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CHINA DAILY

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Xi congratulates Argentine, Liberian poll winners

By CAO DESHENG
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President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message on Tuesday to Javier Milei on his election as president of Argentina, and also extended his congratulations to Joseph Nyumah Boakai on his election as president of Liberia.

In his congratulatory message to Milei, Xi said that China and Argentina, both of which are major developing countries and emerging economies, have been committed to mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and firmly supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests.

The practical cooperation between the two countries in various fields has brought tangible benefits to the two peoples, he said.

Noting that China-Argentina friendship has deep roots among the two peoples, Xi said that it has become the consensus for people from all walks of life in both countries to advance the development of bilateral relations.

Xi said that he attaches great importance to the development of China-Argentina relations, and he is ready to work with Milei to carry forward the countries' friendship, and boost the development and rejuvenation of both countries through win-win cooperation in order to promote the sound and

sustained growth of bilateral ties and better benefit the two peoples.

Milei, 53, from the Liberty Advances coalition, won Argentina's presidential election on Sunday. He will succeed current President Alberto Fernandez and is set to take office on Dec 10 for a four-year term.

After receiving Xi's message, he thanked Xi for the congratulations on social media, and said he sends his most sincere wishes for the well-being of the Chinese people.

Also on Tuesday, Xi sent a congratulatory message to the president-elect of Liberia, saying that he is willing to work with Boakai to deepen bilateral friendship and mutual trust, and strengthen

mutually beneficial cooperation in a bid to bring more benefits to the two peoples.

Xi said in his message that the two peoples have stood in solidarity against Ebola and the COVID-19 pandemic, conducted fruitful cooperation in socioeconomic development, and forged a profound friendship.

Noting that he highly values the growth of China-Liberia relations, Xi said that China appreciates the consensus that has been reached among various sectors in Liberia to uphold the one-China principle.

Liberia's National Elections Commission declared on Monday that Boakai had won the country's presidential election.

Digital trade new engine for joint development

President congratulates Hangzhou expo, says China providing fresh opportunities for world

By XU WEI in Beijing
and FAN FEIFEI in Hangzhou

President Xi Jinping has encouraged various parties to make full use of the Global Digital Trade Expo to seek cooperation, common development and shared benefits, in order to build digital trade into a new engine for joint development and inject new impetus into world economic growth.

In a congratulatory letter to the second Global Digital Trade Expo, which opened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Thursday, Xi noted that booming global digital trade has become a new highlight of international trade.

He said China has actively aligned itself with high-standard international economic and trade rules, established and improved its digital trade governance systems, and promoted the reform and innovation of digital trade in recent years.

By doing so, China has been providing new opportunities for the world with its new development, he added.

Vice-President Han Zheng, who attended the opening ceremony of the expo and read the letter from Xi, said China regards digital trade as one of the three pillars supporting the building of a strong trading nation, alongside trade in goods and trade in services.

China is willing to work with other nations to create an open, inclusive, fair, just and nondiscriminatory environment for the development of the digital economy, and to collectively promote the high-quality and sustainable development of global digital trade, he said.

Beijing will continue to accelerate its digital transformation and the development of cross-border e-commerce, promote the construction of digital infrastructure, establish a

pilot zone for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation, and work with Belt and Road partners to build a large e-commerce market, he added.

The Hangzhou expo, with the theme of "Digital Trade, Global Access", attracted more than 800 companies, with nearly 15,000 professional buyers having registered for the event, including over 1,700 overseas buyers.

Mathias Cormann, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said, "About a quarter of all trade today is digital, and digital trade is growing at a much faster pace than nondigital trade."

Digitalization has been and continues to be a strong engine for global trade, helping enterprises reach new consumers worldwide, and fostering the development of innovative new goods and services, he added.

Zhang Xiangchen, deputy director-general of the World Trade Organization, said: "Digital trade has become the main driving force of economic growth, job creation, social inclusiveness and sustainable development. China has made remarkable achievements in digital trade and emerged as a global powerhouse in this area."

He added that China has also played a pivotal role in promoting digital trade worldwide.

Zhang noted that China's fast-growing investments in digital trade infrastructure and technologies in various regions, including Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America, have had a transformative impact on local economies, bridging the digital divide and fostering digital connectivity, and enhancing participation in the global digital marketplace.

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Going home



A People's Liberation Army honor guard at Incheon International Airport in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, carries caskets on Thursday containing the remains of Chinese People's Volunteers martyrs in preparation for transportation to China. The remains of 25 Chinese soldiers who died during the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53) arrived back in their motherland on Thursday.

YAO QILIN / XINHUA See story, page 3

Initiative offers lessons for international community

The Belt and Road initiative, which is celebrating a decade of existence, has been developing, expanding and extending its reach from the physical domain to several nonmaterial dimensions.

It has been the subject of attention of political leaders, media, scholars, international organizations, and public and private economic agents. The Belt and Road, after 10 years of operation, now echoes the status of the ancient Silk Road, and has elevated its branding power and become one of the largest protagonists and practitioners of modern globalization.

The establishment and evolution of this China-proposed global access initiative has taught the international community a num-

WORLD WATCH

By Francisco Jose Leandro

ber of lessons. Among them, two are inspiring and revealing: First, the BRI has an important worldwide dimension, which has led a number of global power contenders to take parallel steps, building on similar ideas. The existence of these similar steps, mimicking the original BRI concept, is an implicit recognition of the importance and validity of the BRI. The second lesson is that the BRI not only has been developing, expanding and extending its reach, but also is a leading cooperation mechanism

propelling modernization as a new form of economic globalization.

In relation to the projects that mimic the BRI, India and Japan put forward in 2016 the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, while the United States, Australia and Japan advanced the Blue Dot Network in 2019. In 2021, the G7 launched the Build Back Better World initiative, together with an investment fund designated as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, while the European Union established the Global Gateway. These initiatives have achieved different stages of global engagement, in some cases with very limited success, but they all share a desire to project values on a global scale and push for different perspectives

of influence on globalization.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said that the Global Gateway supports "smart investments in quality infrastructure, respecting the highest social and environmental standards, in line with the EU's values and standards. The Global Gateway strategy is a template for how Europe can build more resilient connections with the world." As the latest of such initiatives, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor was unveiled this year at the G20 summit in New Delhi by France, Germany, India, Italy, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the US and the European Commission.

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Visitors watch a robot play a piano at the Global Digital Trade Expo, which opened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Thursday.

LIN YUNLONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

FOREIGNERS BENEFIT FROM NATION'S TABLE TENNIS EXPERTISE

Shanghai college at the forefront of coaching efforts

By LIN SHUJUAN in Shanghai
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For the past five years, Geoffrey Loi has been living his dream of being coached by his sports idol.

Loi, 23, a keen table tennis player from Papua New Guinea, has been under the watchful eye of Olympic and world champion Zhang Yining



at Shanghai University of Sport's China Table Tennis College, or CTTC. Jointly established by China's General Administration of Sport and the Shanghai Municipal Government in 2010, the CTTC is the

only sports college in the world to focus on table tennis by emphasizing training, teaching and scientific research.

In November 2018, the college set up a training center in Papua New Guinea. To mark its establishment, Grand Slam winner Zhang and world champion Shi Zhihao visited the center to coach local players. During the visit, Loi, a

player on the Papua New Guinea national team, had his first in-person meeting with Zhang.

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