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New tourism alliance to have global impact

A newly established international tourism organization initiated by China is expected to push the global tourism industry forward and facilitate cooperation around the world.

Gino Andreetta, CEO of Club Med Greater China, said the World Tourism Alliance will play a leading role in the development of the world tourism industry.

Tokozile Xasa, South Africa's tourism minister, said the alliance would connect the global tourism sector by offering a platform to cooperate and share the experience of developing tourism.

The World Tourism Alliance was set up on Sept 12 in Chengdu, in Southwest China's Sichuan province, where the 22nd General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organization was held.

Duan Qiang, the alliance's newly elected chairman, said it was proposed by the China Tourism Association and is a nongovernment, nonprofit organization for tourism consultation and cooperation.

Israeli companies loom large at high-tech expo

More than 60 Israeli companies gathered in Mianyang, Southwest China's Sichuan province, for a high-tech expo from Sept 7 to 9.

"It's a record number of Israeli companies participating in any expo in China," said Amir Lati, the consul general of Israel in Chengdu, Sichuan's capital.

"As the co-host country for the 2017 China (Mianyang) International Science and Technology Expo, we have brought the firms for business-to-business cooperation," Lati said.

The expo, the fifth annual event, was attended by 11 Chinese State-owned military equipment manufacturers and over 700 firms from more than 40 countries.

As a tradition at the event, a foreign country is highlighted as the guest of honor. This year it was Israel, which is marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with China.

Nanjing named China's first City of Peace

More than 100 scholars and history researchers from China, Japan and South Korea called for peace and mutual understanding in Nanjing, capital of eastern Jiangsu province, which became China's first International City of Peace on Sept 9.

Ye Nanke, head of the Nanjing Academy of Social Sciences, said the city has set up international peace schools, peace communities and peace research institutes to



A guest uses virtual reality goggles to view a panda-themed promotional video at the United Nations World Tourism Organization's 22nd General Assembly in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan province, on Sept 11. HAO FEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

educate the next generation.

"Nanjing plays a key role in peace education and international communications because of its history," he said.

Some 300,000 Chinese people were killed by Japanese troops in the city over six weeks from Dec 13, 1937, in one of the most brutal massacres in modern history.

International Cities of Peace, a global nonprofit association dedicated to connecting, promoting and encouraging peace worldwide, approved the city's application on Aug 31.

First joint China-Russia university opens doors

The first cooperative university between China and Russia officially opened its doors to students on Sept 13 in a sign of enhanced educational cooperation between the two countries.

The opening ceremony of Shenzhen MSU-BIT University, jointly run by Lomonosov Moscow State University, or MSU, and the Beijing Institute of Technology, or BIT, was held in Shenzhen, in the southern Guangdong province.

"China and Russia jointly setting up Shenzhen MSU-BIT University is an important consensus between me and (Russian) President Vladimir Putin," President Xi Jinping said in his congratulatory letter, read by Vice-Premier Liu Yandong.

Education is an important driving force for national development and progress and also an important bond for promoting exchanges and cooperation between different peoples, Xi said.

Hefei bookstores use app to attract readers

Bookstores are using a new approach to get people to borrow and buy their books.

Ten bookstores formed a book-sharing program in Hefei, in the eastern Anhui province, after a trial that took place over a month and a half.

With a smartphone application and a 99 yuan (\$15) deposit, a reader can borrow up to two books from any one of the stores and keep them for up to 10 days. An option to purchase the borrowed books is also available on the app.

"Readers just need to scan the QR code on the back of each book in the store to get everything done," said Zhu Fei, a manager at Anhui Xinhua Media, a State-owned company that runs the bookstores. The Sanxiaokou Xinhua Bookstore launched the program on July 16.

"Since then, more than 20,000 people have borrowed more than 100,000 books through the app," said Huang Zhen, an executive from Anhui Xinhua Media.

Prosecutors to step up hunt for graft fugitives

Prosecutors will strengthen intelligence sharing and joint investigation cooperation with the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) to hunt down corrupt Chinese fugitives who remain at large abroad, a senior official from the Supreme People's Procuratorate said on Sept 13.

"We are working closely with our counterparts from anti-corruption departments of IAP members to expand law enforcement cooperation and improve the capabilities and effectiveness of agencies to catch the fugitives and confiscate their illicit assets," Procurator-General Cao Jianming said.

Since October 2014, when prosecuting departments in China launched the special action to capture such fugitives and recover their illegal funds, 174 corrupt

officials have returned to face trial, with 1.9 billion yuan (\$291 million) confiscated with the judicial assistance of foreign agencies.

Cargo spacecraft passes fast-docking operation

China's cargo spacecraft Tianzhou 1 completed an automated fast-docking operation with the Tiangong II space laboratory on Sept 12, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

Tianzhou 1 began its approach to the space lab at 5:24 pm and spent six and a half hours for the docking, which was completed at 11:58 pm, the agency said in a news release.

It was the third docking sequence between the two spacecraft and the first that was done with the fast-docking technology. The previous two dockings took about two days each.

The mission was intended to verify the cargo spacecraft's fast-docking capability, which is important to the construction and operation of China's space station, the

agency said, adding that Tianzhou 1 will conduct a third refueling with Tiangong II before falling back to Earth.

UNAIDS asks China to make drugs in Africa

The head of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) has called on China to boost prevention and control in Africa by encouraging the country's drugmakers to open production hubs on the continent.

Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, said the central government should use the China-Africa Development Fund to mobilize key pharmaceutical companies to invest in manufacturing hubs covering many African countries, which will help create a "viable and sustainable" market. At the same time, medicines for HIV and AIDS produced in China and used by Chinese should be prequalified by the World Health Organization for use in Africa, he added.

National Games bring sports closer to public

The 13th National Games in Tianjin, North China, concluded with a bang on Sept 8 after bringing the public closer to the athletic mainstream, with the country pledging to promote mass fitness through the quadrennial gala.

China's determination on sports reform was highlighted by President Xi Jinping's attendance at the opening ceremony on Aug 27 and Premier Li Keqiang's participation in the Sept 8 closing ceremony, at which Li said: "I now declare the closing of the 13th National Games of the People's Republic of China."

After the torch was extinguished to signal the successful conclusion of the games, the National Games flag was handed over to Hu Heping, governor of Shaanxi, where the next games will be hosted in Xi'an, capital of the northwestern province, in 2021.



Athletes pose with mascots of the 13th National Games during the closing ceremony on Sept 8 in Tianjin, North China. WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY