

## EDITORIAL

## Globalization 2.0: Seeking more choices in free trade

Comments on the first US presidential debate abound. Many focused on what people heard or how they interpreted what they heard. What was conspicuously absent in the debate was the two candidates' readiness, or at least courage, to redefine the United States' role in free trade and globalization.

The performances of the candidates should not be seen as a matter of course, a deliberate performance of technical ambiguity in the face of popular politics.

By the way, the attempt at the debate to make China a scapegoat for the alleged evils of free trade and loss of jobs in the US was ill advised, especially because less than a month ago, at the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, some foreign business leaders said it is China that is championing free trade and globalization now.

To put its principles into practice, China has been making sincere efforts to reduce overcapacity and lower manufacturing costs.

It has not attempted to stop factory jobs, which flourished in the country for decades, from relocating to neighboring countries with cheaper labor cost.

It's not that China has never been threatened by unemployment. But look at the opinions in the media, even social media, to see that even those with the utmost patriotic fervor seldom complain about foreigners stealing Chinese jobs.

China has declared to the world that it is not interested in engineering a drastic currency devaluation, something many other countries, developed and developing, have done to protect their economies.

China is investing and spending (through tourists) more abroad than the amount it receives from overseas as investment and tourism revenue.

And it has been reiterating its commitment to reform, even though the process is becoming increasingly difficult.

All these are China's real efforts to promote free trade and globalization. They are important actions to back up its principles at a time when shunning principles has become not only a fad for campaigning politicians, but also a threat to millions of workers in the developing world.

China's principle on free trade and globalization is different, and better, from the developed world's: It does not come attached with political strings, let alone outside intervention and regime change.

It is based on the belief that economic development, especially for impoverished communities, should come before they reach the stage where they can choose their way of life.

China's globalization concept used to be sneered at by its arrogant critics, who nowadays, in face of the rising "new right" in their societies, would rather not talk about it.

## TO THE POINT

## Stricter rules for law enforcers

The general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, China's Cabinet, have jointly issued a document aimed at enforcing standardized rules for police. This will be done by improving the country's law enforcement mechanism, strengthening the monitoring and management system, and maximizing the use of internet and communication technology.

As the police force is a core component of the administrative law enforcement mechanism, the standards and rules it complies with determine the extent to which a country follows the rule of law.

China has made much progress in promoting standardized law enforcement in recent years. But malpractices, such as selective and forcible law enforcement, and even abuse of power, from time to time underscore the need to ensure that police follow the law. The document is a step in that direction.

The next move should be to make sure the document is enforced in letter and spirit. Besides, a strong monitoring and accountability mechanism needs to be put in place.

According to the document, China will also strengthen the correction and accountability system, upgrade the procedures to deal with mishandled cases, and establish a mechanism to bring those responsible parties to book. Moreover, independent agencies should be invited to supervise law enforcement officers. This will also bring them under broader public scrutiny.

The highly standardized law enforcement by Hong Kong police can be largely attributed to the existence of a broad supervisory apparatus comprising both official and unofficial functionaries. The Chinese mainland could learn from Hong Kong's effective system.

A sound internal monitoring mechanism and a strong and well-functioning external supervisory network will curb the abuse of power by police and improve their relationship with the public.

— BEIJING NEWS

## CHEN WEIHUA

## Building healthy rhetoric in China-US ties

Before the first US presidential debate on Monday, quite a few American experts on China were upset that the two candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, had not talked much about the United States' broad policy toward China. They have been witness to the positive momentum in bilateral relations, yet they were troubled by the worsening strategic rivalry between the two countries.

Former US ambassador to China Winston Lord believes that even in the transition period, the president-elect should find someone very important to start talking with China in a bid to turn bilateral ties around. Orville Schell, director of the Center on US-China Relations at Asia Society, has suggested that former US president Bill Clinton take up the job if his wife is elected.

For many Chinese, the absence of China as a topic during the US presidential race may not be a bad thing, because candidates have for long used China as a bogeyman. Many still remember Republican nominee Mitt Romney in 2012 yelling

and swearing in every speech that he would label China a currency manipulator on the first day in office if he was elected president. At one Republican primary that year, Jon Huntsman, a former US ambassador to China, was made to look the least relevant for US-China relations by his opponents.

That is how toxic the US presidential race is vis-à-vis China.

On Monday, Trump literally started his debate by criticizing China, accusing it of devaluing its currency. It only proves he is totally out of touch with the real world where the yuan has been facing a downward pressure from the market.

In fact, when I asked former US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke and former deputy national security advisor for international economics Caroline Atkinson on Sept 22 why the US government had got it so wrong just a year ago in thinking the yuan was still grossly undervalued, they

both dodged the question.

During the presidential race, candidates focus on subjects they believe will please voters instead of engaging in rational debate. This is so true for this year when both candidates are disliked. Still, there has been plenty of rational and intelligent talk among China hands on a more sensible US policy toward China after the next administration takes office.

Testifying before the US Congress on Sept 22, George Washington University professor Amitai Etzioni said China and the US have many shared and complementary interests. Whatever differences exist between the two great nations, they can and must be resolved in a peaceful manner. He suggested a grand bargain between the two countries from cyber security to the Taiwan question.

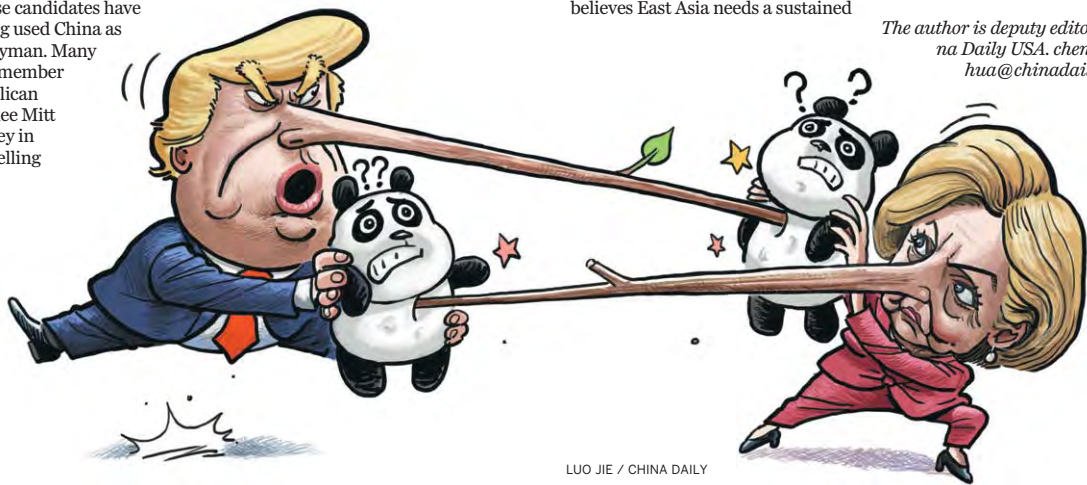
Former US ambassador to China Stapleton Roy argued last week that the Barack Obama administration has based its East Asia policy on assumptions that are outdated. He believes East Asia needs a sustained

and well-informed policy from the US administration no matter who wins the presidential election in November.

And the Navy Times, a US newspaper, has reported that White House National Security Council issued a directive recently asking Pentagon officials to stop using inflammatory phrases to describe US-China relationship, such as calling it a "great power competition". It said that by labeling the relationship a "great power competition", Obama administration officials inaccurately suggest the US and China are on a collision course.

NSC Senior Director for Asian Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink neither confirmed nor denied the Navy Times report on Tuesday evening when I checked with him. If true, it is a right move toward a healthier rhetoric which the important China-US relationship deserves, different from destructive declamations like "China should not write the rules, we should", as Obama likes to say.

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## ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN

## Innovation is critical to development

"Innovative Development" is the first of the Five Major Development Concepts, President Xi Jinping's guiding strategy to transform China's economy. Innovation occupies the top spot because it signals that China's leaders are enhancing the role of reform. Reform requires change, change requires doing things differently, and doing things differently requires innovation.

In investigating the Five Concepts for *Closer to China with R.L. Kuhn*, my weekly program on CCTV News (Sundays at 9:30 am and 9:30 pm), I looked for two kinds of innovation — in science and technology, as well as in management and processes.

I found both kinds of innovation at Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, or COMAC, which is developing the country's large commercial aircraft, beginning with the C919. Building such aircraft requires sophisticated technology, systems and processes, and innovation is essential for all three.

For innovation to succeed, nurturing talent and fostering an environment that appreciates innovation are essential. State-owned enterprises are often rigid, not very conducive to disruptive change or friendly to individual ini-

tiative. So can COMAC stimulate the kind of innovation that is required to compete with Boeing and Airbus?

I discussed innovation, and how it can be enhanced, with COMAC Chairman Jin Zhuanglong.

"Our work emphasizes innovation, entrepreneurship, and creative development," Jin said. "We have innovated our management systems and governance. We have less than 10,000 personnel, but we need to develop two or even three major commercial aircraft. The key lies in innovation. We've put forward a six-dimensional management model; we must manage our planning, technologies, quality, airworthiness, finances and personnel — and we must coordinate them all."

Jin will not sacrifice quality. "Our goal is to raise China's manufacturing percentage of domestic-made aircraft. But if certain components made in China are not up to our standards, we invite tenders from across the globe to guarantee quality, even while we gradually improve localized products. I see no conflict between independent development and international cooperation. Rather, they complement each other. If we do not open up to the outside world, if we do not adopt some of the world's most advanced materials

and technologies, then our future would be bleak. Overall, though, we must adhere to our principles — specifically, China designs the aircraft and improves the systems."

Jin spoke of "painful growing pains". He said: "We must be prepared for a period of suffering, so we work step by step, slowly and surely; we do not expect instant success, we are not anxious."

The example he gives is the ARJ21, China's regional jet. "We have undertaken 10 years of research to ensure its safety, to enhance its competitive position"

China's bid to build its own civil aircraft began much earlier. In the 1970s, when China was still very poor, it designed and constructed three Y-10 four-engine models. In 1980, one made its maiden flight, but the program was halted.

On the COMAC property in Shanghai, on a large lawn in front of an original Y-10 aircraft, is a modern sculpture with a simple but powerful inscription: "Never Give Up!"

That's the spirit of innovation!

The Chinese government is determined to promote innovation nationwide, particularly in science and technology, but also more broadly, because it realizes that not only industry, but also the whole

country's new developmental model requires innovative ideas. For example, high-tech industrial parks provide services from incubation facilities for start-ups to industrial supply chains for efficient production. In addition, regional coordination seeks to integrate and upgrade area innovation capabilities.

But beware innovation-based businesses! They are more complex, and less predictable, than businesses based on low-cost manufacturing. Innovation cannot be commanded top-down. It cannot be bought solely with money. What determines market success is often not obvious — and subtle effects, not in one's control, can make or break new products.

The success rate for innovation is by nature low. This means an innovation-based economy must accept failure. If all of your ideas work, it means you have too few ideas. Innovation is a disruptor; it does not respect tradition, seniority or authority. China is committed to innovation. Innovation can change China.

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## HOT WORDS

## Prohibition order

## 禁酒令 (jīnjiǔlìng)

The Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region government recently issued a prohibition order banning alcoholic beverages at official receptions. In the past two years, provincial governments in Zhejiang, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Jiangsu, Hunan and Anhui have issued the same order.

According to the Xinjiang government, some special cases, for example foreign affairs receptions or those for investors, can be

exceptions to the rule provided the disciplinary department approves of it.

In late 2013, the central government issued a directive making clear in detail the requirements for official receptions. The directive, along with a previous austerity regulation of the Party, prompted local governments to ban alcoholic beverages at official banquets.

The prohibition order has been welcomed by the public. But many doubt whether the order will be effectively enforced. In some places, it is a common practice among civil servants to empty water bottles and fill them up with liquor at official banquets to bypass the prohibition rule. And restaurants and hotels readily replace liquor with tea or some other

expensive beverage on the bill, allowing those officials to get reimbursements from the financial department.

Some people suggest the prohibition order should give citizens the right to report to the disciplinary department any violation of the prohibition order by officials at public receptions. If the authorities really have zero tolerance toward liquor being served at official banquets, they should seriously consider that suggestion.



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