

Art serving life

Xiamen's Luminous Festival a platform for groups seldom heard from LIFE, PAGE 10

Trump, Biden trade barbs on virus response

WORLD, PAGE 8

Energy on the go

Number of charging stations for electric vehicles on rise BUSINESS, PAGE 5



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Xi concept on ecology helps guide world

'Lucid waters' idea becomes role model for balancing economy, environment

By CAO DESHENG in Beijing and MA ZHENHUAN in Hangzhou

Fifteen years ago, when Xi Jinping was secretary of the Communist Party of China Zhejiang Provincial Committee, he proposed the concept of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" during a visit to Yucun village in the province's Anji county.

The idea reflects Xi's governance philosophy in pursuing the synergy between economic development and environmental protection. It was developed after Xi became the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee in November 2012, and has been translated into the practice of the building of an ecological civilization as part of the country's development strategy.

Dechen Tsering, United Nations Environment Program regional director and representative for Asia and the Pacific, said the balance between economic development and protection of ecosystems is not easy to achieve, but the aspiration of the "ecological civilization" that Xi advocates is to accomplish exactly this.

"China has done a lot of very important work on environmental issues to realize this ambition, and that's positive leadership the world can take inspiration from," Tsering said. "Especially at a time when we are dealing with environmental issues on all fronts — from climate change to pollution to biodiversity loss — we need countries like China to ... lead the international community in striking strong agreements that protect nature."

As a significant part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Xi's vision on building an ecological civilization calls for putting conservation and protection first to ensure the harmony between human and nature, and sticking to innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. It also regards a sound environment as the most inclusive benefit to people's well-being.

When President Xi returned to Yucun during an inspection tour of Zhejiang province in March, he again underlined the fundamental importance of ecological conservation in the country's sustainable development. He said that "the environment itself means the economy. If you protect the environment, you will receive rewards from the environment."

Under the guidance of Xi's Thought on ecological civilization, China has started to conduct central environmental inspections and has carried out guidelines to control air, water and soil pollution, published its own plans to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is implementing a national plan to tackle climate change.

Speaking at a national conference on environmental protection in May 2018, Xi said that with the Chinese economy transitioning from high-speed growth to high-quality development, the building of ecological civilization has entered a critical period — a period that requires more quality ecological goods to

See Model, page 3

New color scheme



Tel Aviv's city hall is lit with the colors of the United Arab Emirates flag on Thursday after Israel, the UAE and the United States announced that the two Middle Eastern nations would normalize relations and Israel would suspend annexation of Palestinian lands. JACK GUEZ / AFP See story, page 7

University's admissions offer out of this world

By ZHANG ZHIHAO zhangzhihao@chinadaily.com.cn

College admissions officers in China have jazzed up the offer packages sent to prospective freshmen this month with items ranging from fancy posters to motivational books. But one university's effort to entice high school graduates was, quite literally, out of this world.

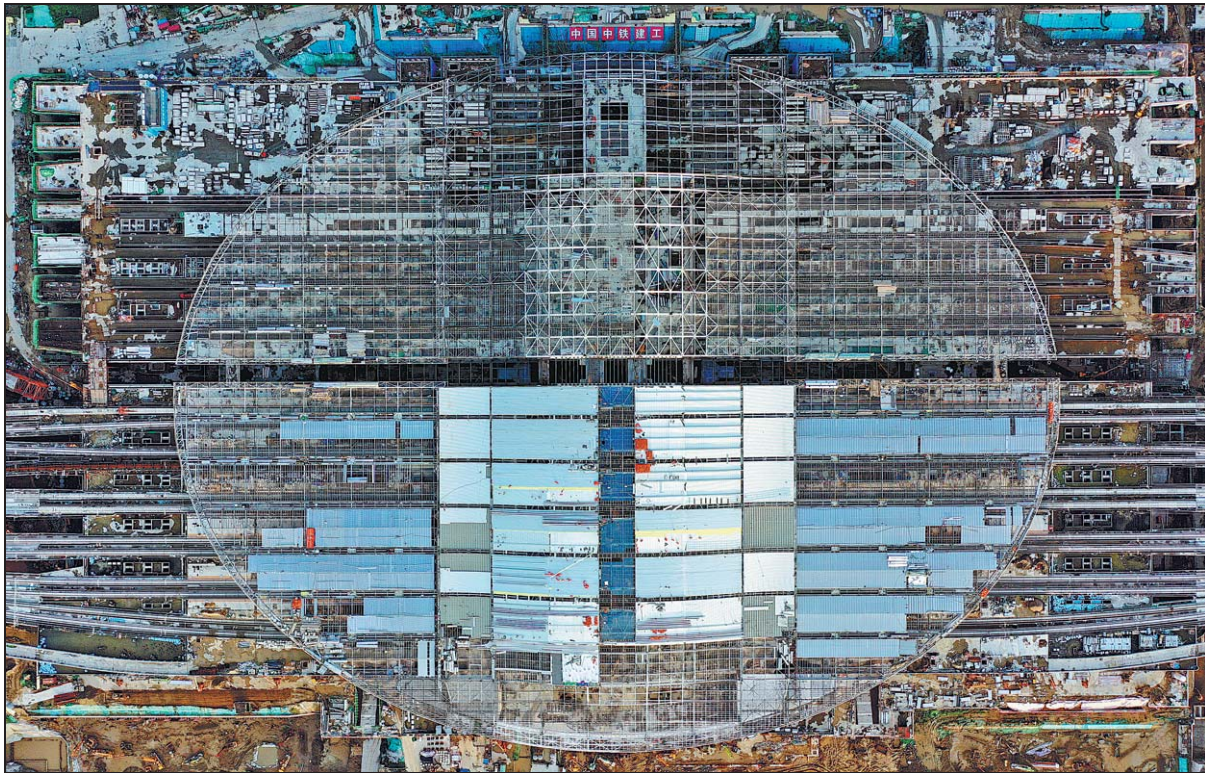
On Monday, prospective freshmen offered places at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences received a black vinyl disk with their offer letter containing the sounds of 15 pulsars — extremely dense and magnetic remnants of massive stars

deep in the universe that spin and shoot powerful jets of radiation from their poles.

Pulsars, also known as rotating neutron stars, are so dense that a teaspoon of matter from them would weigh over a billion metric tons, according to NASA. Since they emit bright, rotating streams of radiation, pulsars are often regarded as the lighthouses of the universe, with some scientists saying they could be used for navigation during interstellar travel.

Students and faculty from the university recorded the signals using the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope in Guizhou

RIGHT TRACK



Construction on the Xiong'an station of the Beijing-Xiong'an intercity railway is seen in an aerial view on Thursday. More than 100 major construction projects were announced this year for the Xiong'an New Area, and 70 had started by the end of July. MOU YU / XINHUA

Reforms expected to speed up to foster growth

By LI XIANG lixiang@chinadaily.com.cn

China saw stable growth recovery in July as monthly economic indicators continued to show improvement. Policymakers, meanwhile, will accelerate reforms and opening-up to foster new growth drivers for the rest of the year, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday.

The continuous economic rebound could make it less likely Beijing will roll out additional large-

scale stimulus measures, yet the policy stance will remain proactive and supportive to ensure the economy moves steadily out of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and severe floods in the southern regions, economists said.

China's industrial output expanded by 4.8 percent on a yearly basis in July while the country's fixed-asset investment, including manufacturing, infrastructure and property sectors, declined by 1.6 percent year-on-year from January to July, narrowing from the 3.1 percent

decline in the first six months, according to the NBS.

Retail sales dropped by 1.1 percent in July on a yearly basis, narrowing from the 1.8 percent decline in June. Sales of commercial goods for the first time returned to expansion mode this year, growing by 0.2 percent year-on-year in July as domestic consumption gradually recovers.

"The national economy has maintained its stable recovery in July as production and supply continued to recover, market demand gradually picked up, employment and prices

are generally stable and business confidence tended to strengthen," Fu Linghui, an NBS spokesman, said at a news conference in Beijing.

The recovery has been helped by supportive government policies, including the increased central government budget deficit, special treasuries of 1 trillion yuan (\$144 billion) for epidemic control and prevention and a pledge of 2.5 trillion yuan in tax and fee cuts for companies, Fu said.

See Economy, page 2

US attack on Confucius Institute criticized

By MO JINGXI in Beijing and ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington

Beijing on Friday urged Washington to stop politicizing a bilateral educational project, cease interfering in normal people-to-people exchanges and stop undermining mutual trust and cooperation after the United States designated the Confucius Institute US Center as a "foreign mission" of China.

"The US move is an act that demonizes and stigmatizes the normal functioning of the program. We deplore and firmly oppose it," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a regular news briefing in Beijing, adding that China reserves the right to respond.

In a statement on Thursday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the CIUS "an entity advancing Beijing's global propaganda and malign influence campaign on US campuses and K-12 classrooms".

Zhao said Pompeo cited a lot of baseless reports that revealed his

intention of suppressing the program under unfounded pretexts. He added that certain people in the US, out of ideological bias and for selfish gains, have been blatantly obstructing the normal functioning of China-US cooperative programs for awhile now.

"This is totally unacceptable," Zhao said, noting that all the Confucius Institutes in the US are jointly established with US universities in accordance with a voluntary application process.

"Their functioning has been open and transparent, they have been observing local laws and university rules and they have contributed to China-US people-to-people exchanges and have been welcomed by host universities and people in the US," he added.

The Confucius Institute serves as a bridge and bond for people across the world to learn Chinese, know China and enhance their educational and cultural exchanges with China.

Altogether, there are 65 institutes on US university campuses and approximately another 500 class-

room programs affiliated with the institute in the country. While the US government is not closing the Confucius Institutes, it said that it would ask that universities, again, take a hard look at what those institutes are doing on their campuses.

The US designation came nearly two months after it designated the US operations of four Chinese media outlets as foreign missions. Before that, five Chinese media outlets had already been so designated.

"We disagree with the US State Department's designation and hope to clear up this fundamental misunderstanding," the CIUS said in a statement Thursday.

The CIUS is devoted to global education services and intercultural opportunities for US communities, promoting the "simple ideal" of US students learning the Chinese language, a goal that is shared by many educators and students across the US, according to the statement.

See Target, page 3

Nation works to accelerate superfast 5G technology

By FAN FEIFEI fanfeifei@chinadaily.com.cn

China is ratcheting up efforts to accelerate the construction of new infrastructure, with a key focus on bolstering the development of superfast 5G technology and supporting its innovative applications, according to the country's top industry regulator.

"The rollout of China's 5G base stations has exceeded expectations, as the country had 88 million 5G users whose smartphones were connected to the wireless network by the end of July," said Xin Guobin, vice-minister of industry and information technology, in an interview with China Central Television.

Xin said more efforts should be made to propel the application of 5G in various sectors, including smart healthcare, virtual private networks for enterprises, smart grids, vehicle-road coordination system and the internet of vehicles.

China leads the world in 5G development. Figures from the

See 5G, page 2



Disk with the sounds of pulsars is included with offer letters by the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ally experience the scientific progress the nation has made, and encourage them to answer the call of duty to remain curious and eager to learn and explore science and innovation.

Li Di, FAST's chief scientist and a

professor at the university, said the latest and best data collected by the telescope had been presented to new students as a gift.

"The best astronomical instruments are actually built for the next generation of astronomers," Li said in a welcome video to freshmen. "Science is a craft, and the best telescope should be wielded by the most meticulous and capable scientists. This responsibility will rest on your shoulders."

Among those intrigued by the innovative offer package was Cheng Chuanyu, a lawyer based in Chengdu, Sichuan province, who called the echoes of the pulsars "true music from heaven".

See Offers, page 3

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TOP NEWS

NBS: Employment 'generally stable'

However, nation recorded more jobless youth in July amid graduation season

By **HOU LIQIANG**
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China recorded a higher youth unemployment rate in July, a traditional graduation period with a record number of university graduates expected this year, amid "a generally stable" employment situation, said the National Bureau of Statistics.

From January to July, a total of 6.71 million new jobs were created in the country's urban areas, down 1.96 million year-on-year, the bureau announced on Friday.

The surveyed unemployment rate in urban areas in July stood at 5.7 percent, which equals that of June but was 0.4 percentage point

higher year-on-year.

While the surveyed unemployment rate for people aged 25 to 59 fell by 0.2 percentage point to 5 percent, the rate for youth aged 16 to 24 went up, it said, without disclosing additional details.

Bureau spokesman Fu Linghui said the unemployment rate for people aged 20 to 24 with three years of college education or higher degrees went up by 3.3 percentage points from last year. Most of this group are fresh university graduates.

"The employment situation is generally stable," Fu said at a news conference organized by the State Council Information Office on Friday.

He also said the employment situation has generally improved for

migrant workers. The number of migrant workers who have left home for work reached 177.5 million in July, 97.3 percent the number recorded in the same period last year.

The youth unemployment rate increase occurred as university students graduated and entered the job market.

The Ministry of Education said a record high 8.74 million university students will graduate this year — 400,000 more than in 2019 — amid a "a grim and complicated employment situation" affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic slowdown.

The ministry planned to expand postgraduate enrollment by 189,000 from last year and provide three-year degree holders with the opportunity to enroll in programs for bachelor degrees by providing an additional 322,000 spots to cope with the situa-

tion, said Wang Hui, who heads the ministry's college students department, during a news conference in May.

According to a 2020 report on university graduate employment, recruitment demand for graduates across the country stood at 12.37 million in the first quarter, 2.49 million less than the same period last year.

In an interview with several media outlets earlier this month, Zhang Jinan, who leads the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, said, "The task of stabilizing employment remains arduous with many uncertainties," especially since many graduates entered the job market this month and last.

The country, however, has experienced a steady recovery in its job market following general containment of the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted.

He said the number of new jobs added each month in urban areas has increased from just 390,000 in February to around 1 million in recent months.

"The gradual recovery of employment in China beat expectations and was a hard-earned result" thanks to a series of measures the government had rolled out, such as cutting social insurance contributions paid by enterprises, he said.

According to this year's Government Work Report, China aims to add over 9 million new urban jobs and keep the surveyed urban unemployment rate around 6 percent this year.

Last year, about 13.5 million new jobs were created in urban areas, 2.5 million more than the annual target. The country registered a surveyed unemployment rate of 3.62 percent at the end of the year.

US hit over declaration on 5G with Slovenia

By **ZHOU JIN**
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The development of Hong Kong into a global financial center was achieved through efforts by generations in the region and supported by China's deepening reform and opening-up, and cannot be discounted by any country, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday, while also criticizing Washington's attempt to place restrictions on Chinese technology.

Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian made the remarks at a daily news briefing after United States President Donald Trump said in a televised interview on Thursday that Hong Kong "can never succeed" under Chinese control and its markets will "go to hell".

Trump's comments come as Sino-US relations continue to sour on various issues, including Hong Kong-related matters. In July, the US signed into law the so-called Hong Kong Autonomy Act and revoked the special administrative region's preferential trade treatment.

The practice of politicizing the 5G issue is not conducive to the development of the technology..."

Zhao Lijian, Foreign Ministry spokesman

The global financial center status is also a result of China's implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy, Zhao said, adding that such a coveted status "is not given by any country and cannot be arbitrarily taken by anyone".

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that by Slovenia's signing on Thursday of a joint declaration on 5G Clean Network Security, the European nation has secured protection against "authoritarian threats" including China's efforts "to control people and information", Reuters reported.

The US itself has misbehaved in matters of cybertheft, Zhao said, adding that it is ridiculous that Pompeo proposed a "clean network".

What certain US politicians want is probably not a clean network or a 5G security network, but a US surveillance network, Zhao said, adding that they want to consolidate US digital hegemony rather than protect personal privacy and freedoms.

"The practice of politicizing the 5G issue is not conducive to the development of the technology, goes against the principle of fair competition and is not in line with the common interests of the international community," Zhao said.

He added that he believes the international community will see through the real intention of certain US politicians and "say no to the US bullying practices of interference with other countries' 5G network construction and cooperation".

Model: Climate change fight key to sustainability

From page 1

meet people's ever-growing demand for a beautiful environment and at a time when China is capable of addressing prominent environmental issues.

Tsering said that the Secretariat of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development has sought UNEP's input on China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25). "UNEP has worked closely with China to achieve ecological protection," she said.

"Our recommendations focus on building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, which means increasing sustainable infrastructure, fostering sustainable consumption and production, greening supply chains, improving access to green finance and tackling climate change and air pollution."

China has said it considers the climate change fight strategically important for high-quality sustainable development at the forefront of building a community with a shared future for mankind. Policies and actions it already has taken have achieved remarkable results. China's GDP in 2019 more than quadrupled that in 2005, while carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP were reduced by 48.1 percent from 2005, equivalent to a reduction of about 5.62 billion metric tons.

climate change issues and work with others to come up with a worldwide solution for environmental protection and sustainable development, according to Xi's vision on ecological civilization.

"UNEP welcomes China's support for multilateralism and China's positive role in global environmental governance and regional cooperation," Tsering said, adding that by signing and ratifying the most important modern environmental treaties, China sets an example.

The UNEP official mentioned many treaties and agreements in which China plays an active part, including the UN Paris climate agreement, the Montreal Protocol, the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

She also praised China's support for other regional environmental cooperation programs, such as environmental cooperation between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China-Japan-Republic of Korea environmental cooperation and Lancang-Mekong subregional cooperation.

Initiated by Xi, the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition was established last year to promote cooperation and concerted action for green development on the Belt and Road, to integrate sustainable development into the BRI, and to help BRI participating countries to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals on development and environment. More than 130 Chinese and international organizations have joined in the coalition, including UNEP.

Tsering called international cooperation vital. "A global challenge requires global efforts. That's why multilateralism is the only choice. No one country can do it alone."

China and UNEP can continue to work together to promote "Green Governance" principles and practices by sharing knowledge and through South-South cooperation, Tsering said. "This is urgent as many countries are trying to quickly develop response and recovery strategies for COVID-19," she added.

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Classy capital crossing



Members of internet celebrity model group "Glamina Beijing" (left to right), Lin Wei, 65; Sun Yang, 64; Wang Nianwen, 74; and Wang Xinghuo, 70, wear traditional Chinese qipao dresses during a video shoot in Beijing's Central Business District on Thursday. WANG TINGSHU / REUTERS

Safety of seafood imports stepped up

By **ZHANG XIAOMIN** in Dalian
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With at least nine Chinese cities reporting cases of imported frozen products contaminated with the novel coronavirus since early July, authorities are taking measures to prevent further such incidences.

On Thursday, officials in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, confirmed that a sample of frozen chicken wings imported from Brazil tested positive on Wednesday. Meanwhile, some packaging samples from frozen shrimp tested positive in Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

China's customs authority suspended imports from three Ecuadorean shrimp producers on July 10 after samples collected from the outer packaging of their shrimp and the interior of a container in which they were shipped tested positive for the virus in Xiamen, Fujian province, and Dalian, Liaoning province.

Packaging for some Ecuadorean shrimp also tested positive in several other places, including Pingxiang, Jiangxi province; Chongqing municipality; and Wuhu, Anhui province.

The General Administration of Customs issued inspection and quarantine requirements on Friday for Ecuadorean frozen white shrimp.

It said that enterprises producing frozen white shrimp in the Andean nation should first be approved by Ecuadorean authorities and also registered in China. Without registration, they are not allowed to export to China.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, enterprises must comply with anti-COVID-19 and food safety requirements, meet guidelines issued by United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization, and ensure the effective implementation of prevention and control measures during the whole process — from harvesting to processing, packaging, storage and transport — in order to prevent contamination, it said.

Michael Ryan, executive director of the Health Emergencies Program at the WHO, said on Thursday in Geneva that: "People should not fear food or food packaging, or the processing or delivery of food. There is no evidence that food or the

food chain is participating in transmission of this virus ... Our food, from a COVID perspective, is safe."

Zhu Yi, an associate professor at China Agricultural University's college of food science and nutrition engineering, told Beijing News that the contamination actually has nothing to do with the food or packaging.

The key is the cold-chain temperature of -18 C, in which viruses can survive, Zhu said, adding that it is not a bad thing that some samples have tested positive as this demonstrates that China carries out strict epidemic prevention and control measures.

Zhu said the packaging samples which tested positive might be contaminated with droplets from an infected person, just as from elevator buttons or door handles.

He added that if the contagion is not controlled in production areas, workers in labor-intensive food processing plants are at higher risk of infection, and food preparation surfaces are also at higher risk of contamination. People most at risk are those in the food processing and catering sector while the risk to customers is very low.

Offers: Universities add touch of panache

From page 1

"So this is what pure science sounds like. It is so fascinating and mesmerizing," he said in a comment on the WeChat instant-messaging app.

Nie Jiahui, a high school graduate from Beijing who has accepted an offer to become a physics major freshman at the university, said he had been thrilled to receive the special message from space.

"I will treasure this package for the rest of my life," he said, adding he was eager to keep learning and contribute to the nation's scientific development.

The university also made headlines with its offer package last year, which included the Chinese-made Loongson 3 computer chip with the aim of reminding talented young

people that a small and unassuming gadget can change the world.

Wu Wuqing, an assistant business professor at Renmin University of China, said the University of CAS' offer package this year was designed with creativity, history and a sense of duty.

"Listening to the sounds that echoed for eons in space feels like immersing oneself in the fabric of the universe," he said. "For teenagers, opening that acceptance letter means opening a new chapter of their lives. It is moving to see how our personal history can intertwine with that of the universe."

This year, other Chinese universities have also sprinkled a touch of scientific panache in their offers. Southeast University's package plays the school's anthem when opened.

The package from Northwestern Polytechnical University has a code that, when scanned with a phone, starts an augmented reality tour of the school. Tsinghua University included a laser-cut, detailed paper model of its historical Second Gate that stands up when the package is opened.

Tsinghua's package also contained the social science classic, *From the Soil*, by pioneering Chinese sociologist and anthropologist Fei Xiaotong. The book is an extensive yet accessible depiction of the moral and ethical characteristics of Chinese society in the mid-20th century.

Qiu Yong, the president of Tsinghua University, said the selection is to encourage young people to wholeheartedly learn and love the country



Fu Youtang, a retired professor from Shaanxi Normal University, writes an acceptance letter on Thursday for an incoming student using calligraphy, a tradition at the school. ZHANG BOWEN / XINHUA

they grew up in, and feel the responsibility that rests on their shoulders.

"Hope you can take root in the soil of our motherland, grow, prosper and forge ahead into the future," Qiu said in a letter to prospective freshmen.

Target: Program brings benefits

From page 1

It insists that the Confucius Institute US Center, which has no direct connection to college campuses and is not involved in deciding CI curriculum, employment or funding, is being "targeted symbolically."

"CIUS has no influence, let alone 'malign' influence, over how universities run and manage their own Confucius Institute language programs. We hope the State Department (will) visit those schools and see for themselves just as members of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) already have," it said.

The GAO, a federal agency that conducted interviews with institute personnel and school officials

at 10 schools with Confucius Institutes, reported in February 2019 that officials from more than half of the case-study schools said that establishing a Confucius Institute offered benefits that aligned with the school's strategic plans to forge international connections and to expand the global reach of their campuses.

Officials at several case-study schools also said that the funding provided for the institutes was a small proportion of a larger budget related to Asian studies and Chinese-language programs, and, as a result, could not exert undue influence, according to the GAO report.

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