

CHINA

Coordination key to global recovery hopes

Forum told resilience of international supply chains is critically important

By ZHANG YUE
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Enhancing communication and macroeconomic policy coordination to cope with potential debt threats and a high level of inflation will be key to global economic recovery next year, experts and former officials said.

Joining the annual meeting of the International Finance Forum via video link on Saturday, Gita Gopinath, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, said countries are experiencing wide differences in their pace of economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the world is facing notable downward pressure.

She suggested all countries expedite COVID-19 vaccination and make policy adjustments to cope with inflationary pressure in light of their domestic conditions.

Monetary policies should be crafted in light of a country's specific recovery condition, while credit must be maintained for both the monetary and fiscal policy frameworks, Gopinath said. As global economic recovery is not yet stable, she urged central banks of all countries to enhance communication and coordination on monetary policies to avoid panicking the market.

"Keeping international supply chains unimpeded and resilient to make room for innovative and unconventional economic policies is critically important for a steady global economic recovery," Zhou Xiaochuan, former governor of the People's Bank of China, China's

central bank, said during the weekend event.

His view was echoed by Jin Liqun, president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, who urged a multilateral approach in coping with challenges in supply chains and climate change.

Former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd, also speaking at the event via video, warned that the large debts accumulated by countries, particularly developing ones, because of the COVID-19 pandemic will be a truly pressing issue for global recovery.

The outlook for the Chinese economy is expected to be brightened by stronger domestic demand and its expanding middle-income consumer base. Huang Qifan, former mayor of Chongqing and chairman of the Institute of Internet Industry's advisory board on industry transformation at Tsinghua University, said via video that the Chinese economy will demonstrate some new features.

"The country is fostering a stronger, more resilient and globally competitive industrial chain, and the population of the middle-income group in China will reach 800 million by the year 2035, fostering greater consumption capacity for the next few years," he said.

The weekend event issued a report on global finance and development that forecast 5.9 percent growth for the global economy this year and 4.7 percent growth next year. It projected that global consumer price inflation will reach 4.5 percent this year before moderating to 3.8 percent next year.

PATH TO GLORY | RURAL VITALIZATION

Provinces team up on education, healthcare

By LUO WANGSHU
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Assistance from Guangdong province is helping less-developed Guizhou province tackle weaknesses in education and medical services and contributing to the vitalization of rural areas.

In August, just before the start of the new school semester, a team comprising 10 of the best teachers in Huizhou, Guangdong, headed to less-developed regions in Guizhou to start a one-year teaching program to boost education in those areas.

It is part of a national campaign to vitalize villages to consolidate China's eradication of absolute poverty.

Guangdong, on the south coast, is providing aid to Guizhou, in southwestern China, during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period. Guizhou's rural vitalization commission said the two provinces had worked together to come up with an effective paired assistance mechanism and had decided to target shortcomings in medical services and education.

In July, a five-year healthcare collaboration framework was signed. In August, education departments from the two provinces also signed a collaboration framework to pair schools and provide aid to 100 schools in Guizhou from 2021 to 2025.

Hospitals and schools in Guangdong will take advantage of their high-quality resources to help Guizhou build model hospitals and schools, with paired schools and hospitals to be established.

Medical experts from Dongguan, Guangdong, held a free clinic activity in Tongren, Guizhou, in September. Doctors and medical professionals conducted preliminary screening and diagnosis for

common and chronic diseases and offered people suggestions on further treatment.

Medical professionals also promoted health knowledge in areas such as epidemic control and medication safety.

Apart from on-site assistance, long-distance aid has also been provided in hospitals.

In October, medical professionals from Anshun Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital in Guizhou and the Third Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University discussed a rare placental disease via livestreaming as part of a multidisciplinary program to help women and children with rare diseases receive high-quality medical counseling from the Guangzhou team.

Also in October, the Huangpu district in Guangzhou, Guangdong's provincial capital, and Sandu Sui autonomous county in Guizhou renewed an education collaboration program that sends junior high school graduates from ethnic groups in Sandu to spend high school at Guangzhou No 86 Middle School. The Huangpu district government covers all expenses for students in the program. According to the renewed plan, the program will last to 2023.

The program, launched in 2018, has trained about 200 students. All 46 students in the first class qualified to enter four-year university degree programs in the national college entrance exam in June.

Guizhou's rural vitalization commission said aid projects have helped 1,432 students from rural areas in Guizhou study in Guangdong.

Paired school relationships have been formed between 722 schools in Guangdong and 779 schools in Guizhou.



Winter tradition

A tourist wearing waders displays a fish he caught during the draining of a pond at the Xixi Wetland Park in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Saturday. The water is traditionally drained early each winter to allow for dredging and fishing, with the silt used for bank protection and tree planting.

DONG XUMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

Mainland Olympic athletes' visit sparks sports fever in Hong Kong

By LI BINGCUN,
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and CHEN SHUMAN in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's passion for sports hit new heights over the weekend thanks to a three-day visit by Chinese mainland Olympians that featured dazzling demonstrations of sports prowess, the sharing of inspiring stories, and fun interactions with local communities.

During their short tour, the mainland athletes shared the frustrations and triumphs behind their success, and won respect, love and support from Hong Kong residents.

Extending the tradition of mainland Olympic medalists visiting Hong Kong, a delegation comprised of 29 mainland athletes and three coaches from 12 sports who attended the Tokyo Olympic Games this year visited Hong Kong from Friday to Sunday.

The delegation included Asia's fastest man, Su Bingtian, who set a new Asian record in the men's 100m at the Tokyo Olympics, table tennis Grand Slam winner Ma Long, and Sun Yiwu, the first Chinese fencer to win an Olympic gold medal in individual women's epee.

After arriving in Hong Kong on Friday afternoon to an enthusiastic greeting by residents, the sports stars showcased their elite skills in sports including fencing, gymnastics, badminton, diving and swimming on Saturday and then staged a 90-minute variety show that evening.

About 5,300 Hong Kong residents got the chance to enjoy the Saturday performances, with most tickets snapped up in an hour. The demonstrations includ-

ed many eye-catching competitions, such as one between Ma and fellow mainland table tennis star Xu Xin, and trampoline and vault competitions between mainland and Hong Kong athletes.

Six members attended a sharing session at Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Sunday. The delegation also met with local athletes, sports groups and public service officials during the visit.

After wrapping up the visit on Sunday, the delegation started 14 days of quarantine in Zhuhai, Guangdong province. It will visit neighboring Macao from Dec 19 to 21.

In Hong Kong, the athletes shared stories of pursuing their dreams, their connections with Hong Kong, and gave encouragement to local youngsters.

Ma stressed the importance of confidence, self-discipline, a positive attitude, and communication with teammates and family members, all key factors to success for athletes. Xu talked about his bond with Hong Kong, where he won his first adult championship in 2009, while Su shared the inspiration he drew from his idol William So Wa-wai, a Hong Kong athlete who took part in five Paralympic Games, winning six gold medals, three silvers and three bronzes.

The athletes' visit inspired local residents. Tse Sa-mei, a 73-year-old Ma fan, was among the first people to arrive at Queen Elizabeth Stadium to see the Saturday demonstrations.

Tse expressed her wishes for the sports star to stay healthy and keep playing table tennis for the nation.

"Although he's already 33, I

hope he can continue playing, and earning glory and pride for the nation," Tse said, adding that her greatest wish is to see Ma take part in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Nine-year-old gymnast Hannah Wong said that communicating with the delegation face-to-face had made her very happy and she enjoyed their performance up close. She said they were role models and meeting them was a good learning opportunity.

After meeting with Ma and Xu on Sunday, Chau Wing-sze, a member of Hong Kong's table tennis team, says it was a very rare chance to communicate with Olympic champions in Hong Kong. Such exchanges will help local athletes improve their skills, she added.

Officials extended their gratitude for the delegation's visit. Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said the exchange activity was a living embodiment of the central government's care for Hong Kong that would help it better integrate with national development and bolster the national pride and identity of Hong Kong people.

Luo Huining, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said the continued endeavors of athletes have propelled the nation's development and prosperity.

Expressing pride in the delegation's outstanding performance at the Tokyo Olympics, he said he was grateful for the brilliant shows it presented to Hong Kong residents.

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XINHUA

Young volunteers share benefits of experiences

By CUI JIA
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Young volunteers around China shared the personal benefits of their involvement in a range of volunteering activities in an online event on Sunday, which was the 36th International Volunteer Day.

They said they hoped their stories would inspire more people to dedicate their time and expertise and become proud volunteers.

Representatives of young volunteers who have been busy helping to vitalize China's rural areas, fight the COVID-19 epidemic and teach in schools in less-developed western regions, as well as those who will serve at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, shared their experiences via video during a livestreaming event hosted by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and the Chinese Young Volunteers Association.

The three astronauts of China's Shenzhou XIII mission sent their greetings to young volunteers in a video sent from the orbiting Tian-gong space station.

"In recent years, young Chinese volunteers have been devoting themselves to epidemic control, poverty alleviation, rural vitalization, community development and emergency responses," Senior Colonel Wang Yaping, one of the astronauts,

said in the video. "They have shown a great sense of responsibility."

Senior Colonel Ye Guangfu, another astronaut, said he hoped that the young volunteers would carry forward the spirits of volunteerism — dedication, friendship, cooperation and development — and continue to serve the people.

According to a plan on young volunteers' work formulated by the league's central committee, China will have more than 100 million registered young volunteers by 2025.

In a video made by Olympic volunteers from Peking University, Jiang Yuxin, who will serve at the Ice Cube, where curling events will be held, said he had been surprised to see former volunteers at the Beijing 2008 Olympics who were now professionals training volunteers for next year's Games.

Jiang, a law student, has trained in venue operations and has learned about the sport of curling and how to serve people with disabilities. He also took part in test events in October.

"One of the stadiums at the university was a venue for Beijing 2008," he said. "Every time I see the logo of the Games on the stadium, it brings back memories of how Chinese people were passionate about the Games."

"Beijing 2022 will surely make young people feel proud about the



A volunteer who will serve at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics helps people experience floor curling in Beijing on Sunday at an event organized by Peking University to celebrate the 36th International Volunteer Day and pass on the spirits of volunteerism.

FANG FEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

country and fall in love with winter sports."

Jiang said he hopes the Beijing 2022 volunteers will impress the world with their enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication.

Dong Jiachen, another Olympic volunteer from Peking University who will serve at the Ice Cube, said volunteer work helps her connect with others and wider society, giving her an irreplaceable sense of accomplishment.

"I will try my best to be a Beijing

2022 volunteer who can solve problems efficiently and let visitors from home and abroad feel the warmth of China's young people," Dong said.

Jiang said doing volunteer work should be integrated with people's day-to-day life.

"After serving Beijing 2022, I will join the team of volunteer teachers and stay in schools in relatively less-developed western regions for a year," he said. "I believe I can gain a lot from different volunteering experiences."