xi replied to our letter. He deeply cares about the people of Xizang and their well-being."

Xi's connection with Xizang goes back a few decades. In 1998, as Fujian province's deputy Party chief, he first set foot in the region to oversee development support initiatives.

The poor and perilous road conditions left a deep impression on Xi. "At a narrow section, we had to get off the vehicle to move two logs of wood to get through. Officials heading to Medog county had to arrive there by horse," Xi recalled during his inspection tour in July 2021.

Medog, also in Nyingchi but tucked deep in the Himalayas, was once China's only county without

highway access. Xi kept a close watch on its progress.

In March 2013, during his first participation in the annual session of the 12th National People's Congress after taking office as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Xi joined lawmakers from Xizang for a deliberation session.

He asked Padma Chodron, a lawmaker from Medog, whether the highway had opened. "When I told him it would open soon, he nodded with a smile," the lawmaker recalled.

The same year, the 117-kilometer Medog highway finally ended the county's isolation, revolutionizing travel, education and healthcare access.

Under Xi's leadership, Xizang's advancements in policy, infrastructure and economic vitality have significantly accelerated. Since 2012, Xi has presided over two key national symposiums on Xizang and established the Party's strategy for governing Xizang in the new era.

From 2012 to 2024, the region's road network nearly doubled to 120,000 kilometers, linking every town and village. By 2024, the urban and rural per capita disposable incomes increased 121-fold and 199-fold, respectively, compared with the levels in 1965. Also, the average life expectancy increased from 35.5 years at the time of peaceful liberation to 72.5 years in 2024.

In a historic first for both the Party and the country, Xi — as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the CMC — led a central delegation to regional capital Lhasa in August last year to attend events marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Xizang autonomous region.

During the visit, Xi urged efforts to build a modern socialist new Xizang that is united, prosperous, civilized, harmonious and beautiful, calling on the region to advance high-quality development and con-

tinue to make solid efforts on the four main tasks of ensuring stability, facilitating development, protecting the ecological environment and strengthening the borders.

Dawa Gyaltzen, the Galai villager, said he is eager to let Xi know that his son, who told the president in 2021 that he wanted to become a professional athlete, has been admitted to Xizang Sports School, which boasts top training facilities. Also, his daughter, who wishes to become a doctor, will apply for medical school this year.

"The people of Xizang have moved from fetching buckets of water, using oil lamps and treading dirt paths to getting access to running tap water, using electric lights and walking on paved roads. The younger generation today has more opportunities to make their dreams come true and contribute to the development of the region. All this could only happen in a new Xizang," Dawa Gyaltzen said.