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Xi's speech on multilateralism lauded overseas

Emphasis on commitment to support joint response to challenges earns praise

By ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington, CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels and REN QI in Moscow

President Xi Jinping's speech at the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda on Monday has made clear China's commitment to upholding multilateralism and injected impetus into the world's joint response to challenges, global experts said.

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In his special address, Xi said the problems facing the world are intricate and complex and that the way out of them is "through upholding multilateralism and building a community with a shared future for mankind".

He also expressed opposition to the building of "small circles" and starting a new Cold War, because these acts, as well as efforts to "reject, threaten or intimidate others, to willfully impose decoupling, supply disruption or sanctions, and to create isolation or estrangement will only push the world into division and even confrontation".

There have been more voices in the US academic community calling for an end to the attempt to decouple the two countries, either in trade or technology, experts said.

David Dollar and Ryan Hass, two senior fellows at the John L. Thornton China Center of the Brookings Institution, said in an article on

Monday that while it will be "tempting" to try to decouple from China, "decoupling is a losing strategy down the road since America's partners would not follow suit, and the US would end up isolated".

Robert Lawrence Kuhn, a China expert and chairman of The Kuhn Foundation, said that multilateralism is not optional in today's tightly wired world — from controlling the pandemic to macroeconomic interconnectedness — and international coordination and common prosperity have long been recurrent themes for Xi. The challenge for the world, and for China, is to prevent issues of contention from disrupting optimum actions.

Led by Xi, China continues to extol and promote international coordination, starting with macroeconomic policy coordination, he said.

"China has been the country most committed to globalization, and even though China is now adopting a 'dual circulation' strategy that enhances the importance of its domestic market during our volatile times, this in no way reduces China commitment to global engagement," Kuhn said.

Bernard Dewit, chairman of the Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, said that Xi's speech "clearly and rightly describes the major tasks the world is facing with the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences".

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Pitching in to deliver supplies



Volunteers deliver daily necessities to residents in a neighborhood in Tonghua's Dongchang district, Jilin province, on Monday. The city, which has been hit by new confirmed COVID-19 cases this week, quickly resolved snags with supplying residents in home quarantine as thousands of volunteers joined in to provide packages that included a five-day supply of vegetables to more than 100,000 households in the district, the only high-risk area for COVID-19 in the province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY **See story, page 5**

President hails ROK, Belarus ties

By AN BAIJIE
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China and the Republic of Korea should make full use of the cooperation system for disease control and the "fast-track" arrangement to serve the economic growth of both nations, President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday.

Xi made the remark in a phone call with ROK President Moon Jae-in. He also spoke by phone with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Tuesday.

The growth of China-ROK trade under difficult circumstances last year demonstrated the great potential of China-ROK cooperation, Xi said, adding that the two nations should implement their consensus to expand mutually beneficial cooperation.

They should accelerate negotiations on the second stage of the China-ROK free trade agreement, promote implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and build the China-ROK free trade zone at a faster pace, Xi said.

Facing changes from the COVID-19 pandemic, China and the ROK have set a model of joint disease prevention and control through effective institutional arrangements, Xi said. In May, China began "fast-track" entry systems with the ROK to facilitate essential travel, such as for business.

Noting that next year marks the 30th anniversary of China-ROK diplomatic relations, Xi said the development of bilateral ties is facing new opportunities and he would like to announce the start of the Year of China-ROK Cultural Exchanges together with the ROK president.

Moon congratulated Xi on the upcoming 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, saying that under the leadership of Xi, China has become the first major economy to register positive economic growth amid the pandemic.

The ROK would like to deepen cooperation with China on disease prevention and control, economy and trade, culture and education, Moon said.

In the conversation with Lukashenko, Xi said that China supports Belarus' developing on a path that fits its own situation.

China hopes Belarus maintains political stability and social tranquility, Xi said, adding that China would like to offer help for the economic and social development of Belarus within its capacity.

The two nations should promote the high-quality development of Belt and Road projects, push forward construction of the China-Belarus industrial park and expand cooperation in more areas, Xi said.

Belarus resolutely supports China's stance on its core interests, including Hong Kong, Taiwan and Xinjiang affairs, Lukashenko said, adding that all external interference should be firmly opposed.

Beijing, Washington advised to restart talks

By XU WEI
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China and the United States should restart their multilevel dialogue mechanisms and reshape their economic and trade relations in a bid to return bilateral ties to a normal track under the new administration in Washington, former senior officials from both sides said on Tuesday.

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"Beijing and Washington should expedite steps to resume high-level strategic dialogue to guide the way for the growth of bilateral relations," said Zeng Peiyan, former vice-premier and chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

The two sides need to conduct a new round of trade negotiations — on the basis of a comprehensive and objective evaluation of their phase-one trade deal — to roll back extra tariffs imposed by both sides and cancel unreasonable investment restrictions, he said at the opening of a three-day webinar titled "US-China Relations: The Way Forward" at the 2021 Hong Kong Forum on US-China Relations.

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Biden administration urged to reverse 'China Initiative'

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco
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Academics and rights groups in the United States are calling on US President Joe Biden to reverse the Justice Department's "China Initiative" which they said harms US science and research by profiling scientists with ties to China.

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The administration of former US president Donald Trump launched the "China Initiative" in 2018 with the aim of investigating cases of economic espionage. The program has resulted in dozens of prosecutions.

The latest case is that of Gang Chen, a professor and nanotechnology expert at the Massachu-

setts Institute of Technology who was charged with failing to disclose to the US Department of Energy millions of dollars in funding he allegedly received from China. He was arrested and released on bail this month.

Feng Tao, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Kansas, was charged in 2019 with not disclosing on conflict-of-interest forms work he was allegedly doing for China. He was the "first victim tested by the government with the absurd prosecution theory under the China Initiative", according to an online fundraiser initiated by Tao's wife, Hong Peng. More than \$207,000 has been raised so far.

"Researchers may not fully understand what they need to

report on their grant proposals. Yet we face criminal prosecutions if we made an honest mistake in missing the disclosure requirements somewhere," Xiaoxing Xi, a professor of physics at Temple University, said at a webinar hosted by the physics department of Harvard University on Monday.

Xiaoxing Xi was arrested in May 2015 on charges of having sent restricted US technology to China. After experts signed affidavits testifying to his innocence, the federal government dropped the case in September 2015.

"This is scary. Personally, it makes me extremely nervous when applying for federal funding. In particular, when the DOJ (Department of Justice) uses funding to determine the

damage caused by your crime, the more federal funding you get, the more serious your crime is," he said.

"So it has affected me in a very significant way. My research program is much smaller than it used to be before I was arrested," he added.

Calling Xiaoxing Xi's arrest a "tragic situation", Neal Lane, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy at Rice University and former director of the White House Office of Science and Technology, said few people in the Justice Department really understand what research is all about, how it is done and how it is shared, and they don't consult with anybody outside the agency.

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Charge filed



United States House of Representatives acting Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Blodgett (from right), House Clerk Cheryl Johnson and Representative Jamie Raskins, the lead impeachment manager, head with other representatives through the Capitol to the Senate chamber in Washington on Monday. They delivered one article of impeachment charging former president Donald Trump with inciting insurrection. Trump's trial will start the week of Feb 8. MANUEL BALCE CENETA / AP

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SURPRISE BREAKTHROUGH SAVES TRAPPED MINERS

11 rescued after large cavity accessed

By ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan
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On Sunday morning, rescue workers unexpectedly reached a large cavity 14 days after two explosions trapped 22 workers underground at a gold mine under construction in Qixia, Shandong province.

The breakthrough proved crucial in efforts that saved 11 of the stricken miners.

The cavity was reached after two weeks of continuous attempts to clear debris from the main shaft at the mine — a major route to lift the miners to the surface.

Accessing the cavity accelerated



work to save the men, who was trapped more than 600 meters underground after the explosions on Jan 10.

Xiao Wenru, chief engineer at the Ministry of Emergency Management's mine rescue center, said on Sunday, "We had predicted that it could take at least another 15 days to clear heavy obstacles from the shaft."

Around 11 am on Sunday, rescuers and ambulances stood by at the entrance to the shaft. All eyes were on cables hauling a container

bucket up from a depth of more than 500 meters.

Finally, the bucket reached the surface, carrying two rescuers and one of the trapped workers. The miner, who was extremely weak, was carried to an ambulance and taken to the hospital.

Feng Anji, one of the rescuers who went down the shaft, said: "We found the miner lying curled up. He could talk, but was too weak to move."

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Online
See more by scanning the code.