TOP NEWS

Journalists' role in BRI cooperation highlighted

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Journalists play a crucial role in building the Belt and Road and advancing international cooperation on global governance, as they bridge nations, cultures and communities, media leaders said at the 2026 Belt and Road Journalists Forum held on Saturday in Nanjing, Jiangsu province.

Themed "Convergence and Connectivity · Innovation and Progress · Media Transformation amid Global Changes", the forum gathered nearly 100 journalists and media leaders from over 50 countries and regions.

Mo Gaoyi, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the State Council Information Office, noted in his remarks that the Belt and Road Journalists Network has made significant contributions toward advancing the high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road.

Mo noted that the world is undergoing unprecedented changes, and global media cooperation is becoming increasingly critical for strengthening connectivity between people, infrastructure, rules and standards.

He added that China's journalist community hopes to strengthen international communication, telling Belt and Road stories together through objective and truthful reporting that showcases the diversity of civilizations coexisting in harmony.

Mo also stressed the need to deepen practical cooperation on media transformation in the era of artificial intelligence, and to promote coordination with Global South nations so that their stories are better heard on the global stage.

John Wallace, executive director of the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre, said that in this rapidly changing world, better communication and trust are essential, in order to overcome prejudice, ignorance and misunderstanding. They are also vital both for preventing unnecessary conflict today and building a more effective and inclusive system of global governance in the future.

"Journalism has a crucial role to play because it shapes how nations perceive one another. One of its greatest challenges is to understand and accurately convey the profound changes that have taken place across Asia and other developing regions in recent decades," said Wallace.

He Ping, president of the All-China Journalists Association and a member of the presidium of the Belt and Road Journalists Network, pointed out that, faced with rising unilateralism and protectionism, the global community is in greater need of upholding the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and benefit. With pens and cameras, He called for closer ties among global journalists to bridge different civilizations and people, contributing to the world's stability and vitality.

Chroniclers, promoters

Participants at the forum agreed that journalists are the chroniclers, participants and promoters in jointly building the Belt and Road, which has now entered a new phase of development characterized by higher quality and higher standards.

They also reached consensus that media communities across nations should share Belt and Road stories through objective and truthful reporting, with a focus on major landmark projects as well as smaller, heartwarming life stories.

"Global cooperation requires more than physical infrastructure, trade and economic partnerships. It also requires communication, cultural exchange and mutual trust. As journalists, we can build bridges between nations by sharing reliable information, respecting cultural differences and encouraging dialogue," said Puy Kea, president of the Club of Cambodian Journalists and rotating president of the presidium of the Belt and Road Journalists Network.

He added that despite differences in their nationalities, cultures and political systems, journalists and media leaders are not merely observers of global change, but also help shape public understanding, promote transparency and bring the voices of diverse communities to the international stage.

"The 'Silk Road spirit' is about learning together and growing together," said Zuzana Lechanova, a news reporter with Slovak Television. "Each of our countries has a different system, culture and traditions. But what connects us is our search for truth and our fight against prejudice. If we want people to support the Belt and Road Initiative, we must tell them true stories — stories about our success, but also about our challenges."

A journalist from Mexico, who was in Jiangsu province for the Belt and Road Journalists Forum, tries an electric scooter at the exhibition hall of Ninebot, a two-wheeler maker, in Changzhou, Jiangsu, on Oct 13.
ZHAO YANCHAO / XINHUA

Premier Li Qiang is welcomed by Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda upon his arrival on Sunday at Dushanbe International Airport in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. Tajikistan is the second stop, after Uzbekistan, of Li's three-nation trip, which will also include Russia. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Rail project, AI high on agenda of Li's visit

China, Uzbekistan sign deals on trade, education, health and e-commerce

By **ZHANG YUNBI**
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China and Uzbekistan expressed hope about future collaboration in areas such as infrastructure, artificial intelligence and the green economy, during Premier Li Qiang's just concluded, two-day official visit to the Central Asian country.

Li met with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and held talks with Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov after arriving in Tashkent, the Uzbek capital, on Saturday.

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As part of the visit's fruitful outcomes, Li and Aripov witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents covering areas such as trade and economy, education, customs, health and poverty reduction.

During the visit, the two sides also signed deals in areas including e-commerce, climate and media.

China is the largest trade partner of the Central Asian country. Last year, annual bilateral trade volume stood at $16.1 billion, up 17.9 percent year-on-year, according to the Foreign Ministry.

In meeting with the Uzbek president, Li said China stands ready to ensure the high-quality implementation of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project.

China supports more capable Chinese enterprises in investing and doing business in Uzbekistan and hopes that Uzbekistan will continue to provide a favorable business environment for these enterprises, he added.

Li also said that in recent years, the building of a China-Uzbekistan community with a shared future has continued to achieve new results, and that both countries should firmly support each other's core interests and expand mutually beneficial cooperation.

'Golden age'

Mirziyoyev said Uzbekistan-China relations are currently enjoying a "golden age".

Uzbekistan firmly adheres to the one-China principle and firmly supports China in safeguarding its core interests, and it will continue to work with China to combat the "three evil forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, he said.

The president said his country welcomes more Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in the country, and stands ready to work with China to accelerate the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway.

Uzbekistan supports the four global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China in multilateral affairs, as well as promote continued progress in the Uzbekistan-China all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era, he added.

In his talks with Aripov, Li said China stands ready to strengthen the synergy of development visions with Uzbekistan and deepen cooperation in energy and resources, artificial intelligence and modern agriculture.

China is also willing to import more high-quality and specialty products from Uzbekistan, and welcomes Uzbekistan to make full use of platforms such as the China International Import Expo to actively explore the Chinese market, he added.

As next year marks the 35th anniversary of bilateral relations, Li said that China is ready to carry forward the two nations' traditional friendship, deepen political mutual trust, enhance practical cooperation, and advance the building of the China-Uzbekistan community with a shared future.

Li called for the two sides to continue to make good use of the mutual visa exemption policy, expand two-way personnel exchanges, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in areas such as culture, tourism, education and youth.

Aripov said Uzbekistan sincerely appreciates China's strong support for his country's reform and development efforts.

Uzbekistan is willing to work with China to fully promote the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and other projects of Belt and Road cooperation, he added.

Aripov also said Uzbekistan is ready to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in areas including economic and trade investment, agriculture, energy and mineral resources, customs, finance, digital technology, artificial intelligence and ecological protection.

Before their talks, Li and Aripov jointly watched a video showcasing practical cooperation between China and Uzbekistan across various fields.

On Saturday afternoon, Li also laid a wreath at the Independence Monument in Tashkent.

From Sunday to Tuesday, Li is scheduled to make an official visit to Tajikistan and attend the 25th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Medicine: Action urged to bridge gaps in data and regulation

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In a sign of evolving technologies, a total of 3,030 AI-related traditional medicine patents have been published globally since 2000, and 6,882 high-quality academic papers have been released since 1990, the report said.

China accounted for 80.4 percent of the patents and 47 percent of the academic papers, demonstrating the scale of the nation's research and technological advantage in this field, it added.

In clinical practice, Li, the researcher, said that AI has been used to assist in examinations of a patient's tongue, pulse, facial appearance and other aspects, as well as in diagnosis.

For some syndromes, AI-assisted tongue diagnosis has proved to be 85 to 92 percent accurate, with the ability to distinguish experience-based symptom descriptions such as "a reddish tongue".

"Some digital twin models trained on the clinical experience, diagnostic reasoning and typical case records of renowned TCM practitioners have already been piloted in China's county-level TCM hospitals to expand access to quality TCM resources," she said.

AI has also been used to digitalize the surveying, identification, cultivation and supply chain traceability of medicinal plants, accelerate the screening of active ingredients and analysis of drug mechanisms, and advance basic research in areas such as *jing luo*, also known as meridians, through which the body's energy is believed to circulate.

Moreover, Li said AI has enabled more systematic reviews of ancient medical texts to bolster innovative inheritance of traditional practices.

In one case cited in the report, researchers used deep learning-assisted in vivo imaging to observe dynamic changes in immune cells in mouse models after electroacupuncture stimulation, offering a new perspective on how acupuncture points regulate the immune system, said Chen Jianxin, a professor at Beijing University of Chinese Medicine.

In addition to TCM, Chen said the report showcases AI-powered inheritance among traditional Korean medicine practitioners, as well as smart diagnostic devices for Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine originating in India.

Chen said the uneven development of digital capabilities globally has affected traditional medicine's adoption of AI.

More efforts are needed to accumulate high-quality datasets, address language differences between countries as well as between ancient and modern times, provide clearer explanation of medical mechanisms, and promote the establishment of unified supervision regulations targeting AI-assisted traditional medicine, he added.

Green: Orderly growth of new industries stressed

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Huawei's arrival in 2013 brought Ulaanqab its first data center. For roughly a decade, the industry focused on storage and general-purpose computing.

From 2023 to around the turn of 2026, the city moved into a second phase focused on intelligent computing — the processing capacity used for artificial intelligence — with upgrades to chips, technology and supporting facilities, Urlug said.

The third phase, in his description, is closer coordination between computing power and electricity supply. "We are drawing on Ulaanqab's abundant renewable energy resources to develop a green intelligent computing power industry," he said.

During the trip, Xi commended the industry's progress and called for extending industrial chains, deepening the integration of the digital and real economies, and translating computing power strengths into development gains.

He also examined models of power and cooling systems and asked detailed questions about electricity and water efficiency.

Liu Junping, deputy director of the zone's administrative committee, said Xi's attention to water conservation left a strong impression.

"In developing computing capacity, we need to plan ahead," Liu said. "Ulaanqab is a water-scarce place. While saving energy, we must also save water."

Xi called for efficient, green and safe development, stressing coordination between computing power, electricity supply and water use. He urged those working in the sector to ensure the sound construction and operation of computing centers, actively promote the green computing power industry, and make greater contributions to building Digital China and developing new quality productive forces.

His discussions with officials and industry representatives included a warning about the way new industries expand.

"What worries me most is disorderly development — everyone rushing in at once and then dispersing all at once, which further dampens enthusiasm," Xi said. He also warned against blind competition and development that disregards local conditions.

Urlug said: "Computing power is an emerging industry. We need to get involved early and plan ahead so it develops in an orderly way."

The industry is also bringing talented people to Ulaanqab. Zan Deng, manager of the Inner Mongolia Huawang Data Center of Jiangsu Yangdian Science & Technology Co, moved to the city in 2024 to work on the project.

More than 70 percent of the company's staff there has been recruited from elsewhere, she said, with employees settling in the city.

Zan was among the industry representatives whom Xi spoke with during the visit. Xi encouraged those present to pursue ambitious goals with patience and determination, describing them as a contingent advancing high-level scientific and technological self-reliance on a new "Long March".

"As someone working in this industry, I feel deeply honored and proud to be part of this journey," Zan said.

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Dance: Online craze spills onto the stage

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The other viral move, "Bear Shaking Off Its Fur", comes from Shandong Guzi Yangge, a traditional folk dance in Shandong province. Traditionally performed mainly by men, the dance features vigorous movements and rhythmic patterns, with drums among its signature props.

The teaching videos were designed to break down the cultural and physical elements of folk dance into exercises that university students could study and practice. The team did not expect the clips to become internet sensations years later.

For Tian, however, the movements' appeal is not entirely surprising.

"Folk dancers move naturally, without rigid rules," she said. Expansive movements can express powerful emotions, while restrained gestures convey subtler feelings. The movements grow out of authentic expression and the humor found in Chinese folk culture, she added.

The craze has even spilled onto the stage.

Dye House, or *Da Ran Fang*, a dance drama directed and choreographed by Guo Haifeng and produced by the Shandong Song and Dance Theater, incorporates the "Bear Shaking Off Its Fur" movement. The production premiered in April and is touring nationwide, with the viral attention generating new curiosity about the work.

Guo, who was also trained at the Beijing Dance Academy, sees the online craze as an unexpected opportunity to reconnect audiences with the art form.

The movements have always belonged to a world beyond the studio, Guo added.

"They come from everyday life, become teaching material and eventually return to the people," he said. "Now everyone is learning them. Art comes from life, returns to life and becomes part of life. If people like something, they will imitate it. That is a good thing."

Zhao, who demonstrated the "Shanshen Step", likewise sees the viral success as both surprising and understandable.

"It was unexpected, but in a way, it was also to be expected," he said. "The knowledge embedded in Chinese folk dance needs to be passed down. These teaching videos meet the needs of teachers and students, while also helping preserve the culture itself."

The "Shanshen Step", he said, combines the distinctive features of traditional folk culture with qualities that make it easy to share and adapt online.

Zhao sees the trend as an example of a new form of popular cultural expression created by the audience.

"People are taking movements from Chinese folk dance and turning them into something that speaks to their own feelings and sense of fun today," he said. "They recognize the movements, try them out and put their own spin on them. If it makes people happy and sparks new ideas, that is what makes it interesting."

However, there is one important caveat. Experts cited by CCTV News warned that imitating the moves without proper training can put the knees at risk.