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toms data showed on Oct 12.

Trade volume jumped by 9.9 percent year-on-year to 22.28 trillion yuan (\$3.22 trillion) in the first three quarters, due to the country's diversified trade activities with emerging economies and the fast growth of trade by private companies, the data showed.

Exports jumped by 6.5 percent year-on-year during the same period to 11.86 trillion yuan, while imports grew by 14.1 percent to 10.42 trillion yuan, resulting in a trade surplus of 1.44 trillion yuan — narrower by 28.3 percent year-on-year, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced.

Li Kuiwen, spokesman for the GAC, said the fast trade growth in the first nine months has laid a solid foundation for the whole year's performance.

#### Xi's book on shared future published

A book of discourses on upholding and advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has been published by Central Party Literature Press.

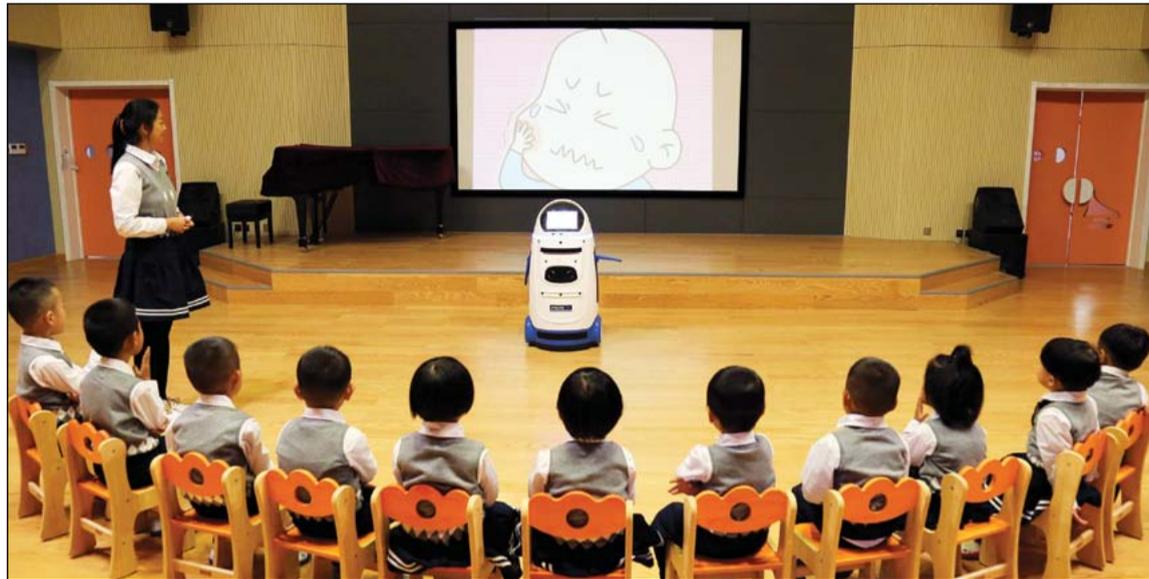
The book, compiled by the Party history and literature research institution of the CPC Central Committee, will be distributed across the country.

The book contains 85 discourses selected from documents, including speeches and instructions given by Xi between Jan 28, 2013, when he chaired the third group study session of the political bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee, and June 22 of this year, when he made a speech at the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs.

#### Financial system more resilient: PBOC chief

The resilience of China's financial system has improved as the government effectively tamed credit expansion despite ongoing global economic downside risks like heightened trade tensions, according to the central bank governor.

Overall leverage level in China's economy has stabilized since last year, when the country actively pushed forward an orderly delever-



A robot leads a kindergarten class in Boxing county, in East China's Shandong province, on Oct 15. The robot is able to have interactive conversations and answer questions from the children. CHEN BIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

aging process, Yi Gang, governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), stressed at meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee in Bali, Indonesia, held from Oct 12 to 14.

The macro leveraging level is usually measured by a ratio of the combined outstanding debt of the corporate, government and household sectors to GDP. It was 250.3 percent in 2017, up 2.7 percentage points from a year earlier, a slower growth from the average seen between 2012 and 2016, according to the PBOC.

#### Promote multilateral trade, Li tells SCO

Premier Li Keqiang urged member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Oct 12 to further enhance multilateral trade cooperation and facilitate trade and investment liberalization, unleashing bigger potential for common development.

Li made the remarks while addressing the 17th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. The meeting is an annual gathering of the bloc to expand all-round cooperation and promote stability in the region.

At a time when economic globalization is facing twists and turns and the multilateral trade system is shaken, SCO member countries, as beneficiaries of global trade liberalization, should continue to

firmly support trade liberalization and a rule-based multilateral trade system, Li said.

China suggests accelerating the start of feasibility studies for an SCO free trade zone, he said.

#### China completes part of Russian rail bridge

The main body of the Chinese part of the first cross-river railway bridge connecting the country with Russia was completed on Oct 13, the construction contractor said.

The bridge across the Heilongjiang River, known as the Amur River in Russia, will connect the city of Tongjiang, in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province, with Nizhneleninskoye in Russia.

The main bridge spans 2,215 meters, with 1,886 meters of that standing in China. Construction of the bridge, which has a designed annual throughput capacity of 21 million metric tons, began in February 2014.

Liu Weiquan, head of China's bridge construction headquarters, said the Chinese side only has a small number of railway tracks to lay before full completion and the Russian side is also speeding up construction.

#### Quake warning system to be in place by 2023

China will build a nationwide earthquake early warning system by 2023, said a senior emergency management official.

It has already finished testing an earthquake alert system for high-speed trains, and the system is expected to extend to the country's entire high-speed rail network, said Zheng Guoguang, vice-minister of emergency management.

The early warning system, known as the National Seismic Intensity Rapid Reporting and Early Warning project, was approved by central authorities early last year.

It will include more than 15,000 observation stations across the country, at a cost of almost 1.9 billion yuan (\$274 million).

#### Money supply, credit growth boost stability

China's money supply growth exceeded expectations last month and credit increased, further bolstering stable economic growth, the central bank said on Oct 17.

In September, the broad money supply, known as M2, increased by 8.3 percent from a year earlier, up from annual growth of 8.2 percent in August, according to the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

New loans stood at 1.38 trillion yuan (\$199 billion) in September, up from 1.28 trillion yuan in August. The outstanding yuan-denominated loans had reached 133.27 trillion yuan by the end of the third quarter, a year-on-year growth of 13.2 percent, the PBOC reported.

The country's real economy, supported by domestic nonfinancial corporations and local households, absorbed 2.21 trillion yuan from the

financial sector last month, resulting in the monthly increment in total social financing.

#### Li attends opening of Asia-Europe meeting

Premier Li Keqiang attended the opening ceremony of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting summit in Brussels, Belgium, on Oct 18 as part of China's commitment to intensifying the partnership between the two continents.

This year's summit, with the theme "Europe and Asia: global partners for global challenges", was expected to bring together leaders from over 50 Asian and European countries and representatives from international organizations.

"It will be a meeting of minds, all looking for ways to better safeguard a rules-based international order, at a time when globalization is under attack," said Nicolas Chapuis, the European Union's envoy to Beijing.

He said the meeting was a good chance to bolster China-EU cooperation.

"Because of the general context where globalization is in question, and China is facing new challenges, we ... want to further work with China to bring stability, and to bring prosperity to both sides," he said.

#### Fishing to be banned in Yangtze by 2020

The State Council, China's Cabinet, has issued a guideline to strengthen the protection of aquatic organisms in the Yangtze River that includes a year-round ban on all fishing in the river by 2020.

Yu Kangzhen, vice-minister of agriculture and rural affairs, said on Oct 17 the guideline is aimed at increasing the diversity of aquatic organism species, aiding the recovery of fish resources, and improving the living environment of aquatic organisms in the Yangtze.

According to the guideline, fishing, apart from fish farming, will be banned in the Yangtze and tributaries and lakes connected to it by 2020.

By 2035, the ecology of the Yangtze will be significantly improved, the habitats of aquatic organisms will be fully protected, aquatic resources will increase significantly, and its ecological functions will be effectively restored, the guideline said.

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