

Cool getaway

VISIONARY PATHWAY | HANGZHOU PLAYBOOK

Digital initiative turns city into innovation hub

Govt support for startups credited with nurturing technological transformation

By XU WEI and CHEN YE in Hangzhou

When Canadian entrepreneur Nikk Mitchell first landed in Hang-Nikk Mitchell first landed in Hang-zhou, the capital city of Zhejiang province, more than a decade ago, he expected to stay for just a year – long enough to enjoy the misty lake views and ancient pagodas before moving on. Today, as co-founder and CEO of FXG – a virtual-reality startum – he

FXG – a virtual-reality startup – he remains firmly rooted in a metropo lis that has become a bellwether for China's technological leap.

"China captured me," he said while

"China captured me," he said while sitting in his studio in Dream Towa, a government-backed tech park that has become a have for startups. The product he city some sub-tional studies and the same start inducting and policy environment-ial products, and a policy environment that actively supports innovation. "For Hanggion, if's the gover-ment support that makes this a twe-sold."

he said

he said. That support has helped nurture companies like artificial intelli-gence startup DeepSeek, as well as Game Science, the developer behind the hit tile Black Myth: Wukong, and Unitree Robotics. which dominates the global mar-ket for quadruped robots – a phe-ne or convictence, titche believes on o convictence, titche believes on convictence, then believes on conversion of analysts and busi-mess leaders. Hanzbou over the past

ness leaders, Hangzhou over the past two decades has become a powerful symbol of China's technological sformation

transformation. They believe hat today's boom tra-ces its roots to 2003, when Xi Jimping, then secretary of the Communist-Party of China Zhejiang Privincial Committee, launched the "Digital Zhejiang" initiative. Backed by a total investment of 625 billion yana (887 billion) in information infrastructure, the initi-tion constantion late second bits partice

ative overhauled the region's internet infrastructure, setting a foundation for data-driven industries.

China's broad and balanced net-

Chinab bread and balanced net-work of trading partners, innovative product offerings and realisment man-ufactures: Will reads challenges in trajecter global trade challenges in trajecter global trade challenges in the statistic statistic statistics of Speaking at a new sonference in Beijing, Wang Lingjun, vice-minis-ter of the General Administration of Castoms, said that in the face of ris-ing protection the composi-processing diversified and stable trade structure has strengthened its astrengthened trade structure has strengthened its and strengthened strengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its and strengthened strengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its approximation of the composi-tion of the strengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its approximation of the composi-tion of the strengthened its astrengthened its approximation of the composi-tion of the strengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its astrengthened its approximation of the composition of the strengthened its astrengthened its astrength

trade structure has strengthened its

ability to mitigate external risks and

maintain the growth momentum of its foreign trade.

its foreign trade. "From the perspective of export markets, both traditional and emerging economies saw growth in the first half," Wang said, emphasizing that cooperation should remain the defining theme of China-United States trade ties and play a key role in restoring fairness and openness to the global trading entrements to the global

trading system. He said that China's trade with

over 190 countries and regions

A THE MALE WAS CENTRE . 7 YOURS

By ZHONG NAM

"Faster networks, higher reliabili-ty and expanded digital services did more than boost businesses," said more than boost businesses," said Gong Sen, director of Zhejiang Uni-versity's Centre for International Studies on Development and Gov-ernance. "They enabled a more responsive government and paved the way for a smarter city". Gong said that development of sound digital infrastructure enabled Zhejiang to lead the way for China in pushing forward the development of one-ston government services.

of one-stop government services. Meanwhile, Xi also showed fore-

sight in pointing out that Zhejiang, as one of China's major economic powerhouses, needed to play a greater role in the nation's sci-tech

sci-tech capacities. Xi's early push for digital connec-tivity helped Hangzhou leap ahead of its peers and establish a durable edge in China's fast-growing digital

edge in China's fast-growing digital economy, Gong said. Over the past two decades, com-panies like allbaba have played a defining role in shaping China's digital economy, from e-commerce and cloud computing to digital payments. Others, including Net-Ease, have driven advancements in hard tech and gaming. Hangzbou is a place where entre-preneurs are not only building prod-

preneurs are not only building products, but also laying the groundwork for a future driven by AI, blockchain for a nuture driven by AI, blockchain and smart technologies, said Cai Guoxiang, vice-president of Rokid, a Hangzhou-based producer of AI-powered smart eyewear.

Online

China's foreign trade in first half of 2025

registered growth between Janu

ary and June, with 61 trading part

ners each recording trade volumes

ners each recording trade volumes above 50 billion) – five more than in the same period last year. China's foreign trade grew 2.9 percent year-on-year to 21.79 tril-lion yuan in the first half of the year. attistics from the GAC showed. Automatic than the GAC showed. year-on-year to 13 trillion yuan during this period, while imports declined 2.7 percent to 8.79 trillion yuan.

yuan. Lyu Daliang, director of the administration's department of

statistics and analysis, said that

vuan

2.86

greater role in the nation's sci-tech innovation drive. In March 2006, he presided over a provincial conference on inde-pendent innovation, proposing targets to develop Zhejiang into a region with strong innovation and sci-tech capacities. Xi's early usub for divital connec-

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See more by scanning the code.

Chinese exporters are capitalizing on the global energy transition by expanding their supply of cus-tomized, green and high-value products, and accelerating efforts

By ZOU SHUO

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products, and accelerating efforts to tap into new sectors and emerging markets. For instance, they have developed solar, powered phones for regions with electricity outlages, and with electricity outlages, and anter-resistant engines for areas with desert terrains, said Jyu. Zhao Zhongxiu, president of the University of International Business and Economics in Bei-entit toward digital and green manufacturing is reshaping its industrial landscape. industrial landscape.

industrial landscape. He noted that surging exports of ships, industrial robots and con-struction machinery underscore the country's growing manufacturing strength and global competitiveness. That sentiment is in line with the latest data. China's exports of mechanical and electrical products, blones and lithium batteries, reached 7.8 trillion yuan during the first six months, an increase of 9.5 first six months, an increase of 9.5 percent year-on-year. These prod-ucts accounted for 60 percent of the

l docks at a terminal for cargo unloading on Monday A container v at Lianyungang Port in Jiangsu province. GENG YUHE / FOR CHINA DAIL

country's total exports, according

country's total exports, according to GAC data. Ningbo Huige Outdoor Products Co, a grill and kitchen appliance manufacturer in Ningbo, Zhejiang province, said that over 60 percent of its sales in 2024 were related to the US market.

"In response to tariff pressures, we have accelerated efforts to diversify our export markets in recent years, expanding into Europe, Australia and the Middle East, and establishing a subsidiary in Germany," said Mao Bibo, vice-president of the company.

According to data from Ningbo Customs, the Chinese company's exports reached 275 million yuan in

exports reached 275 million yuan in the first half of this year, rising 77 percent year-on-year. As Chinese exporters increasing-ly turn to diversified markets amid shifting global dynamics, China's trade with economics participat-ing in the Belt and Road Initiative ness 47 nercent na yaseful basis to rose 4.7 percent on a yearly basis to reach 11.29 trillion yuan from January to June, accounting for 51.8 percent of its total foreign trade, according to the GAC.

Journalists invited to cover victory anniversary events

from home and abroad are welcome to cover the

commemora-tive events in Beijing marki commenoi-tive events in Beijing marking the 80th anneversary of the victory in Resistance Against Japanee Beijing and State Against Japanee Heiser Against Japanee From Inschyto Jaby /21 an Analbele Atthy Jorge Morge Against Toom Inschyto Jaby /21 an Analbele Atthy Jorge Morge Against Hoose from Hong Kong, Macao and Hong Kong Japanee Against Hoose from Hong Kong, Macao and Hong Kong Japanee Against Hong Kong Japanee Against Hong Kong Japanee Against Hong Kong Japanee Hong Japa

China, India vow to boost relationship

By ZHAO JIA dailu com an

Beijing and New Delhi reaffirmed Beijing and New Delhi reaffirmed on Monday their commitment to deepening mutually beneficial coop-eration and promoting steady, posi-tive growth in bilateral relations, as Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar made his first visit to China in over five years. Vice-President Han Zheng and

Vice-President Han Zheng and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met sepa Foreign Minister Wang Yi mei sepa-rately with Jahankar, who will also attend the Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States, on Council and for Thesday in Finanjia. Han ened to ensure the staday and healthy devel-opment of China-India relations under the strategic guidance of the President XJ Jinping and Indian President XJ Jinping and Indian Priorise Minister Narendra Mod Hedd

President XJ Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modh Ided a successful meeting in October in Kazan, Russia, providing important strategic guidance for the improve-ment and developing countries and key nations of the Global South. Han sid China and India should view each other as partners and contribute to each other's success. He called for joint efforts to advance practical cooperation, respect each

practical cooperation, respect each other's core concerns, and foster sound, stable relations.

sound, stable relations. Noting that this year marks the 78th anniversary of the establish-ment of aljonatic relations between China and India, Wang totd Jaishnafer that the continued momentum of improvement and development in relations should be cherished. The relations this and the cherished. The relations that be cherished. The relations that any third party, nor should it be disrupted by any third party. Wang said, emphasi-ing that the two countries should build mutual trust instead of suspibuild mutual trust instead of suspicion, pursue cooperation instead of rivalry, and seek mutual success instead of mutual attrition.

See Ties. page 3



ties implement sweeping reforms In 2023, the University of Sci-nce and Technology of China in Culture University announced the suspension of enrollment for sev-eral master's programs in less ence and Technology of States Hefei, Anhui province, was among Nation capable of sustaining trade growth

Not not start a second straight of the second indepth the first top-tier universities in China to discontinue its English major. In 2024, the University of International Business and Eco-nomics and Beijing Language and

ENGLISH MAJORS FACE UNCERTAIN FUTURE AS AI REPLACES BASIC SKILLS



province listed 10 majors paused for enrollment, including English. See Studies, page 2

commonly taught languages, including Japanese translation and Italian interpretation. In May 2024, the University of Jinan in Shandong province announced that it had halted enrollment in nine undergraduate majors, including Korean and Ger-man. That same month, Shenyang Aerospace University in Liaoning Dovince listed 10 majors paused

ople play in the water to cool off at a water park in Luoyang, Henan province, on Sund

People play in the water to cool off at a water park in Luoyang. Henan province, on Sunday. Since the beginning of July, China has experienced frequent high temperatures. On Monday, the National Meteorological Center continued to issue yellow alerts – the third-highest alert in China's four-tier color-coded weather warning system – for high temperatures, forceasting that the scope and intensity of the heat wave will peak on Tweeday and Wednesday and affect a wide range of regions from northern China to southern China. June wave 70 is owned used for south and the story page 6

Universities address fresh challenge to make discipline more relevant to students, industry