

# WORLD

## CHINA LINK

# Expert upbeat on Argentina's ties with China

'Historical complementarity' between both nations is to evolve, economist says

By JIMENA ESTEBAN  
in Buenos Aires  
For China Daily

After a long corporate career focused on trade and investment links between Argentina and China, Diego Marcos is increasingly convinced that both countries have much to gain from one another.

Marcos, 48, is a professor at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Santa Fe, Argentina, and an assistant professor of economics at Shenandoah University in Virginia, United States.

As a founding member of the Civil Association for Argentine-Chinese Cooperation, he also regularly advises Argentine companies.

His links to China have been forged through extensive research, including a stint in northern China in his late 20s. He has also made more than 35 visits to the country and was invited to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China five years ago.

In 2015, he received a certificate from the State Council, China's Cabinet, as a foreign expert.

"The friendship between Argentina and China is experiencing a very positive period. Day by day, there are more commercial, institutional and

touristic exchanges. Two very rich and diverse cultures (are engaged in) this interaction."

A laid-back man, he was drinking Argentina's traditional "mate" tea during an online interview as he shared his views on the relationship between the two countries.

Marcos is passionate about his work. He spent much of his corporate career in the steel industry, but has also served as a consultant and board director in various sectors, leveraging his international business expertise with a focus on China. He has worked with companies in Argentina, Paraguay and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Marcos has tapped into his deep knowledge of Sino-Argentine relations to write a book titled *Argentina-China: Basis for an Integration*.

"The relationship between both countries began to intensify in the early 2000s. Since then, the foundation of the relationship has been built on commercial and financial agreements, as well as cooperation in energy, technology and education," he said.

Marcos expects greater trade and investment flows over the next decade, potentially improving Argentina's technological base.

"In the long term, the economic



Visitors select products imported from Argentina at the seventh China International Import Expo in Shanghai on Sunday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

relationship between China and Argentina will continue to strengthen, as Argentina has consistently done with the rest of the world."

Marcos expects China to continue investing in infrastructure projects like railways, mining and energy in the Latin American country. Moreover, he envisions that the relationship will extend far beyond infrastructure. For example, China's vast domestic savings and investment potential could help fund Argentina's new ventures.

### 'New economy'

"These funds could finance the global expansion of Argentine startups. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to (tap into the potential) of the new economy, which is focused on innovation. Greater and improved cooperation in technology is the future," said Marcos.

Marcos believes that China and Argentina's relationship is on a long-term growth path.

"The structural complementari-

ty and affinity between the peoples (of both nations) suggest long-term cooperation," he said.

In Argentina, China has found a significant and reliable source of natural resources, energy and agricultural products.

After Brazil, China is already the second-largest destination for Argentina's exports. Over the past three years, bilateral trade has topped \$16 billion annually, according to Argentine government figures. Soybeans and beef are among the top exports from the Latin American nation.

On the socioeconomic front, he sees favorable relations between the people, institutions and companies of Argentina and China.

"For Argentina, the relationship with China has been invaluable, especially in helping prevent inflation from spiraling into hyperinflation," Marcos said.

With Argentina facing huge debts, China has become an important and reliable source of

finance over the past few years.

"Thanks to financial agreements with China, Argentina was able to access foreign currency at times when international credit markets were completely closed. Many argue that Argentina would have experienced hyperinflation without the support of the People's Bank of China," said Marcos.

"Additionally, China consistently supplied essential intermediate and final goods for the economy, and their low prices helped contain rising inflation in Argentina," he added.

Marcos also pointed to the deeper, direct relationships between some provinces in the north of Argentina, such as Jujuy and Salta, and China. These are driven by Chinese investments in lithium and renewable energy.

Argentina's vast lithium resources may be crucial for China's automotive and technology industries, especially the electric battery sector. In 2023, more than 40 percent of Argentina's lithium exports went to China.



Diego Marcos  
Founding member of the Civil Association for Argentine-Chinese Cooperation

**Education:**  
Master in Finance from Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina  
Master in Project Management from University of CEMA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

PhD in Economics from Universidad Nacional de Rosario

**Career:**  
Professor of Economics at Universidad Nacional de Rosario  
Assistant Professor of Economics at Shenandoah University, Virginia, US.

Former Director of the Economic Program at Universidad del Centro Educativo Latinoamericano, Argentina

**Book:**  
*Argentina-China: Basis for an Integration*

Between 2020 and 2023, Chinese firms invested \$3.2 billion in mining projects in Argentina, including seven lithium projects.

Among the China-funded projects are the Cauchari Solar Park in Jujuy, one of the largest in Latin America, and the Cafayate Solar Park in Salta.

The "historical complementarity" between Argentina's natural resources and financing from China is expected to evolve, said Marcos.

However, he said China's shift to a "new economy" will require both nations to diversify their economic interactions beyond traditional trade and present a new opportunity to boost the relationship between the peoples of both countries.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

# Event aims to empower and benefit participants

By HAO NAN  
haonan@chinadaily.com.cn

The 26th China Hi-Tech Fair, currently being held in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province, has attracted significant attention from numerous domestic and international professional buyers.

According to the fair's organizing committee, over 400,000 professional buyers, including 1,200 buyer groups, from across the world completed the registration before the commencement of the event by submitting online forms and offline attendance receipts for the global buyer matchmaking conference, a key part of the fair.

Among them, professional buyer groups from various countries such as Russia, Brazil, Greece, Singapore, Iran and five Central Asian countries are being led by government officials.

For instance, the Singapore trade delegation is headed by David Koh, the chief executive of the country's Cyber Security Agency; the Russian delegation is led by officials from the city of Nizhny Novgorod; and the Brazilian delegation is spearheaded by officials from the State of Mato Grosso, one of the country's important agricultural and livestock regions.

Many buyer groups have specific procurement needs in critical sectors such as semiconductors and electronic information, new energy, high-end medical equipment, biotechnology, energy equipment, industrial machinery, automotive engineering, aerospace, artificial intelligence, and robotics.

This highlights the global market's strong demand for high-tech products. A Russian company, for example, aims to purchase equipment and technology in fields of energy minerals and building engineering at the fair, with an intended procurement amount of up to 7.3 billion yuan (\$1.01 billion).

Chinese buyers from over 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are also proactively participating in the fair. These regions include Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Chongqing, Heilongjiang, Hebei, Guangdong,



A company staff member demonstrates how to interact with a robotic arm at the 26th China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Thursday. PARKER ZHENG / CHINA DAILY

Shandong, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Liaoning, and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

For example, an electrical enterprise based in Shenzhen has expressed an intention to purchase software and hardware worth up to 12 billion yuan.

Additionally, an internet company in Zhejiang plans to procure AI visual analysis technology, chips, and other related products, with an intended procurement amount of 500 million yuan. And a research institute in Shenzhen intends to purchase photovoltaic power generation and food processing equipment, with an intended procurement value of up to 200 million yuan.

Furthermore, more than 32,800 business associations, research institutes, universities, multinational corporations, and enterprises in key industries have clear procurement needs, with intended procurement amounts exceeding 100 billion yuan.

These entities hail from more

## 400,000+ buyers

from across the world participating in the 26th China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen

than 120 countries, including the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Belgium, Pakistan, and the Czech Republic.

The fair's organizing committee said that to effectively ensure the practical benefits for exhibitors, the ongoing event has implemented a systematic and comprehensive effort to attract participants.

Through targeted invitations to professional buyers globally, the aim is to create a fair that empowers and benefits participating enterprises and organizations, allowing them to fully experience the pulse and trends of Chinese technological innovation at this grand gathering.

In today's increasingly competitive global technological landscape,

the significance of this high-tech fair, renowned as the premier showcase of Chinese technologies, is becoming more prominent.

It not only provides a superb platform for global high-tech enterprises to showcase innovative achievements and exchange cutting-edge technologies but represents a significant opportunity for buyers to discover quality products and expand business collaborations.

Through the fair, numerous exhibitors and buyers from different countries and regions can connect precisely, collectively propelling the integration and development of technology and the economy, the organizing committee noted.

The fair has set up exclusive negotiation areas for buyers, creating a comfortable and quiet environment for discussions. It also provides professional translation services, exhibition guides, industry information, and comprehensive promotion for buyers who reach significant procurement agreements.

# Latest Russian sci-tech progress on show at fair

By HAO NAN

The Russian Ministry of Education and Science, in collaboration with seven esteemed universities, academies, research institutes, and enterprises from Russia, has set up a booth at the ongoing 26th China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen, Guangdong province.

Together, they are showcasing their latest sci-tech projects and solutions tailored for the international market.

Among these entities is the International Union of Instrument Manufacturing and Information Communication, a professional social association comprising scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs. These members mainly specialize in instrument manufacturing, radio electronics, information technology, software engineering, and communication systems.

The union represents the interests of various enterprises and institutions across Russia. Its presence at the fair aims to secure funding for the Russia-China bilateral science competition and explore potential collaborations with Chinese counterparts.

Another notable participant is the National Center of Genetic Resources of Agricultural Animals, which is focused on establishing a cryobank for the genetic material of indigenous Russian cows, including sperm samples and frozen embryos.

The center's work involves setting genetic standards for cattle breeds, conducting genomic analysis, and selecting donor heifers. It is now seeking scientific partnerships in areas such as transcriptome analysis, assisted reproductive technology, genome editing, and genome research on farm and wild animals, hoping to engage in related international funding programs.

Moscow State University of Civil Engineering is also attending the fair, with a focus on scientific cooperation in new building materials, particularly in areas of heavy structural materials for construction, lightweight concrete structural

materials, and polystyrene-based structural insulation materials, all suitable for 3D printing.

Additionally, the 26th session of the fair features the Digitalization of Industrial Russia, or CIPR, and six Russian companies.

Their objective is to network with Chinese counterparts in sectors such as telecommunications, transportation, finance, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and information technology solutions for software exports, and communicate with those interested in implementing such solutions or sharing their implementation experiences.

The CIPR places special emphasis on international cooperation, and fosters dialogue with partners in high-tech fields, as evidenced by the signing of cooperation agreements in information communication technology, cybersecurity, and export support by several Russian and foreign companies at this year's session held in June.

Moreover, the CIPR this year included a showcase by Chinese enterprises presenting their digital solutions across various domains.

At the 26th fair, the Australian government has organized the participation of seven companies offering solutions in water treatment, energy project simulation platforms, new materials, carbon accounting, and data security for corporate global expansion.

They have brought diverse expertise and the latest legal information to aid businesses in achieving sustainable development in overseas markets.

These companies include Telstra, one of the largest Australian telecommunications companies; Simble, a listed company specializing in zero-carbon solutions and new energy asset development and management; MinterEllison, a law firm with a history of nearly 200 years; Intimiti, a company dedicated to developing high-performance eco-friendly materials; and Bio Organics Group (Hong Kong), headquartered in Queensland and a member of the Alliance for Water Stewardship.