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A simple solution delivers clean water in South Asia

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ties in breaking ice and resisting extreme cold," Wu Gang, from the Marine Design and Research Institute of China in Shanghai, said.

"It will be able to break ice about 3 meters thick and withstand -45 C, which means it can stay for a long time in polar regions," he said.

The new type of research ice-breaker will be assigned long-term scientific expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctica, helping other ships enter polar regions and responding to emergencies in ice-covered areas.

Though some heavy-duty polar icebreakers are nuclear-powered, this new ship will use a conventional propulsion system, Wu said.

## Chengdu to be key Central city by 2020

Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, aims to develop itself into a National Central City by 2020, and it eventually plans to become a sustainable world city by 2050, according to a draft planning document.

National Central Cities, a concept first proposed in 2005, are metropolises meant to lead, develop and perform tasks on a large and effective scale in political, economic and cultural areas.

The plan for Chengdu was drafted in August as a pilot project of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

According to the plan, Chengdu also wants to develop into a world-class garden city.

The metropolitan area, including the city's downtown, satellite cities and suburbs, will reach a size comparable to leading global counterparts such as New York, Tokyo and Paris.

## Hangzhou to attract, retain foreign talent

Hangzhou has rolled out a new wave of policies to attract and retain international talent, as the eastern Chinese city seeks to emulate better known metropolises such as Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Foreign professionals working in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang province, will benefit from favorable policies in applying for permanent residence, entry-exit visas and temporary residence permits, city officials said on March 7.

Entrepreneurs from overseas



**Thousands of people** dine together after the Dabu parade in Dongguan, South China's Guangdong province, on March 6. The parade, named after the village it originated in, takes place annually on the 19th day of the first month in the lunar calendar. More than 30,000 people gathered for the feast, which was certified as a Guinness World Record for the biggest banquet of *poon choi*, a traditional Cantonese-style dish. CHEN FAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

who introduce projects compatible with the city's long-term industrial vision may be eligible for subsidies of up to 5 million yuan (\$789,000), with the maximum subsidy capped at 100 million yuan for projects deemed especially meritorious.

In addition, an international entrepreneurship park will be established, with qualified entrepreneurs eligible for startup subsidies of up to 5 million yuan. Important technological projects may receive up to 3 million yuan in direct funding and tax benefits.

## Northeast bullet train section begins trial

The Liaoning section of the Beijing-Shenyang high-speed railway began its first trial run on March 1, testing the line's power supply equipment, according to project officials.

The railway linking Beijing

and Shenyang, Northeast China's Liaoning province, is about 700 kilometers long, and trains will run at speeds of up to 350 kilometers per hour. The line will cut travel time between Beijing and Shenyang from 4.5 hours to 2.5 hours.

The project, which costs 124.5 billion yuan (\$20 billion), was launched in July 2014 as part of the Beijing-Harbin high-speed railway. It is considered a vital link connecting Beijing with Northeast China.

It is also the only part of China's high-speed rail network — comprising four north-south lines and four east-west lines — that remains unfinished.

## US-driven trade war will have 'no winners'

China does not intend to become embroiled in a trade war with the United States, and the two sides have agreed to continue communi-

cating on trade issues in the near future, which in turn will create conditions for further cooperation, senior Chinese officials said on March 4.

The comments were made as the recently announced intention of the US to impose tariffs has heightened global concerns over potential trade confrontations, particularly those between the world's two largest economies.

Although Beijing does not want a trade war with the US, it "will never sit by and watch while its rights and interests are infringed upon", Zhang Yesui, spokesman for the first session of the 13th National People's Congress, said at a news conference in Beijing.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Li Baodong said: "There is no winner in a trade war." China hopes the US will comply with international rules, particularly those of the World Trade Organization, Li said.

## Nanorobots created to fight cancer tumors

Chinese scientists say they have created and tested the world's first autonomous DNA nanorobots to combat cancerous tumors, paving the way for potentially revolutionary breakthroughs in the treatment of malignancies.

Scientists from the Beijing-based National Center for Nanoscience and Technology led the research and cooperated with scientists from Arizona State University in the United States in upgrading the design of the nanorobots. The scientific study was published last month in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*.

A nanorobot refers to a designed system that can perform a specific task on a microscopic scale.

According to researcher Ding Baoquan, the DNA-based nanorobot has a tube-shaped structure with a diameter of about 19 nanometers and a length of about 90 nanometers.

"It is about 5,000 times smaller than the tip of a needle," Ding said.

## Fishing moratorium to last until June 30

The annual fishing ban on China's rivers from March 1 to June 30 began on Feb 28. The ban covers the main streams, tributaries and lakes along the Yangtze, Huaihe, Minjiang and Pearl rivers.

Nearly 10,000 people and 1,000 vessels from 21 provincial regions will work to prevent illegal fishing and related activities during the moratorium.

Local governments will provide compensation to fishermen who are adversely affected by the ban.

The fishing restriction aims to protect aquatic resources and biodiversity, authorities said. Overfishing threatens resources over the long term.

"The ban period covers the spawning season for most aquatic life in the rivers, which will boost aquatic resources and help maintain the ecological balance," said Chen Shi, an official in East China's Jiangsu province.

The annual fishing ban was initiated in 2002 on the Yangtze River, the country's longest, and on the Pearl River in 2011.

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