

## A Reopened China Is Back To Business

As China reopened after the end of its zero-Covid measures, the country's GDP grew by 4.5% in the first quarter of 2023.

Since late March, heads of state and chiefs of government from Spain, Singapore, Malaysia, France, the EU, and Brazil visited China — to talk about trade and the war in Ukraine.

France and China signed 15 business deals totaling about US\$45 billion during President Macron's visit. Looking at the U.S.-China trade number on the other hand, it reached a two-year low in February 2023, dropping further to US\$42.24 billion.

China's reopening policy suggests that the country is prioritizing economic growth. I am taking a three-month trip to Asia to unearth new business opportunities.

*Anita Tang, Managing Director*



## Xi Jinping Re-elected China's President, Economy Expansion Goal Of Five Percent

Xi Jinping was unanimously elected President of China for a third five-year term on March 10 during the 14th National People's Congress.

He also was elected Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China by unanimous vote. A total of 2,952 deputies were present.

President Xi had nominated Li Qiang, 63, to become Premier and he was appointed by the Congress. The former Communist Party chief of Shanghai, China's largest city, Li is a close ally of Xi, the *Guardian* reported, "serving as a chief of staff between 2004 and 2007 when Xi was provincial party secretary of eastern China's Zhejiang province."

A Government Work Report was reviewed during the nine-day Congressional session, unveiling a target for the Chinese economy to

expand by around five percent this year, faster than the two percent growth in 2022. Other objectives, reported *Xinhua News* service, "include creating around 12 million urban jobs, consumer price index around three percent, and personal income rising generally in step with economic growth."

The Report pledges encouraging and supporting the private sector and private business in growing and expanding.

As Premiers do, Li held a press conference on the last day of the Congressional session, promising a commercial environment "in which businesses of all forms of ownership will be treated equally, protecting the property rights and interests of entrepreneurs according to the law, encouraging fair competition between business entities of all types," according to the *New York Times*.

## Erlitou Museum Holds Relics Of Xia Dynasty

Many of the remains of China's first recorded dynasty — the Xia Dynasty (c.2070 BC-c.1600 BC) — are now on display at the Erlitou Relic Museum in the city of Luoyang in China's Henan Province.

Relics from this time have been preserved till the present such as bronze wares, China's earliest urban road network and the remains of two-wheeled chariots. Discovered in 1959 by historian Xu Xusheng, the ruins in Luoyang are about 3500 to 3800 years old, and the theory among Chinese archaeologists is that the site was a capital city during the middle-to-late Xia Dynasty.

The value of the Erlitou site lies in how it shows that the Chinese nation has always been “a land of etiquette,” said Wang Wei, the chief expert of the national project to trace the origins of Chinese civilization and president of the Chinese Society of Archeology.

Wang told the *Global Times* that “the Erlitou site reveals that the Xia culture had a complete etiquette system and that it had been infused with cultural diversity.”

Wang noted that “if the Qin (221 BC-206 BC) and Han (206 BC-AD 220) dynasties were the peak of China's multi-ethnic cultural diversity, then the Xia period was the beginning.”

Over the past few years, said *Global Times*, archaeologists have excavated more than 10,000 items from the Luoyang site.

“These discoveries hold great significance for un-



derstanding early Chinese civilization since they were home to the earliest prototype of a Chinese palace, bronze workshops and an urban road network.”

All these discoveries are on display at the museum through the presentation of text explanations, photos, replicas, videos, and VR technology.

## New Book Series In English To Teach Teens About China

A new book series, China in Stories, in both Chinese and English, was introduced in Beijing March 9 — to teach teens in China and abroad about China's 5000 years of history and culture.

Published by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (a Chinese firm), the book series covers the history, culture and development of China's provinces and regions, aiming to show the real China and convey the concept of “China's path to modernization” in the world, reported *Global Times*.

William N. Brown, a U.S. professor from Xiamen University in East China's Fujian Province and advisor to the series, told the *Global Times* that it will give readers a “much broader understanding of the background of China.”

Brown pointed out that these stories show how both ancient and modern Chinese people have strug-

gled individually and as a nation to achieve their dreams. “People in the world appreciate these timeless tales of love for family and country, integrity, faithfulness, self-sacrifice, persistence, love of beauty and especially China's age-old love of peace,” he said.

The first volume in the series, Shaanxi, a Cradle of Chinese Civilization, was published in both Chinese and English in late December 2022. The book gives a sound introduction to the provinces through 50 stories divided into six categories: cultural icons, clothing, art, outstanding figures, achievement, and spirit. The volume is scheduled to be published in the U.S. and the U.K. in the future, said Wu Yaowu, one of the translators and vice president of Xi'an International Studies University in Shaanxi Province.

## Shanghai And Chicago Confer About Aging Populations

Ensuring that social and healthcare services are person-and-family centered is emerging as a key priority for health and human services globally.

Shanghai, a city of some 28.4 million people, is aging more rapidly than the rest of China; its aging population matches the total population of the Metro Chicago area (9.459 million in 2019). Shanghai is testing and culturally adapting models of service and care from around the world, as is national China, to help its aging population deal with the future. That includes helping aging people deal with health problems and to be able to live responsibly in their communities.

China, itself, was subject of a report by the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission on Long-Term Care for Older Persons in China. "As of the end of 2014 China had more than 212 million people aged 60 or older, accounting for 15.1 percent of the total population. An estimated 18.6 percent of that older population needs assistance for daily living activities. The number of older persons with partial or full disabilities reached 37.5 percent in 2013, and is expected to expand to 68 million by 2030, 97 million in 2050 and surpass 100 million by 2053, at which

time the aging of population will have peaked. Clearly the need for long-term care will increase profoundly in the future."

The Chinese government published its own report on aging in 2006, calling for a system that comprised three elements of care: family support as the base, community care as the support and institutions as a supplement, and has been working toward developing such a system.

To that end, Shanghai sent a delegation to Chicago in 2014 to immerse itself in Chicago's social service networks, aging-centered health research at universities, community and government programs, such as the Illinois Department on Aging with experience on nutrition, for example, going back more than 50 years.

The Chicago Sister Cities International Social Service Exchange facilitated the visit and since that year Shanghai and Chicago have engaged in a mutual yearly-exchange of experts in the field of aging. In October 2017, eight delegates from Chicago went to Shanghai, and since then there have been six week-long personal exchanges in both Shanghai and Chicago. When Covid-19 prevented that, there are now virtual exchanges, the most recent of which was February 3 of this year.

Experts from the Illinois Department on Aging, the Illinois Department of Health & Family Services and Rush Medical Center discussed such things as the cities with cognitive disorders and Illinois PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly). The Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau, which administers programs for the elderly, paying attention to the government's three-point approach of family, community, institutional support, reported activities in the city.

A focus for the meeting was dealing with Alzheimer disease and other situations involving dementia. The Civil Bureau participants reported on a year-old experiment that was enjoying success in helping many who were afflicted with mild cognitive problems. With the collaboration of an international pharmaceutical company providing a space in a building, and Shanghai Jinmei Care for the Elderly, a social organization dedicated to the care of senior citizens with cognitive disorders, a coffee shop, named Memory Café, had been opened. It was succeeding, providing patrons a warm, relaxed, pleasant place to be served coffee by mostly senior citizens with cognitive disorders who were thriving by being supported with responsibilities they could meet in a friendly environment.



Photo by Vlada Karpovich

## Chinese Scientists Propose Way To Address Xi Jinping's Climate Pledge

On September 21, 2020, President Xi Jinping addressed the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly by video, making heartening climate news carried by media around the world.

“China will strive to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060,” he pledged.

The UN reported that President Xi “highlighted the need to accelerate transition to a green and low-carbon economy while achieving green recovery and development. He added that China would increase support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy, and not build new coal-fired projects abroad.”

More than 60 other countries have pledged carbon neutrality by 2050, observed the *New York Times*. “A consensus deadline that scientists believe must be met to have a reasonable chance of averting the worst climate catastrophe.”

A few months later, vigorous China governmental policies were rolled out to control carbon emissions, with interim rules for the management of carbon emissions, and with 2,225 power firms included in the project. More fields were being added, such as steel and aluminum production sectors, to trade carbon caps.

On February 9, this year, *Nature Food* published a study that showed an approach that could help meet President Xi's pledge:

“Chinese scientists, in collaboration with researchers from the United States and Germany, have proposed an agricultural carbon-reduction solution that could help China achieve carbon neutrality in its food production,” according to the Institute of Soil Science under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The research showed total carbon emissions from the production of China's staple crops, including rice, wheat and corn, could have neared 670 tera-grams (one trillion) of CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2018.

“Completing a comprehensive life-cycle assessment using data from China, the research team showed that an integrated biomass pyrolysis (heating in the absence of oxygen) and electricity generating system coupled with commonly applied methane and nitrogen mitigation measures could help reduce staple crops' annual life-cycle greenhouse gas emission from 666.5 now to minus 37.9 tera-grams of CO<sub>2</sub>-e.”



Yan Xiaoyuan, lead scientist from Institute of Soil Science, commented: “This new path can help achieve carbon neutrality in grain production without sacrificing grain output. It can also reduce atmospheric pollution emissions, increase the utilization rate of fertilizer resources and increase both environmental and economic benefits by more than 30 percent.”



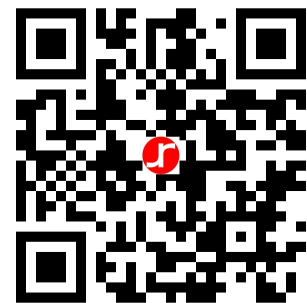
**ROYAL ROOTS**  
**贯中咨询有限公司**

**Your Cross-Border Business Advisor**

Address:  
980 North Michigan Avenue,  
Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60611, U.S.A.  
Telephone: 1-312-202-0389  
Email: [info@rroots.net](mailto:info@rroots.net)  
Website: [www.rroots.net](http://www.rroots.net)

Royal Roots offers fact-based and knowledge-based services to our clients, assisting them in their quest in doing business with China – whether in China or outside.

We provide our clients economic-development insight, facilitate their effort in business communication and negotiation, and help them formulate and execute win-win strategies.



Contact us and learn how we can help you achieve your cross-border goals.