

INSIGHTS

Friends in Need Are Friends Indeed

Voice of the World

Edited by GONG Qian

As of February 20, the death toll in the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks that struck Türkiye and Syria has surpassed 41,000, according to the *Washington Post*. At this tragic time the world has rallied to assist the beleaguered countries, dispatching rescue teams and organizing aid campaigns.

China is among dozens of countries that have sent search teams to help in the rescue efforts.

A Chinese cargo plane reportedly carrying 18 tons of medical supplies, tents, first aid kits, blankets, winter clothes, and food materials landed at Damascus International Airport on February 15.

Türkiye's Ambassador Abdulkadir Emin Önen said on February 14, that 254 tons of aid materials have been sent from China, according to Anadolu Agency (AA), a Türkiye-based news outlet.

Several Chinese search and rescue teams were dispatched to join local and international groups to help save those still trapped in rubble. Civil society rescue teams, including China's Blue Sky Rescue Team, a civil relief squad, also actively participated in the joint rescue mission.

Türkiye set up a crisis desk at its embassy in Beijing after the quakes and mediated the dispatch of Chinese rescue teams, Önen said at an airport warehouse in Beijing where humanitarian aid is collected, AA reported.

Chinese companies operating in Türkiye are also taking actions to provide aid. For example, Zoomlion and Sany group, Chinese construction machin-



A Chinese rescue team, along with international groups, saved a man and a child trapped in rubble in Türkiye on February 9, 2023. (PHOTO: VCG)

ery manufacturers, have immediately sent their machinery to the earthquake zone to support rescue operations.

Additionally, Chinese people working for different Türkiye-based Chinese companies have joined hands for different tasks to facilitate search and rescue operations by Chinese professionals.

The embassy of Türkiye in China extended its thanks and gratitude to China on social media platforms. The Chinese people are continuously sending us offers of help in a moving spirit of solidarity with the Turkish people,

Önen told *Global Times*.

"I would like to thank once again all the friendly and brotherly countries who have been collecting aid for our nation day and night, supporting our search and rescue efforts with their teams," said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a televised video to the World Government Summit.

"Witnessing the solidarity among our nations, we have every reason to believe that Turkish-Chinese relations will continue to flourish in the period ahead," Önen said.

In an interview with CGTN, for-

mer Syrian Ambassador to China Imad Moustapha said China has always been generous and supportive towards Syria. He was impressed and grateful for the solidarity and sympathy that Chinese people have already shown with their Syrian brothers and sisters. This shows, to a great extent, the moral fabric of Chinese people and how China always stands with other friends who are at their moments of difficulties, said Moustapha.

"As we always say 'A friend in need is a friend indeed', [and] China is a friend indeed to Syria," said Moustapha.

Green Growth in Action

Edited by GONG Qian

"Green" defines the future of the world. To underline this vision, China released a white paper in January, focusing on its green development in the past decade from seven aspects, including a green territorial configuration, adjustment and improvement of the industrial structure, application of green production methods, and eco-friendly living.

With its great efforts and commitment to green growth, China has won widespread praise for its actions and achievements in green development.

A global clean energy champion

China has emerged in the last decade as a global clean energy champion-

help by government support on a grand scale, said Grid website. China invests 546 billion USD in clean energy, which is nearly four times the amount of U.S. investments, according to a new report from research firm BloombergNEF (BNEF) released in January 2023.

"China has managed to nurture these really integrated, efficient value chains for making things like solar panels, [and] for making things like battery cells," Antoine Vagneur-Jones, head of trade and supply chains research at BloombergNEF, was quoted as saying by *Scientific American*. Vagneur-Jones thinks that China's still going to remain dominant in this field for the next decade or more.

It is true, as the facts show, that China has been accelerating building of solar and wind plants on a massive scale. The country dominates over 80 percent of the global solar-manufacturing market in all stages of production including polysilicon, ingots, wafers, cells and modules, according to the International Energy Agency. Therefore, its green energy growth is clear, while China's renew-

able electricity share leapt from 16 percent in 2005 to 28 percent in 2021.

The Grid said owing to China's more than a decade of efforts, the country has reaped economic rewards for its foresight: Chinese companies now dominate many of the clean energy industries that the world is finally embracing in the fight against climate change.

Green consumption aids green goals

China issued a plan in January 2021 to promote green consumption to balance economic growth, along with its goal to become carbon neutral. The plan detailed measures in sectors ranging from food, clothing and housing, to transport, tourism and renewable energy.

Such a shift to consumption-led growth will boost growth prospects in the short term and deliver high-quality expansion in the long run, according to IMF. "This would not only benefit China, but also the world," said IMF.

Notably, China is going all out to embrace electric vehicles. Sales of new-energy vehicles almost doubled in China in 2022, even as the global car sales remained sluggish. "More than four million of new-energy vehicles sold were all-electric vehicles, five times more than that sold in the U.S. in 2022, cementing China's place as

the world's top EV market," Fox Business reported.

Big role in cooperation on sustainable development

China is a key party to various global climate governance frameworks, including the Paris Agreement, in which China commits to reaching carbon neutrality by 2060.

This marks China's determination to commit to, and invest in, its long-term vision of collective global climate action to control the global temperature rise, said Lars Faeste, a managing director and senior partner at Boston Consulting Group.

China holds the presidency of the ongoing United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and hosted the phase-one meeting in Kunming, Yunnan province in 2021 — a clear demonstration of China's leadership and commitment to biodiversity, said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In addition, China created the South-South Climate Cooperation Fund in 2015 and pledged to strengthen international climate cooperation. In 2022, China declared that it would increase green development jointly with BRI countries in priority areas including infrastructure, energy and climate change.

about 91 percent of that produced by natural balsa wood, which greatly reduces the damage to the human body in a real fire situation.

The low energy consumption and emissions of the preparation process and its natural ingredients make the aerogel more biodegradable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. This kind of material will be an ideal substitute for existing commercial thermal insulation materials.

AI Chatbot: Language Processing Oracle Comes with Risks

Opinion

By TANG Zhexiao

ChatGPT, the new language processing AI developed by OpenAI, has gone viral worldwide and is making waves in the tech industry.

Standing for AI tech of Generative Pre-trained Transformer, ChatGPT is an advanced AI chatbot designed to generate human-like text, and used to answer questions, translate languages, compose music, generate stories and poems, and write code.

Bloomberg described it as a thrilling, vexing, ontologically mesmerizing new technology which can solve all your problems and answer all your questions, "or at least it will try to."

"ChatGPT shows that the AI revolution has arrived," said an article in *Fortune*, an American multinational business magazine.

Despite its powerful capabilities, ChatGPT and other generative AI chatbot also has several limitations and may pose several practical limitations and legal risks.

One problem, which its creator OpenAI has conceded, is that ChatGPT is not completely reliable yet.

"It's a mistake to be relying on it for anything important right now," OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman tweeted, adding that they have lots of work to do on robustness and truthfulness.

Sometimes, it offers answers that are precise and authoritative, but utterly wrong.

According to the *Washington Post*, "What it's really doing is spitting out text that reads well and sounds smart

but might be incomplete, biased, partly wrong or, occasionally, nonsense."

What's more, experts worried that such AI systems could lead to disinformation and be used for nefarious purposes.

Jeff Hancock, professor of communication at the Stanford University, said according to a report released by Stanford Internet Observatory, once bad actors are able to use language models to run influence campaigns, that will be able to generate massive amounts of content quite cheaply, and potentially develop novel tactics for large-scale persuasion.

"Unfortunately some will use this technology to exploit the flaws in human nature, deliberately target people with false information, undermine democracy and explore new ways to advance the pursuit of evil," said Microsoft's Vice Chair and President Brad Smith.

When it comes to any modern AI tech, data is always the key. If the data is biased, inaccurate, or has sensitive information, the results will reflect those issues too.

Other risks such as biased content, personal privacy disclosure and AI-assisted plagiarism should also be considered by concerned companies, governments and legislative institutes.

Therefore, it is critical to use AI models like ChatGPT responsibly and with appropriate protection. Robust data safeguarding and privacy policies must be in place to overcome these potential dangers.

Today, AI is introducing a new era, even more significant than that brought by the Internet, and ChatGPT is only the tip of the iceberg. When enjoying the significant changes AI is bringing, we also need to think about how to use it instead of being used by it.

Difference Brings Creativity, Innovation

Research Box

Edited by QI Liming

Difference is intrinsically good, a vital force behind creativity and innovation, and an essential ingredient for international competition. The troubled U.S. could learn from its differences with China, rather than simply challenge them.

That's the opinion of David Dodwell, CEO of the trade policy and international relations consultancy Strategic Access.

Dodwell, who focuses on developments and challenges facing the Asia-Pacific over the past four decades, told the South China Morning Post recently, that he has a chronic, deep-seated discomfort with U.S. President Joe Biden's call for the world's democracies to wage war on different regimes, particularly when used as a pretext to isolate and decouple from China.

Dodwell said, his discomfort comes not simply from the difficulty of defining

a democracy, Wikipedia defines dozens of types of democracy, many of which stray far from the template Biden is starting from, but because a precondition for human survival in this increasingly crowded world is a tolerance of difference.

It becomes a negative force only when people or governments try to impose those differences on others, and this is not something China has done, said Dodwell, who believes that rather than being morally outraged at those alien customs and beliefs, it should be measured by their effectiveness in managing the conflicts that arise in crowded communities, and in encouraging civic-mindedness and community cooperation.

He said difference should not just be tolerated; it should be treasured as part of life's rich tapestry, and as a critical ingredient of healthy competition.

China provided an alternative development path, challenging the idea that modernization must equal Westernization, and there is no harm in this. If it leads to a fresh examination of governments' strengths and shortcomings, so be it. Competition can be no bad thing, said Dodwell.

China, Cambodia Cooperation Yields Impressive Results

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China has built 4,000 km roads and eight bridges crossing the Mekong River in Cambodia, as well as installing 20,000 km optical cables. In 2022, the total import and export revenue of Chinese-invested Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone was nearly 2.5 billion USD, an increase of 12 percent year-on-year. In addition, around 30,000 jobs have been created.

Statistics show that trade volume between the two countries hit a record high in 2022, expanding 17.5 percent year-on-year to 16.02 billion USD.

In the same year, the Cambodian government approved 186 new investment projects with an agreed investment amount of 4.032 billion USD, of which China's investment accounted for 42 percent, making it the largest source of investment in Cambodia.

Since the China-Cambodia free trade agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership came into effect in January, 2022, the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment between both countries have been strengthened, said Shu Jueting, spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce.



Wind turbines in Guizhou province. (PHOTO: VCG)

Hi! Tech

New All-natural Heat-resistant Aerogel

By Staff Reporters

Scientists from the University of Science and Technology of China have created an all-natural wood-inspired aerogel.

They used a method of surface nanocrystallization, with natural bio-

mass and minerals as ingredients, to make the surface-inert and weakly interacting wood particles better assemble to construct the aerogel. The resulting wood-inspired aerogel has a channel structure similar to that of natural wood, along with good biodegradability.

This material features a remark-

able performance of thermal insulation and fire retardancy. It can withstand a high-temperature flame of 1,300 °C and not be burned through in at least 20 minutes.

Even if it is on fire, the smog emission amount produced by this such all-natural wood-inspired aerogel is less