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Deputy CEO of drinks firm has thirst for expansion

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and better protect donors' and the public's rights to access information, participate in society activities and supervise them, according to the plan, which was approved by the State Council, China's Cabinet.

The plan states that the society will adhere to the principle of public service, including emergency rescue and relief, humanitarian assistance, blood donation and organ donation. The society will also give better play to the role of the internet in facilitating its work, it added.

## Li: Beijing, Ankara are vital partners

Premier Li Keqiang called on Dec 4 for the promotion of balanced trade with Turkey and further aligning the Belt and Road Initiative with Turkey's development strategies.

Li made the statement when meeting with Binali Yildirim, speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, in Beijing.

As emerging economies, China and Turkey have been vital partners to one another, Li said. The premier noted that President Xi Jinping met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Nov 30 on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Both sides should continue to respect each other's core interests and major concerns under the principles of mutual respect and equal treatment, Li said. He called for strengthened cooperation at diverse levels and in various fields, including legislative exchanges, to promote the continuous and healthy development of bilateral ties.

## Beijing removing bad English translations

Do not slide when you see a sign in a washroom telling you to "slide carefully" as it actually means "caution wet floor".

Likewise, do not look for a bowl when a bank sign asks you to "wait outside a rice noodle". Instead, search for a yellow line, or "1-meter line", which is written the same as "a (serving of) rice noodle" in Chinese.

Such mind-boggling mistranslations, once commonplace in Beijing, are quickly disappearing from the Chinese capital's public



**Shi Xiuying**, 92, pays her respects to relatives who died in 1937 during the Nanjing Massacre, at the Memorial Hall for the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, on Dec 3. Survivors, including Shi, and relatives of the victims offered flowers and read out memorial letters to remember the deceased at the hall in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province, at the start of commemorative activities leading up to the national remembrance day on Dec 13.

CUI XIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

signs thanks to a new correction campaign.

Beijing's Foreign Affairs Office said it has vetted over 2 million Chinese characters on signs and notices that have English versions since a national standard on English translations in public service took effect on Dec 1 last year.

## Confucius Institutes reach 548 worldwide

The delivery of plaques to 10 new Confucius Institutes at the opening ceremony of the 13th Confucius Institute Conference in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan province, on Dec 4, means that 30 new Confucius Institutes have been built this year.

The 10 new Confucius Institutes are in Dominican Republic, Mauritania, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Antigua and Barbuda, Papua New Guinea, Palestine, El Salvador, and Burkina Faso, the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) said.

There are now 548 Confucius Institutes, 1,193 primary and high school Confucius Classrooms and 5,665 teaching sites established in 154 countries and regions. A total of 47,000 full-time and part-

time teachers from China and other countries teach 1.86 million students with various academic backgrounds face to face, as well as 810,000 registered online students.

## Manufacturing growth better than expected

Manufacturing activity in China witnessed better-than-expected growth in November, according to the latest survey by Caixin, adding some promising signs to the economy although downward pressure persists.

Analysts expected more easing measures to be rolled out early next year to boost the manufacturing sector.

Buoyed by a recovery in domestic demand, the purchasing managers' index (PMI) accelerated to 50.2 in November from 50.1 the previous month, exceeding market expectations of a reading of 50.1, according to the private survey on Dec 3.

The reading stood above the boom-or-bust line of 50 that separates expansion from contraction.

The indicator reflects a slightly different scenario compared to official data released earlier, as the manufacturing PMI for November stood at 50, which was 0.2 per-

centage points lower than that of October, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

## Black Friday shoppers go for Chinese brands

Black Friday, a shopping extravaganza on the Western retail calendar, has become an occasion for Chinese brands to shine, as overseas buyers are increasingly embracing cross-border e-commerce channels for quality made-in-China products.

Average per-customer transactions doubled during the promotional day on Nov 23 via AliExpress, a Chinese business-to-customer site that exports to over 220 economies, the company said on Dec 4, without disclosing sales figures.

Also enjoying twofold growth was the transaction volume from the United States and a number of developed economies across Europe. They accounted for more than 90 percent of overall revenue generated during the holiday season, said Wang Mingqiang, general manager of AliExpress, a subsidiary of e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Big-ticket items, including consumer electronics, furniture, automobiles and smart devices, were

among major categories that saw transaction volume triple compared with the same time last year.

## Experts recognized for work on Angkor Wat

The Cambodian government awarded honorary medals to three Chinese cultural heritage conservators in Siem Reap on Dec 4 for their outstanding contributions to the protection of Angkor Wat.

The three conservators from the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage in Beijing — Xu Yan, Wang Yuanlin and Gu Jun — were leading experts in the China-led renovation of Ta Keo, a 46,000-square-meter temple dating back to the 10th century in Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Siem Reap.

The renovation began in 2010 and was completed earlier this year.

The medals were bestowed by Phoeuring Sackona, Cambodia's minister of culture and fine arts, during a two-day conference of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor, which ended in Siem Reap on Dec 5.

## Services sector index rebounds in November

Growth in the services sector in November notched up its fastest pace in the past five months, underpinning a modest expansion of the world's second-largest economy, according to a private survey released on Dec 5.

The Caixin/Markit services purchasing managers' index (PMI), reflecting expansion in the business activities of the services sector, rebounded by 3 percentage points to 53.8 in November.

With the steepest growth of the services sector since July and a stable manufacturing production for the second month in a row, the Caixin/Markit Composite PMI picked up to 51.9 in November from October's 28-month low of 50.5. The 50-mark separates growth from contraction. Both indexes were released by Caixin Media on Dec 5.

"The rebound in the composite index showed that economic downturn pressures notably eased in November," said Zhong Zhengsheng, director of macroeconomic analysis at CEBM Group.

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