



CHINA DAILY AT 40 FROM THE BEGINNING



Left: China Daily staff members celebrate the first anniversary of the newspaper on June 1, 1982, in the first group picture of the newspaper's employees. **Right:** Reporters' edited stories are input into computers in 1980 during preparations for the newspaper's launch in 1981. FILE PHOTOS



building a new bridge

40 Years of News and Views

Reform and opening-up in the late 1970s led to a steadily growing number of visitors to China — foreign experts, businessmen, consultants and tourists; however, they knew little about what was happening in the country or the wider world in the absence of an English-language newspaper.

Enter China Daily. English-speaking Chinese, including newspaper, magazine and book editors, ex-diplomats, translators and foreign journalists joined to launch an English-language newspaper — the first in New China — which published its first issue on June 1, 1981.

An eight-page broadsheet, it carried China



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

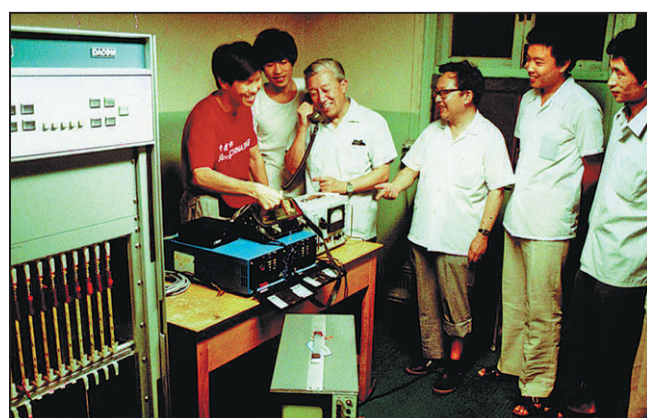
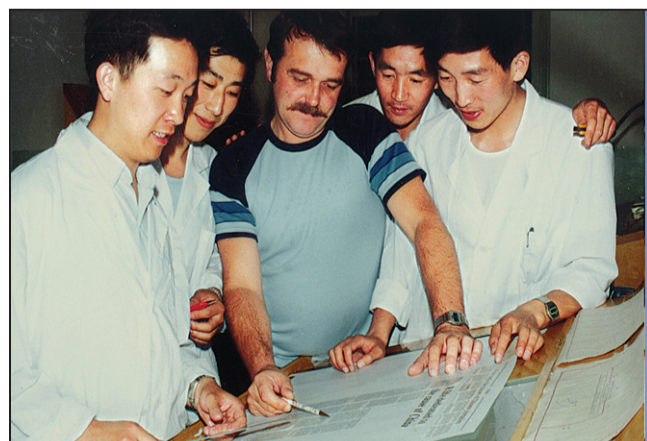
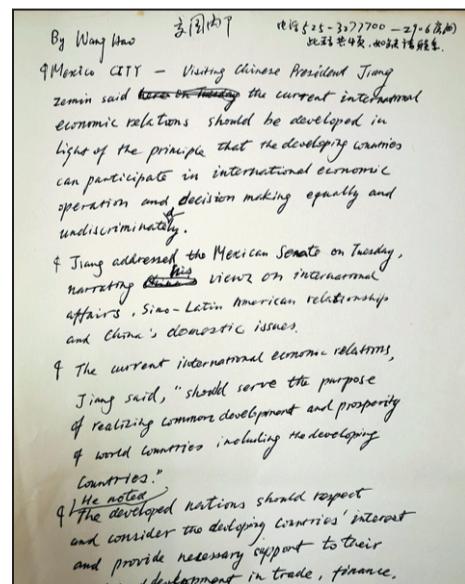
and world news as well as editorials, opinion pieces and features, and was delivered to embassies, consulates, foreign companies, hotels and airports.

But keeping foreigners abreast of news was not its only role from the very beginning.

China Daily pledged to be “a new bridge for international exchanges” in one of the first issues. The expectation for the paper was to “play an effective role in strengthening friendly relations between China and the rest of the world, promoting friendship between people of all lands and furthering worldwide economic, technological and cultural exchanges”.



Left: An advertising board promotes China Daily in Wangfujing street, Beijing, in 1983. **Center:** An editorial meeting is held at the newspaper in the 1980s. **Right:** The original copy of a reporter's story faxed to the newspaper's Beijing headquarters during a trip to Mexico City. FILE PHOTOS



Top left: Staff members learn to lay out pages in the 1980s. **Above left:** Editors supervise pages being sent to printing plants in Europe by satellite for the first time in 1985. **Center:** Journalists pose for a photograph outside the newspaper's former office on the East Third Ring Road in Beijing. **Top right:** China Daily organizes a world news photo exhibition in 1985. **Above right:** Editors attend a meeting in the 1980s. FILE PHOTOS