



40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF REFORM AND OPENING UP

## China's reform and opening-up serves world's common development

**Editor's Note:** This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's launch of the reform and opening up. On December 18, a grand gathering celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held at the Great Hall of the People

in Beijing. The reform and opening-up has been an endeavor of China to achieve common development as well as closer ties with the rest of the world. What China could do to serve the world formed part of the deliberations

when the reforms were still being discussed. In October 1977, then Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping told foreign guests that only when China changed its backwardness would it be able to make greater contributions to mankind.

### Open door for common development

Senior U.S. diplomat Charles W. Freeman Jr. was immediately aware of a "revolution" underway in China in the summer of 1979 when hearing the words "sole proprietor" from a Beijing street vendor from whom he bought a bowl of noodles. He predicted China's rapid rise when he was back in Washington. However, he said he had underestimated the consequent changes in China.

Actually, no one could foresee in December 1978 when China launched its reform and opening-up that the country's sole proprietors would have increased by over 500 times and privately-owned enterprises by 338 times. With an annual average growth of 9.5 percent, China now makes up around 15 percent of the global economy, up from 1.8 percent.

Now every part of its identity, such as being the world's second-largest economy, or largest trading country in goods, shows that the once poor, populous Asian nation has become a driving force in global development and progress, with enormous contributions and influence thanks to the "China Miracle."

The reform and opening-up launched the modernization of China and has changed the whole world, said three-term Spanish Ambassador to China Eugenio Bregolat Obiolis.

Poverty alleviation is an important episode in China's success story, said United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Achim Steiner. "The achievement China made is outstanding in both scale and time. No other country has done it before," he said about China lifting some 700 million people out of poverty and contributing over 70 percent to global poverty

reduction. Both China and the world benefit from the efforts, said former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in late November, while praising China's reform and opening-up for having brought about incredible achievements.

Currently, the world's future common development is taking shape partly with China's shift to high-quality growth in its new round of reform and opening-up, a growth based on innovation, coordination, green development, openness and sharing.

### New path of cooperation amid challenges

South Asia's island state Maldives opened its first cross-sea bridge to traffic in August 2018.

The China-Maldives Friendship Bridge in the Indian Ocean is a Belt and Road flagship project. In regions beyond, plenty of similar projects are forging closer bonds between countries and peoples while substantiating win-win cooperation marked by mutual benefit.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative has evolved into the largest platform for international cooperation five years after its launch, epitomizing China's thinking concerning development, diplomacy, global vision and international responsibility—a sum total of the four decades of the country's reform and opening-up.

The reform efforts also helped China develop its answer to a frequently asked question in the West: Does the awakened lion in the East bring opportunities or harbor threats for the world?

The Chinese answer features a commitment to the path of peaceful development and breaking



Visitors posed for family photo on the exhibition commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's reform and opening-up on December 18 in the National Museum. (Xinhua)

away from the old Western mindset of power resulting in hegemony, and a strong political will to seek shared benefits through consultation and collaboration. China aims for a new type of international relations as well as a common community with a shared future for mankind.

Aftab Siddiqui, founder of Britain's China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Working Group, said China's increasingly deep involvement in international affairs over the years has helped it exert global influence, in addition to setting an example in terms of its peaceful approach, which pursues consensus while objecting to interference in other country's internal affairs.

Amid new challenges stemming from a changing world, China has never stopped seeking solutions. Among them was the conclusion that

peace and development are both major global trends or the vision of a common community with a shared future for mankind. The past was a testament to China's growth reinforcing the promotion of global peace and development.

China's approach of aligning the country's interests with the rest of the world's is a bid to build a more inclusive, democratic, open, innovative, and efficient multilateral world, the Spanish foreign policy magazine *Política Exterior* has said, and is inspiring an increasing number of people worldwide.

### Mutual learning and connectivity

The International Free Trade Zone in Djibouti

takes up an area about a tenth of the coastal country in Northeast Africa. It is being co-built with Chinese enterprises.

The billboard at the entry reads "Time is Money" and "Efficiency is Life," the same slogans that were once popular in China. The aim is to build a sea transport, financial and trade center in East Africa.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said, "Understanding the path China traveled, historical decisions made, and their effects on the course of China's economy can inform decision-makers hoping to achieve similar outcomes in their countries and for their populations."

China's development path offers "an option other than the Western modes," said Zheng Yongnian, director of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore. "Importing no foreign mode while exporting no Chinese mode — this is itself something globally significant," he added.

China's "journey" has repeatedly demonstrated that all roads lead to modernization and that globalization is no Westernization. As the old saying goes, the feet know where the shoes bite, i.e. every country should determine its own development path based on history, reality and the experiences of civilizations.

Martin Jacques, a professor at Cambridge University, noticed a need for Western countries to learn more, saying China, with its new perception of socialism, has offered the world "a new example" and "a new possibility."

The past four decades of China's reform and opening-up have seen common development and progress in its in-depth interactions with the world. The process also testifies to China's confidence and capability to promote global growth and to contribute to a better tomorrow for mankind.

(Xinhua)

## Railway photographer Fu Shikai reflects on forty-year career

BY LI HONGFENG

At the recently concluded Sixth Yunnan Photography Exhibition, our reporter interviewed Fu Shikai, a famous photographer of railways. Once a locomotive driver, Fu now has a column dedicated to railway photography. His collection now numbers more than one million photographs. Among his other honorary titles, Fu Shikai was recognized by the then Chinese Ministry of Culture as a worker-turned-artist in 2002.

Recalling his experiences over the past 40 years, Fu spoke eloquently.

In 1973, he was studying at a locomotive driver school. When he first saw a train driver operating a steam engine, he was greatly impressed.

He managed to find a camera and snap a photo of the memorable moment. He described his feelings as follows: "The steam engine is like a steel man, masculine and powerful."

Ten years later, when he first saw a diesel locomotive, he again felt excited. In his photographs, internal combustion locomotives were no longer steel men, but instead became pretty girls, their green bodies attractively decorated with two yellow ribbons and two small red flags.

In the early 1990s, electric locomotives came

to Yunnan. In Fu's eyes, the electric locomotive not only showed the character of a steel man, but was also clean and free of pollution. The drivers, he noted, all wore white gloves. "The electric locomotive is fast and has great capacity. It consumes electricity when going uphill but generates electricity when going downhill. It's amazing!" said Fu. In addition to locomotives, he also paid attention to people, buses and depots along the railway lines.

Now Yunnan province is in the era of high-speed rail, and such great changes make Fu extremely excited and almost overwhelmed. From a professional perspective, he has recorded the changes brought about by the era of high-speed rail while also documenting his inner feelings. "Formerly unimaginable become reality. Railway workers' dreams have finally come true. Like the EMU train, our country is developing rapidly," Fu said emotionally.

Now Fu has a new dream. He hopes to hold a personal photography exhibition and share the history of the Yunnan's railway development with more people. His photographs bear witness to the development of railway transportation in the past 40 years of reform and opening up. "I was once a locomotive driver. We must be worthy of this era," Fu said.



Photo by Fu Shi Kai

### 40 years: From steam locomotive to high-speed rail

Since the start of the reform and opening up, China's railway has achieved tremendous development. Its operating railway tracks reached 127,000 km by the end of last year. And its high-speed rail increased to more than 25,000 km, accounting for 66.3 percent of the world's total.

It is estimated that the country's railway network will hit 175,000 km and the high-speed rail tracks will hit 38,000 km by 2025.

The three photos here show the development of China's railway development. The bottom one shows a steam locomotive running with smoke floating in its wake at the end of 1990s in northeast China. The middle one is about a electric locomotive. And the top shows the bullet trains.



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## 10 foreigners given medals for roles in reform, opening-up

Ten foreigners received China Reform Friendship Medals on December 18 for their outstanding contributions to the country's reform and opening-up over the past 40 years.

Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab was given a medal by Chinese President Xi Jinping, together with other recipients at a grand gathering in Beijing to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's reform and opening-up.

Among the medal winners, Panasonic founder Konosuke Matsushita made great contributions to China's modernization in electronics through trade and investment.

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister and one of the most influential Asian politicians, made contributions by sharing Singapore's successful governance experience with China.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, former president of the International Olympic Committee, was remembered by many Chinese for his great contributions to China's return to the IOC.

In the foreword to *The Sleeping Giant Awakes*, a book compiled by China Watch — China Daily's think tank — Schwab said the World Economic Forum has witnessed China's great development process.

"The change brought about by reform and opening-up has been incredible," he said in the foreword.

"In 40 years, China has shifted from a largely agricultural nation with a planned economy to one that is poised to be a leader in the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

Kuhn, a leading Chinese expert and chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, said it's a great honor to receive the medal.

"As I look at my participation among the 10 foreigners who have received the China Reform Friendship Medal, I see my role as representing the importance of international communication. It's not so much personal as it is representing the importance that China places on communication with the world so as to learn about the world and tell the world the true story of China," Kuhn said in a live report by China Global Television Network.

(China Daily)