



from the publisher

Building bridges, & better future

A bridge is needed when civilizations meet. That was exactly the scenario when China opened its doors to the world more than four decades ago; now, it's all the more so given both China and the world have undergone profound changes.

China Daily, founded on June 1, 1981, has been such a bridge for communication and understanding.

When it started as an eight-page broadsheet, there was a scarcity of information about China. With scant coverage by the international media of what was happening, the world knew little of the country, except for a notion that the ancient nation offered infinite opportunities for business as well as cultural fulfillment.

As we celebrate the 40th birthday of China Daily today, the country is making headlines worldwide every day. But as is the usual case with a rapidly rising nation, particularly in a cross-cultural setting, the world is inundated with disinformation as much as information.

While China opens wider to the world, some quarters of the globe seem to go the opposite way. Driven by prejudice and outdated mindsets, filters are constantly and stubbornly applied in the portrayal of China, apparently to fit subjective motifs and selfish purposes.

As *The China Questions*, a book published by the Fairbank Center of Harvard

University noted, there's "an understanding deficit" of China, especially in the United States. That is a highly significant issue today, the preface explained, for the fact that "China has always mattered and always will," "but today China matters not only to the Chinese people," but also "to the entire world."

Undoubtedly, we have come to a new crossroads of history, seeking directions which will have far-reaching implications. Are we to build bridges or erect walls, to thrive in the global village or retreat to the islands of isolation, to embrace a shared future or enjoy the law of the jungle, to gallop forward with the tide of time or turn the clock back?

In reply to the question "where should humanity go from here", President Xi Jinping has stated that "we bear in mind the shared interests of mankind and make responsible and wise choices", so that "the giant vessel of human development will stay on an even keel and sail toward a brighter future".

To be on the look-out for the well-being of the world is what good journalism is all about. We at China Daily take pride in recording all those eventful years when China made remarkable contributions to human civilization, along with monumental progress accomplished at home.

China Daily is itself a product of the times, and we're fortunate to have thrived with the times. China is not what it used to be when we launched the paper, but to help promote understanding between China and the rest of the world, and in so doing, help build a better world, remains our mission and aspiration. We, as always, expect to work together with colleagues in and outside China toward that goal.

On this special occasion, and on behalf of China Daily staff, I express my sincerest gratitude to our readers worldwide, and to all those who have supported us one way or other.

Zhou Shuchun,

Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, China Daily



from the archives

Keeping up with opening up

June 2, 1981

China keeps her open-door policy

China's policy of opening up to the world is not one of expediency, but a basic policy. It will not change. The nation will continue to encourage and absorb foreign investment, and its exports will see a considerable expansion.

In order to carry on its socialist modernization program successfully, it is essential for China to broaden exchanges and cooperation with other countries. History shows that no country can have any chance of getting modernized, if it insists on closing its doors to the rest of the world.

Internationally, there are at present many favorable factors and China should not let opportunities go by.



March 7, 1987

Moves aim to attract foreign investment

China is launching a four-pronged effort to improve the investment environment for overseas businesses in the country, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade said in Beijing yesterday.

The move reflects the State's determination to expand greatly the utilization of foreign funds.

The effort will include the improvement of legislation, close guidance of investment direction, the holding of more international investment seminars and new measures to facilitate the operation of foreign-funded enterprises.

More legislative measures will soon be worked out as supplements to the "22 Articles" and eight detailed regulations issued earlier.



July 2, 1997

Joyous Hong Kong heralds return home

Flowers and fireworks, songs and dances, hearty cheers and broad smiles were how a joyous Hong Kong celebrated its first day back home after a sleepless night of carnival.

The gala reached a peak yesterday when top State and local leaders joined performers to stage a grand celebration of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Also yesterday, 80,000 people from all walks of life in the Chinese capital gathered at the Beijing Workers' Stadium to celebrate Hong Kong's return to the motherland. The evening party began with *Ode to the Motherland*, sung by 10,000 people to the accompaniment of music played by 1,000 instrumentalists.



November 12, 2001

WTO membership protocol inked

The World Trade Organization (WTO) finally opened its door on Saturday to China, integrating the most populous nation on the planet into the open world market and sending a positive signal to a slumping global economy on the brink of a full-blown recession.

It took only minutes for WTO trade ministers to deliberate and then, on a basis of consensus, rubberstamp a draft report of the China Working Party with an applause on Saturday evening.

With that, an arduous 15-year quest for China's entry was completed. The vote was a formality, with China attaining the requisite contracts and treaties with each of the trading partners necessary for admittance.



September 8, 2013

Xi proposes a 'new Silk Road'

President Xi Jinping proposed yesterday that China and Central Asian countries build an "economic belt along the Silk Road", a trans-Eurasian project spanning from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea.

Xi made the official suggestion for the first time during a speech on China's Central Asia strategy at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The proposed economic belt is inhabited by "close to 3 billion people and represents the biggest market in the world with unparalleled potential", Xi said.

To create the new economic belt, Xi suggested China and Central Asian countries accelerate policy communication, improve road connectivity, enhance monetary circulation and enhance understanding.



October 19, 2017

STRIDING INTO 'NEW ERA'

General Secretary Xi Jinping pledged yesterday to usher in a new era in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Speaking at the opening session of the Communist Party of China's 19th National Congress, Xi laid out his vision for an increasingly prosperous China as the country embarks on a journey to build a "great modern socialist country".

"This is a new historic juncture in China's development," said Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. It will be an era that sees China moving closer to center stage and making greater contributions to mankind, he added.

During the session, Xi unveiled "Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", which analysts said is the most important improvement on the original theory raised over three decades ago.



August 8, 2008

WELCOME, WORLD

There were cheers, and there was applause. The Olympic torch climbed the Great Wall yesterday, the last day of China's seven-year wait. The red Chinese national flag, with the five yellow stars, fluttered everywhere, welcoming one and all to the Olympic Games.

Beijing was awash in colors, giving it the look of a grand carnival on the evening of the Games' opening ceremony. But this, as many people said, was a once-in-a-lifetime festival. The sights and sounds were varied, carnival-like the same, with restaurants and cabbies doing brisk business.

The capital airport saw its busiest day yesterday, handling more than 300 Olympic-related flights that carried VIP guests, athletes and sports officials.



August 5, 2020

Experts say China key to global recovery

The world's second-largest economy recorded 3.2 percent growth in the second quarter, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, and has the potential to lead the global economy out of recession in the months ahead.

President Xi Jinping made clear in a letter to global CEOs published on July 16 that the fundamentals of China's long-term economic growth had not changed despite the pandemic.

He said the country remained committed to deepening reform and further opening up its economy to provide a better environment for investment and one in which Chinese and foreign enterprises can thrive.

The commitment makes China an attractive place for investment as the world recovers from the pandemic, and the strength of China's economy offers a pathway to global recovery.

