

## Global Cooperation More Urgent Than Ever

The Russian-Ukraine war brought global energy supply chains to the forefront, with commodity prices surging from their already high levels. While the U.S. is increasing its export of liquefied natural gas, such additional supply still falls short of global demand. Countries are resorting to generating electricity from coal, a source they were phasing out to achieve their emissions-reduction pledges.

China's President Xi Jinping is calling for stronger international cooperation in overcoming shared global challenges, including climate change.

A centennial anniversary congratulations to our very own Chicago Council on Global Affairs, which has had that international-cooperation focus since 1922.

*Anita Tang, Managing Director*



## China's Government Work Report For 2022 Calls For Lowest GDP Of Past Three Decades

China has set its 2022 economy on a course of growth, job creation, and increased social welfare, according to the Government Work Report, given during the week-long March meeting of the Two Sessions of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Conservative Congress.

Premier Li Keqiang presented the Report to the some 5,000 of China's political, business, and social elite gathered in Beijing.

It set the lowest goal for gross domestic product in three decades, putting it "around 5.5 percent" for the year. This is lower than the 8.1 percent rebound in the economy that China reported for 2021. This represents a medium-high rate of growth given the country's massive economic aggregate.

"In our work this year we must make economic stability our top

priority and pursue progress while ensuring stability," Premier Li said. Goals include stable and improved imports and exports and balanced international payments.

China plans to create more than 11 million new urban jobs, keep a surveyed urban unemployment rate of no more than 5.5 percent and is bracing for a record 78 million college graduates.

The Report noted some RMB 2.5 trillion (~USD 392 billion) worth of tax rebates for 2022, among tax breaks and cuts for small businesses, which have been hit especially hard by the pandemic and Beijing's crackdown in sections such as tech.

China's private sector is responsible for some 80 percent of the nation's urban jobs.

A summary of other Report edicts can be found on page 2.

## Further China Goals For 2022 From Government Work Report

The State Council of the People's Republic of China has summarized the detailed targets of the Government Work Report. In addition to those reported on page 1 of *China Call Report*, they include the following, with this preface:

"The fundamentals of China's long-term economic growth remain unchallenged. The country will strive to maintain stable macroeconomic performance and keep major economic indicators within an appropriate range."

### Some Targets

Further improvement in the environment, with continued reduction in the discharge of major pollutants. Also energy consumption per unit of GDP to be assessed with



appropriate flexibility within the framework of the 14th Five-Year Plan, and the exclusion of newly added renewable energy and coal, petroleum, and natural gas consumption as raw materials in the total amount of energy consumption.

Boost agricultural production and promote all-around rural revitalization, with grain output of over 650 million metric tons, and increase the area of high-standard cropland by 6.67 million hectares.

More efficiency in proactive fiscal policy. Central government expenditures will rise by 3.9 percent, but the budgetary spending of central government departments will continue to register negative growth

Corporate income on annual taxable income between RMB 1 million and 3 million will be halved once again for micro and small enterprises. Enhance the policy on granting additional tax deductions for R&D costs, raising the deduction coverage for small and medium sci-tech enterprises from 75 to 100 percent.

The government will make improving the people's wellbeing an investment priority.

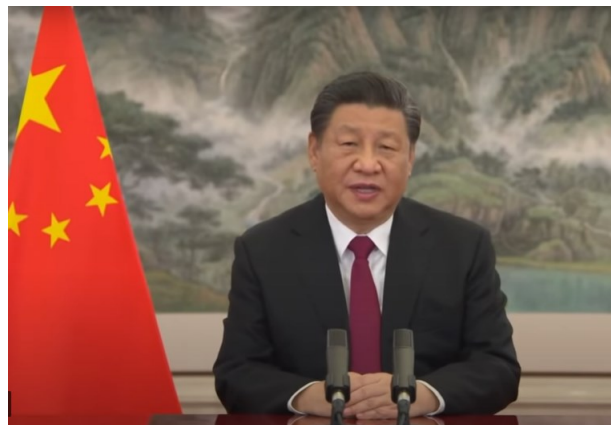
## China President Xi Jinping Calls For Cooperation At Davos Forum

President Xi Jinping of China called for stronger international cooperation in overcoming shared global challenges, including defeating Covid-19, revitalizing the economy and addressing climate change, in the opening session of the World Economic Forum's virtual event of the Davos Agenda 2022, on January 17, in Geneva, Switzerland.

President Xi outlined that the international community is locked in a battle against what he called a "once-in-a-century pandemic." Calling for greater global cooperation, he said, "The fight against the pandemic is proving to be a protracted one. Covid-19 is resurging with different variants and spreading faster than before." He added that shifting blame will "only cause delays in response."

Speaking in a special address to business, government and civil society leaders in the week-long event, he laid out a three-pronged approach to safeguard peoples' health.

First, countries need to strengthen active cooperation on research and development of medicines. Second, leaders need to build multiple lines of defense against the coronavirus. Third, countries need to fully leverage vaccines by ensuring equitable distribution,



boosting vaccination rates and closing the global immunization gap.

As the world emerges from the pandemic, he said there should be less protectionism, especially on trade. "We should remove barriers, not erect walls. We should open up, not close off, we should seek integration, not de-couple."

On climate change, President Xi said China stands ready to help the international community realize the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development and to achieve carbon neutrality in the long term.





## Chicago Council Celebrates 100 Years

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs on March 10, 2022, celebrated its centennial anniversary at a gala dinner at the Hilton Chicago honoring President Barack Obama and cellist Yo-Yo Ma for their “extraordinary contributions toward creating a more open and promising world for all of us.”

The event was moderated by Carol Marin, director of the DePaul University Center for Journalism Integrity & Excellence.

The Council was created in 1922 amid isolationist sentiment in the U.S. following World War I. Since then it has brought an international “who’s who” of speakers and world leaders to discuss America’s place and role in the world. Visitors have included former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and, among many other leaders, President of the People’s Republic of China Jiang Zemin.

An engrossing presentation of the growth and importance of the Council may be accessed at “Chicago and the World,” by Richard C. Longworth.

## Chinese-American Makes History

History was made in Chicago March 28, when Nicole Lee, a prominent Chinese-American, was unanimously approved to become an Alderman on the 45-member City governing-council, the first Asian-American woman to serve there.

Lee was appointed to be Alderman by Mayor Lori Lightfoot from a pool of 27 applicants. She represents a neighborhood of Chicago that includes its vibrant retail-and-residential Chinatown.

Lee has deep roots in the community and represents the fourth generation of her family to live in a Chinatown building her grandparents had purchased.

She has served as the director of social impact and

## China Buys United States Corn

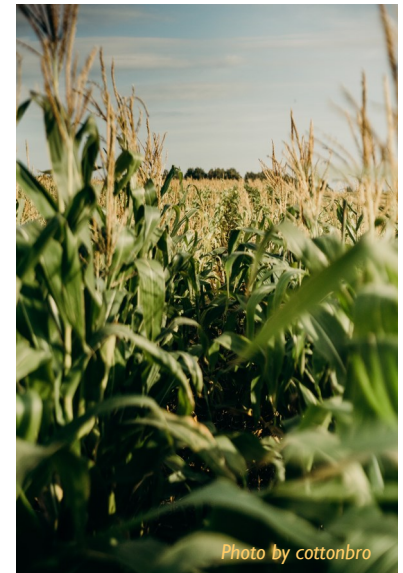
Chinese buyers bought 1.084 million tons of U.S. corn, their biggest purchase of U.S. grain since May 2021, according to Reuters News Service’s April 4 account of a government report.

“The deal comes as shipments from Ukraine, the world’s fourth biggest exporter of corn, are snarled following Russia’s invasion. China had been a big buyer of Ukrainian corn and the fighting, which also has disrupted spring planting season, has created uncertainty about their reliability as a supplier.”

The U.S. Agricultural Department said that the deal was for 676,000 tons of corn to be delivered in the 2021/22 marketing year that ends August 31, and for 408,000 tons to be delivered in 2022/23.

Reuters reported a Department finding that U.S. farmers plan to “cut their corn plantings this spring” despite the strong global demand, with high prices for inputs such as fuel and fertilizer cutting into potential profits for growing corn.

Potential outcomes of these actions are seen in farm states such as Illinois, where corn accounts for 54 percent of its USD 19 billion annual sales of agricultural commodities.



community engagement at United Airlines since 2008. An Indiana University graduate, Lee also holds a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and has served on civic boards and charitable organizations.

## China's BYD To Focus On Electric, Hybrid Cars

China's largest electric-vehicle maker BYD Co. Ltd. said that it has stopped making combustion engine vehicles and now produces only full electric and heavily electrified plug-in hybrid cars.



Photo Courtesy of BYD

"In the future, BYD will focus on pure electric and plug-in hybrids in the automobile sector," the company said in a statement filed to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Its move is in response to Beijing's pledge to boost green energy consumption to control carbon emissions at a peak by 2030.

BYD is among six car makers to have signed on to a global campaign to phase out combustion-engine vehicles by 2040. Others include Volvo, Ford, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, and Jaguar Land Rover.

## China-Russia Railway Bridge To Open In A Few Months

The Chinese side of the first cross-border railway bridge to Russia is running drills to ensure that upcoming tests go smoothly, keeping the project on schedule to fully open in a few months, according to reports in *South China Morning Post*.

With an annual cargo capacity of up to 21 million tons, the railway bridge – first proposed in 2007 and completed in August, 2021 – is expected to significantly boost cross-border trade between the neighboring countries. Its cost: USD 355 million. Coal, iron ore, and timber from Russia are expected to be major goods.

The bridge crosses the Amur River to connect the Chinese city of Tongjiang, in the northeastern Heilongjiang province, with Nizhneleninskoye in Russia's Jewish Autonomous Region, proving direct con-

nection to the trans-Siberian Railway. The bridge reduces distance to Moscow by 809 km, cutting transit time by 10 hours.



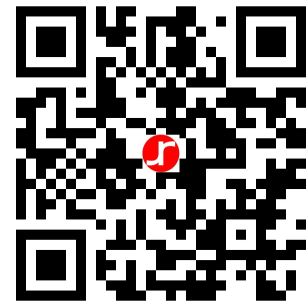
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