

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“To us, this spells both indispensable responsibilities and huge opportunities.”



JACK MA, chairman of Internet giant Alibaba Group, saying General Secretary Xi Jinping's speech at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China gives the economy new impetus to soar through increased innovation and a wave of entrepreneurship.

ESTEEMING VIRTUES

“A tree you can barely get your arms around grows from a tiny shoot. A nine-story tower begins as a heap of earth. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

Scroll 34: Lao Zi

Editor's note: This is an extract from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*, based on 360 passages excerpted from the original compilation of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. *Qunshu Zhiyao* or *The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, commissioned by Emperor Tang Taizong of the Tang Dynasty in the seventh century, contains advice, methods and historical notes on the successes and failures of the imperial governments of China. Today it continues to be relevant as a source of inspiration for self-improvement, family management and interpersonal relations.

Navy's hospital ship makes stop in Angola

China's naval hospital ship made its first visit to Angola on Oct 19 to provide free medical services and humanitarian aid, the Defense Ministry said.

The CNS *Daishandao*, also known as *Peace Ark*, made the eight-day goodwill visit to the southwestern African country as part of its first voyage around the continent, code-named Harmonious Mission 2017.

The ship visited other African countries, including Djibouti, Sierra Leone, Gabon and Congo. Mozambique, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste in Southeast Asia, will also be visited during the 155-day mission.

“This mission is an important military diplomacy event that can test and sharpen our medical ship's overseas capability,” Ding Haichun, deputy-commissar of the People's Liberation Army Navy, said at the ship's departure ceremony in July.



Guan Bolin (center), the mission commander of China's naval hospital ship, *Peace Ark*, greets well-wishers after the vessel arrived at the port of Luanda in Angola on Oct 19. The ship, which can handle major surgeries, provided eight days of free medical services and humanitarian aid to local residents. Chinese doctors also assisted patients in hospitals.

JIANG SHAN / XINHUA

Facility to find ripples from the Big Bang

China is building a facility to detect primordial gravitational waves — tiny ripples in the fabric of space-time that were generated during the birth of the universe.

The facility is located 5,250 meters above sea level in Ngari prefecture, in the western part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, where the air is thin and dry. “(It is) an ideal place to detect possibly the weakest type of gravitational waves,” said Zhang Xinmin, the project's lead scientist.

Its first telescope is set to be completed by the end of 2019, and the facility will be operational in 2020, said Zhang.

“It will be the world's highest observatory for primordial gravitational waves,” he said, adding that there are only four ideal locations on Earth suitable to detect such waves. The other three are in Antarctica, Chile's Atacama Desert and Greenland.

Jointly developed satellite almost ready

Chinese and French space scientists are working in Beijing on the final assembly of their first jointly developed satellite, which is due for launch in the second half of 2018 to assist in oceanographical research.

Based on China's CAST 2000 satellite platform, which has been applied

to dozens of satellites successfully, the China-France Oceanography Satellite, known as CFOSAT, will be equipped with two major high-tech instruments — French-developed surface waves investigation and monitoring radar, and a Chinese-developed wind scatterometer.

The China National Space Administration said in a news release that the French-developed parts were delivered to their Chinese partner in August and the two nations' science teams are working together on the final assembly in Beijing.

The satellite will operate at an orbit 500 kilometers above Earth for three years, according to the administration.

Regulators approve Ebola virus vaccine

China's top food and drug authority announced on Oct 20 that it has approved the country's first vaccine for the Ebola virus disease.

This makes China the third country, after the United States and Russia, with vaccines available to combat the deadly infectious disease, the China Food and Drug Administration said.

The vaccine, named recombinant Ebola virus disease vaccine (adeno-

virus type 5 vector), is available in powder, and, compared with liquid vaccines in the other two countries, is more stable. This highlights its advantages in transportation for use in tropical regions like Africa.

The most serious outbreak of the disease, which hit West Africa in 2014, caused at least 11,300 deaths, according to the administration.

Machines take over jobs in cotton fields

Machines are replacing hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who pick cotton in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the nation's biggest cotton production base.

At this time of year, Xinjiang's growers usually begin hiring workers to pick the crop. However, 116,000 hectares of cotton fields in Shawan county have already been harvested using machines.

“In the past, the cotton harvest lasted at least 45 days from October to November. Now, the machines can harvest a 15-hectare cotton field in a day,” said Lin Hongru, head of Caohu village.

One machine can do the work of 2,000 manual laborers every day, he said.

“The cotton harvest was once the busiest time of the year. Cotton growers in my village hired migrant workers from Gansu, Sichuan and Henan provinces to help. People worked in the fields from dawn to dusk,” Lin said.

Global talent flocking to China, says report

China is becoming attractive to global talent on an unprecedented level because of the nation's economic size and vibrancy, according to a report released on Oct 21 by US business magazine *Forbes*.

The 2018 Global Talent Mobility and Wealth Management Report predicts the country will be a major exchange hub for global talent flow by 2022.

“By that time, China will be not only the largest export country of students studying abroad, but also a major destination for global talent to settle down,” said Russell Flannery, Shanghai bureau chief of *Forbes China*.

It is the third year in a row the report has been jointly released by *Forbes* and Wailian Overseas Consulting Group, a Shanghai-based investment and immigration company.



China Daily Asia Weekly's circulation is audited by BPA Worldwide

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