

## We Need To Win The War Against Climate Change

Extreme weather sweeps the world with natural disasters hitting different continents. In the month of July alone, we are seeing that severe heat, wildfires and flood is devastating lives, properties, communities and livelihoods in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Climate change is right here impacting our normal life. We can see it and feel it.

Countries and their people work together to reduce emissions and transform their respective economies.

The world's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases – China and the United States – should work together too, at least on this front, to help the world win the war against climate change.

*Anita Tang, Managing Director*



*Photo courtesy of UChicago Graduate China Forum 2021*

## University Of Chicago Holds China Forum 2021: “Paths Forward”

University of Chicago Graduate China Forum 2021, “Paths Forward,” was held virtually April 23-24, providing guest speakers on five panels: China Macroeconomics, Healthcare, Tech/Fin Tech, Entrepreneurship & Venture Capital, and Private Equity.

Founded in 2015, the Forum aims to promote international collaboration in business and academia by inviting distinguished leaders in academia, business and political arenas to discuss contemporary U.S.-China issues under a global context and share their rich experiences and unique insights. Some 400 members of these fields attended via Zoom.

Keynote speaker Lars Peter Hansen, Director of Macro Finance Research Program at the University, discussed “How Should Climate Change Uncertainty Impact Social Valuation and Policy?” He noted, “Our results demonstrate the importance of accounting not only for different uncertainty channels, but also for the

information dynamics when designing optimal climate policy.”

Keynote speaker Min Zhu, Chairman of the National Institute of Financial Research at Tsinghua University and Sino-U.K. Professional and Financial Service envoy for the Belt and Road Initiative, identified China challenges: structural change, geopolitical risk, and an aging society.

Major structural change is underway in China, with a gradual shift away from manufacturing and towards services. Zhu said services would continue to grow over the coming years. He spoke of the U.S. “decoupling” from international bodies under the recent past administration causes concern for China and its globalized economy. China now has 250 million people over the age of 60 who consume less in physical goods but require more services. “Aging will have a huge impact on economic structure ... also on social policy, and on city and community design as well.”



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## China Names Five Cities As Consumption Centers

China's Ministry of Commerce announced on July 19 that Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin and Chongqing will take the lead in developing international consumption center cities.

Commerce Minister Wang Wentao said efforts will be made to pool quality international market entities, goods and services, as well as to accelerate the cultivation of local brands.

Over the years, consumption has become a key driving force of the world's second largest economy amid its broader economic transformation. For the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Plan period (2021-2025), China is expected to become the world's largest goods consumption market.

For the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Plan period, Shanghai aims to become the first

Chinese city with retail sales of consumer goods totaling over 2 trillion yuan, according to a report by the city on developing it as an international trade hub.

In May, Beijing unveiled 10 special measures to advance the cultivation of an international consumption center city, focusing on new consumption landmarks, new brands, digital consumption and development of cultural, tourism, sports, education and medical consumption.

The international consumption center cities not only have huge consumption markets, but also act as barometers for global consumption innovation, said Wang Wei, a research fellow with the Development Research Center of the State Council.

## Art Institute Ready For Chinese

Some 250,000 Chinese tourists visited Chicago in 2019 and they, along with the 60,000 Chicago Chinese residents, had access in special, catered ways to the Art Institute of Chicago.

One of the world's great museums, the Institute has vast holdings of Asian art, some 35, 000 examples, along with outstanding collections of Western art, including a celebrated assemblage of Impressionist paintings.

While response to the coronavirus pandemic has curtailed some activities, the Institute furthers its ability to open to Chinese visitors. This has taken the form of China-centric events, in-house Chinese language resources, and a Chinese social media presence.

There have been events ranging from Lunar New Year celebrations – complete with traditional art activities and Chinese language talks – to occasions connecting with high-profile exhibitions to Chinese audiences.

How this can work when the

Institute can function on a more regular schedule was shown in 2019 when the museum curated the largest Andy Warhol retrospective in 30 years. During the show, the Institute used social media to highlight the ongoing relevance of the American modern master.

Besides working closely with civic partners like Choose Chicago to ensure that its services are known in the local community and by Chinese visitors, the Institute offers a variety of visitor engagement tools including Chinese language visitor packet and audio guides and tours plus Journey Maker – a digital tool that allows families to create their own kid-friendly museum tour – available in Mandarin.

The Institute can hold a Chinese New Year celebration, serve Asian dishes at its café and has established a Weibo and WeChat presence. Prior to the limiting of activities, the Institute's Mandarin audio guide was the second most popular after English.

## Former Ambassador Celebrates China Trip

Winston Lord, U. S. Ambassador to China from 1986 to 1989, recounted in a *Xinhua* interview on events that led to an "opening up" trip to China 50 years ago that led to President Richard Nixon's historic trip to China seven month later.

As an aide to U.S. National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, Lord told how he and the Advisor were able to take a plane from Islamabad to Beijing without public knowledge.

Since the trip, the international landscape has seen profound changes. "Then and now you have to understand the other's basic needs red lines, true national interests, and where they really have a great difficulty in moving on their position," said Lord, also Assistant

Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs under former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"Distinguish those issues from where some progress can be made and distinguish those in turn from those with real common interests," he said.

Lord said the two countries could cooperate on climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, or nuclear nonproliferation to stabilize the relationship at a time of difficulty and tensions.

"These principles remain valid after 50 years," Lord said. "Put yourself in the other person's shoes, what do they need, and how can you reconcile that with what you need."



Photo by Kayla Kozlowski on Unsplash

## Silk Road Conference: Northern Illinois University

Representatives from Central Asian nations will meet during the 15th Annual Silk Road Conference on Friday, September 17, 2021, at the Conference Center of Northern Illinois University, in Naperville, Illinois, culminating the Silk Road Week, September 13-17, promoting bilateral business and trade.

Keynote speaker will be Ambassador George Krol, former ambassador to

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus, now serving at the U.S. Naval War College.

The Conference is organized by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. Supporting organizations include the Clinton Regional Development Corporation and the Illinois Soybean Association.

## Northwestern Partners With National Taiwan University

Northwestern University and National Taiwan University signed a memorandum of understanding in May which will allow them to increase language offerings, exchange faculty, and allow undergraduate travel in Taiwan.

Northwestern's Office for International Relations' statement noted: "While Northwestern has always welcomed a significant number of students from Taiwan, this academic year was special. In 2020-2021, even though the pandemic paused most

student mobility and international student exchange, the number of students enrolled from Taiwan increased.

"Only six locations send more students to Northwestern than Taiwan. In some cases the numbers are even higher. In the McCormick School of Engineering and the Medill School of Journalism, Taiwan is the third largest sender. At the Feinberg School of Medicine, students from Taiwan make up one-fifth of the international student population this academic year."

*New partnership will foster student and faculty exchanges and increase opportunities for language studies*

*The Art Institute boasts an immediate China connection in the form of its diverse collection of Chinese art covering 5,000 years of history*



# China's Fight Against Climate Change And Environmental Degradation

The Council on Foreign Relations on May 19 updated its report on China's fight against climate change and environmental degradation, concluding "air pollution, water scarcity, and soil contamination remain threats to the health and livelihoods of China's people."

According to the report, China's environmental crisis, the result of decades of rapid industrialization, not only threatens the health and livelihoods of the country's 1.4 billion people but also the global fight against climate change.

## Greenhouse Gases

"As the world's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in recent years, China suffers from notoriously bad air pollution. Its carbon-intensive industries have caused additional environmental challenges, including water scarcity and soil contamination. And like the rest of the world, China will face increasingly harsh consequences of climate change in the coming decades, including flooding and droughts."

In response, the report says Beijing has implemented policies to curb emissions and stem further degradation, such as by signing

the 2015 Paris Climate Accord and pledging to be carbon neutral by 2060. It pledged to reduce coal use and invest in renewable energy. "However, following through won't be easy," experts say, "as the government struggles to maintain economic growth, ease public discontent, and overcome tensions with the United States, the second largest emitter."

## Economic Rise

China's economic rise – with an average annual GDP growth rate of nearly 10 percent (1979-2017) – has accelerated its emission. In the past 10 years, China has emitted more greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, per year than any other country in the world. It surpassed the United States as the top emitter in 2005, according to Climate Watch.

The Council author Yanzhong Huang comments that the government's inability to curb pollution could damage China's international standing. "China cannot regain its greatness in the world if its people continue to breathe polluted air, drink toxic water, and eat tainted food."



Photo by Andreas Gücklhorn on Unsplash

*China pledged that its emissions would peak around 2030, and reach carbon neutrality by 2060*



Photo by Amol Mande from Pexels



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