

TOP NEWS

Beijing, Manila resume high-level dialogue

Philippines urged to take concrete steps to stabilize, improve bilateral ties

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As China and the Philippines resumed high-level dialogue on Saturday through two consultation mechanisms, Beijing urged Manila to take concrete steps to stabilize and improve bilateral relations.

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Vice-Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Leo M. Herrera-Lim co-chaired the 11th meeting of the bilateral consultation mechanism on the South China Sea and the 24th round of China-Philippines Foreign Ministry Consultations in Quanzhou, Fujian province.

Observers said the two meetings

indicate that both sides are trying to reconnect broader bilateral communication with maritime dispute management, as the South China Sea remains the main source of strain in the relationship.

During the South China Sea consultation, China lodged solemn representations over the Philippines' recent maritime infringements, provocations and related public posturing. Beijing urged Manila to match its words with actions by returning to the right track of handling maritime issues through dialogue and consultation, in order to help create favorable conditions for stable bilateral relations. The last such consultation was held in January 2025.

The two sides discussed cooperation in areas such as maritime law enforcement and marine science

and technology, and made positive progress. They agreed to work with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, as well as accelerate consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and strive for its early conclusion.

During the foreign ministry consultation, the first such talks held in over three years, Sun told Herrera-Lim that China and the Philippines are neighbors that cannot move away from each other, and that a stable and healthy relationship serves the fundamental interests of both countries and their peoples.

China attaches importance to the Philippines' desire to stabilize ties and strengthen dialogue, and hopes that the Philippines will work with it in the same direction, Sun said.

Herrera-Lim said the Philippines is willing to continue dialogue with

China, enhance mutual understanding and trust, and properly manage differences, while reaffirming the country's adherence to the one-China policy.

Amid a complex and fast-changing situation, both sides agreed "to promote positive progress in East Asia cooperation" and jointly safeguard regional stability and development.

Recently, the Philippine government signaled its willingness to hold dialogue with China, while continuing to stir trouble in the South China Sea.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said that he was open to resuming talks with China on joint oil and gas projects, while Philippine media reports quoted him as saying that a reset in ties with China was inevitable.

Xiang Haoyu, a senior research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, said the two meetings in Quanzhou are seen more as the

resumption of dialogue with the aim of crisis management, rather than a sign that China-Philippines ties are on track for a broader recovery.

Manila's recent interest in holding talks with Beijing is primarily due to practical considerations, including energy pressure, rather than any fundamental rethinking of its broader strategic posture, as maritime friction and strategic mistrust continue to weigh on the relationship, he said.

The key question now is whether the Philippines will follow through with concrete steps to rebuild trust, avoid renewed tensions at sea, and prevent the South China Sea issue from being further internationalized and politicized, Xiang said.

With the Philippines as the rotating chair of ASEAN this year, he added that he hopes the group can help contribute to the early finalization of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and work together to safeguard regional peace and stability.

Innovation: Tech serves people and everyday life

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"Technological innovation does not stop in the laboratory; it must take root in production lines and in real-world applications," said Zhang Dongling, an official from the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission.

Zhang noted that the latest breakthroughs highlight a clear push to integrate technological and industrial innovation, accelerating the development of new quality productive forces.

Among the highlights in public health was the Beinao-1 semi-invasive brain-computer interface system. Implanting microelectrodes and a coin-sized device on the brain surface can help paralyzed patients control exoskeletons, or help those with speech impairments regain the ability to speak, the official said.

In another brain science breakthrough, a research team from Changping Laboratory in Beijing has, for the first time globally, identified the core pathological circuit of Parkinson's disease. The discovery is expected to pave the way for more effective and affordable therapies for over 5 million Parkinson's patients in China.

"We have developed a personalized, precise and noninvasive neuromodulation solution that can deliver effective treatment with higher patient acceptance," said Liu Hesheng, chief scientist of the brain and neurodegenerative diseases department at Changping Laboratory.

"More important, this framework could also be extended to treat other brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, depression and autism, offering broad application prospects," Liu added.

Beyond healthcare, the forum also showcased a range of technologies closely tied to everyday life.

"If traditional music platforms connect songs, artists and audiences, AI-driven platforms will connect creativity, content generation, editing, distribution and expression," said Cheng Yu, chief scientist at domestic AI tech firm Kunlun Tech.

"With AI technologies, we hope to turn music from a professional skill into a language of expression for everyone," Cheng said, adding that Kunlun Tech unveiled a suite of AI generated content models covering gaming, video and music, aiming to lower the cost of content creation and enable broader participation.

AI-powered smart glasses deployed at the forum further illustrated how innovation is enhancing real-world interaction experiences. Developed by Beijing-based LLVISION, an AI and artificial reality technology company focused on smart glasses, the system supports real-time translation in 54 languages with less than one-second latency and up to eight hours of battery life.

In fact, the glasses are designed not only to enhance conference interpretation, but also to advance global accessibility by supporting users with hearing impairments.

For instance, in noisy environments, features such as intelligent sound recognition and name-based activation allow the device to alert users when their names are called, making it easier for hearing-impaired individuals to navigate public settings such as hospitals and government service counters, said Wu Fei, founder and CEO of LLVISION.

Dai Xin, vice-dean of the Law School at Peking University, said: "China's approach to AI development is people-centered and application-driven. The focus is on delivering tangible gains, so that people can truly feel the real value of technological progress."

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Xizang marks abolition of serfdom 67 years on

By PALDEN NYIMA
and DAQIONG in Lhasa

People from all walks of life in the Xizang autonomous region gathered on Saturday to celebrate the 18th Serfs' Emancipation Day.

Saturday marked the 67th anniversary of a democratic reform that abolished feudal serfdom in Xizang.

On March 28, 1959, Xizang launched the democratic reform, freeing about 1 million serfs. In 2009, the regional legislature announced that the day would henceforth be commemorated as Serfs' Emancipation Day.

A number of art and culture events were held in recent days to mark the occasion. A flag-raising ceremony was held at Potala Palace Square in Lhasa, the region's capital, on Saturday morning.

Over the past six decades, Xizang has witnessed spectacular development under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

In a televised speech on Friday night, Karma Tsetan, chairman of the regional government, said that 67 years ago, a great democratic reform swept across the region with irresistible momentum, completely putting an end to the dark, cruel, barbaric and backward theocratic feudal serfdom.

"Today, people in Xizang enjoy all human rights in a full, effective and genuine way, which stands in stark contrast to the miserable situation of serfs in the old days, when they lived in constant fear and had no dignity at all," Karma Tsetan said.

By the end of 2024, Xizang, with a population of 3.7 million, was also the "youngest" provincial-level region in China, latest official

statistics showed. Those under 14 years old accounted for 23.8 percent of the total population.

Before 1959, the average life expectancy in the region was only 35.5 years, and four out of every 10 serf children did not survive childhood, Karma Tsetan said.

He added that currently, the average life expectancy in Xizang is 72.5 years.

Since the democratic reform, people have lived dignified, decent and happy lives. All children now enjoy schooling and grow up healthy, young people devote themselves to building their hometown and pursuing their dreams, and the elderly spend their years in peace and comfort.

Tswang, a 71-year-old man from Lhasa, said that although he did not experience the sufferings of old Xizang, he heard his elders talk about the tragic plight of ordinary people in the past. "People's living standards in Xizang have been continuously improving since the democratic reform, and the happy life today is hard-won."

Kelsang Rabten, a resident of the city of Shigatse, said that he and his relatives were serfs in the old days and suffered a miserable life.

"Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, now we enjoy improved livelihood, people no longer have to worry about food and clothes, and all the children have the right to receive education," he said.

"Thanks to the government, I had the opportunity to become a teacher."

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Performers attend a celebration on Saturday in Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, to mark Serfs' Emancipation Day. A host of activities were held across the region to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the democratic reform that abolished feudal serfdom in Xizang. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA

Green power outreach



Wind turbine blades meant for export to Austria are loaded onto a vessel at a port in Yantai, Shandong province, on Saturday. Seven sets of domestically made wind power equipment were shipped to the European country. As Chinese wind power enterprises continue to expand into the European market, Yantai has now established a shipping frequency of two voyages per month for wind power equipment destined for Europe. ZHANG CHAO / XINHUA

Internet media forum endorses AI adoption for high-quality content

By LI LEI in Zhengzhou
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Officials and media executives have called for greater adoption of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and embodied intelligence, to produce quality content that fosters positive energy in cyberspace and builds consensus for China's modernization drive.

They made the remarks during the 2026 China Internet Media Forum, which was held in Zhengzhou, Henan province, on Saturday and Sunday. Panel discussions centered around building a "prosperous and positive" online content ecosystem.

Speaking at the forum's opening ceremony on Sunday, Zhuang Rongwen, vice-minister of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and head of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said that mainstream media must leverage AI systems such as large language models to stay relevant.

Zhuang called for personalized, scenario-based and interactive communication strategies. "We must win over audiences with high-quality content," he said.

The event brought together representatives of mainstream media and commercial platforms, operators of

government social media accounts, and online influencers, whose presentations showcased how they have championed the core values of cyberspace in the past decade.

In his welcoming remarks, Liu Ning, Party secretary of Henan, said the role and significance of online media in serving the public are increasingly evident today, with their mission and responsibility becoming more prominent.

"We sincerely invite online media and content creators to visit Henan for interviews and field trips to experience firsthand the development trends, the changes in landscapes, the cultural richness, and the natural beauty of the central plains. We hope they will produce more high-quality works that are meaningful, heartwarming and influential," Liu said.

Chen Rui, chairman and CEO of streaming website Bilibili, said that sensational content might generate short-term traffic, but only meaningful content can leave a lasting impression. He attributed Bilibili's continuous growth in terms of users to its focus on supporting creators who produce quality work.

Wang Xingxing, founder and CEO of Unitree, highlighted the strong capability of humanoid robots to promote Chinese culture, citing a kung fu performance by

Unitree humanoids during this year's Spring Festival Gala, which became a global sensation.

According to a report released in February by the China Internet Network Information Center, China's internet user population reached 1.125 billion in December 2025, with the internet penetration rate surpassing 80 percent.

The number of generative AI users stood at 602 million, the data showed, reflecting the deepening integration of AI into daily life and industrial sectors.

As a side event of the main forum, China Daily website co-hosted a thematic session on Saturday, during which foreign online influencers shared how their personal experiences in China have helped shape a more authentic understanding of the country.

Speakers, including Indian travel blogger Anayat Ali and Belgian influencer Lucas Deckers, emphasized that immersion in local life offered a more realistic portrait of China than headlines alone could convey.

Among the participants was Adam Foster, a great-nephew of Helen Foster Snow, the wife of US journalist Edgar Snow, whose 1937 book *Red Star Over China* introduced generations of Western readers to the Chinese revolution.

Blueprint: Investment in livelihood sector to increase

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When he took part in deliberation of the Government Work Report with deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu province at the fourth session of the 14th NPC on March 5, Xi noted that Chinese modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all.

Xi urged Jiangsu to take the initiative to tackle such tasks as promoting

high-quality and sufficient employment, increasing the incomes of urban and rural residents, and improving basic public services and social security, as part of efforts to explore effective ways to achieve common prosperity for all.

The new five-year plan sets the goal of increasing the average life expectancy to 80 years during the 2026-30 period, reaching the level of high-in-

come countries. In the next five years, the country will strive to improve elderly care by optimizing basic elderly care services, advancing long-term care insurance, upgrading support for elderly people with disabilities or dementia, and expanding rehabilitation services, according to the plan.

A total of 109 major projects and initiatives have been arranged for the next five years, with an emphasis on

the integration of investment in both physical infrastructure and human capital, including 25 focusing on ensuring and improving people's well-being.

As this year marks the start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period, a series of new initiatives aimed at improving people's well-being have been intensively launched. Among them, the central government continues

to increase investment in the livelihood sector, raising the minimum monthly standards for basic pensions for urban and rural residents.

It has also taken measures to utilize long-term special treasury bonds to expand the categories of subsidies for the trade-in of consumer goods, upgrade facilities in elderly care institutions, and renovate old residential communities — all aimed at enhancing the quality of life for citizens.

Dong Yu, executive deputy dean and researcher of the China Institute for Development Planning at

Tsinghua University, said the integration of investment in physical infrastructure and human capital is a highlight of the 15th Five-Year Plan. It achieves a better combination of development goals and pathways, as well as a synergy between investment targets and structure, he said.

"Where there is a demand from the people, investment will follow. This represents a significant innovation and shift in investment philosophy and is an important embodiment of the people-centered development approach," Dong said.