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Momentum built for future industries

Intensifying push for innovation helps to boost competitive edge, global links

By MA SI and WANG YU

China is set to intensify its push to cultivate new quality productive forces next year, creating abundant opportunities for foreign companies in sectors such as smart connected vehicles, biomanufacturing and hydrogen energy,

that efforts will be made to develop new quality productive forces in light of local conditions, when the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held a symposium with non-CPC personages on Dec 3 in Beijing to solicit their opinions and suggestions on this year's economic situation and the economic work for 2026. Li Lecheng, minister of industry and information technology, said in an exclusive signed article for China

world's largest new energy industry chain, Li said. Luo Zhongwei, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Industrial Economics, said that "China's new energy industry has developed a competitive edge in the global arena, thanks to its long-term accumulation of core technologies and strong manufacturing capabilities". See *Progress*, page 3

policy-makers and experts said. Their comments came ahead of this year's Central Economic Work Conference, which will be closely watched by markets for signals on the economic priorities of 2026, the first year of China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period. President Xi Jinping had said

Daily that as part of China's broader push to foster new quality productive forces, "we will strategically plan and deploy future-oriented energy and manufacturing industries, including hydrogen energy, energy storage, biomanufacturing and carbon capture, utilization and storage". The move is also designed to promote the green transition of the country's sprawling manufacturing sector, as the country has built the

FM: Facts prove Tokyo wrong on Taiwan

By ZHANG YUNBI
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Given Japan's colonial rule over Taiwan from 1895 to 1945, which inflicted atrocities on the Chinese people, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has nonetheless attempted to exploit the Taiwan question to provoke trouble and threaten China militarily, which is "utterly intolerable", Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. In his talks with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl in Beijing on Monday, Wang referred to Takaichi's recent provocative remarks in parliament about Taiwan, saying that the one-China principle is an important political foundation for China-Germany relations, and there is no room for ambiguity. He noted that unlike Germany, Japan has yet to conduct a thorough reflection in the past eight decades since the end of World War II on its history of aggression. Wadepuhl said Germany remains firmly committed to the one-China policy, and this position will not change. During the talks, Wang said that Taiwan has been part of China since ancient times, and he elaborated on a seven-point fact list that clearly supports this position and records Tokyo's past official commitments regarding Taiwan. The Cairo Declaration issued in 1943 stated that all the territories Japan had stolen from China, such as Taiwan, should be restored to China. Article 8 of the Potsdam Proclamation in 1945 stipulated that the terms of the Cairo Declaration will be carried out. In 1945, Japan surrendered unconditionally, the Japanese emperor committed to faithfully fulfilling the provisions of the Potsdam Proclamation, and the then Chinese government announced resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Taiwan on Oct 25, 1945. In 1971, the 26th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758 to restore all rights to the People's Republic of China, and the UN's official legal opinion confirms that Taiwan is a province of China, Wang said.

Hong Kong's lawmakers-elect pledge to put expertise to good use

By GANG WEN in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's newly elected lawmakers have vowed to leverage their professional expertise to support Tai Po fire recovery, drive systemic reforms, and promote the city's long-term growth.

On Tuesday morning, the city's incumbent and incoming legislators held a press briefing at the Legislative Council Complex — the first such event since 1998, when the first-term LegCo was established.

The new 90-seat legislature, formed through Sunday's election, is set to begin its official term on Jan 1.

Outgoing LegCo President Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen said that over the past two weeks, the entire community had united in response to the deadly fire in Tai Po — which has so far claimed 160 lives and displaced nearly 2,000 households — with candidates suspending campaign activities to focus on supporting victims. "It is a testament to the city's solidarity in times of crisis," Leung said.

In the face of major social disasters, Leung called on new legislators to work wholeheartedly with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government to support post-disaster relief and reconstruction, including reviewing and amending legislation, approving funding, and promoting systemic reforms to create a safer living environment for residents. He also highlighted that the new LegCo comprises 50 re-elected lawmakers and 40 newcomers, encouraging both experienced and new members to enhance communication and collaboration to ensure continuity of expertise and commitment. Several lawmakers-elect pledged to apply their specialized experience to support the Tai Po fire recovery efforts.



Incumbent and newly-elected lawmakers of the Hong Kong Legislative Council pose for a group photo at a media briefing in Hong Kong on Tuesday. ADAM LAM / CHINA DAILY

Julia Lau Man-kwan, elected through the architectural, surveying, planning and landscape functional constituency, said she hopes to use her professional knowledge and experience to "bring change to Hong Kong", starting with post-fire recovery. As a veteran architect and president of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Lau said she had gathered substantial professional feedback during the election campaign, which she had conveyed to stakeholders and the government. Aaron Bok Kwok-ming, an incoming lawmaker representing the engineering sector and former president of the Hong Kong Insti-

tution of Engineers, also committed to using his expertise to support people affected by the Tai Po fire. He pledged to advocate for stronger regulations to ensure safer and more convenient living environments in Hong Kong. Lawmakers-elect also expressed readiness to collaborate with the government to advance Hong Kong's long-term development. Peter Shiu Ka-fai, re-elected legislator for the wholesale and retail industries, highlighted that promoting economic growth is a priority for the new-term LegCo, particularly through leveraging technology to integrate the city

into the national development framework, including the upcoming national 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30). He also pledged to attract more international investors to Hong Kong. Michael Ngai Ming-tak, one of 40 lawmakers from the Election Committee constituency and chairman of the Council of City University of Hong Kong, expressed his intention to promote coordinated development in education, research, talent, and finance. He emphasized the need to fully utilize Hong Kong's strong higher education resources to attract research talent, academics, stu-

dents, and leading enterprises. By fully capitalizing on the city's academic strengths and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area's industrial base, Ngai said he believes Hong Kong's economy will become more diversified and international. He is also committed to increasing local employment and creating more upward mobility opportunities for the city's younger generation. See more, page 4. Comment, page 7

Spotlight on Dunhuang



Visitors observe an artwork during an exhibition showcasing Tsinghua University's research and design work inspired by the ancient art of Dunhuang at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Monday. More than 80 works are on display, from early masters to new pieces using artificial intelligence, digital media and virtual fashion by Tsinghua students and alumni. The exhibition runs through Friday and is the second stop of an international tour that began in Paris, France in October 2024. LIAO PAN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

COURTS TARGET CHILD ABUSE DONE UNDER GUISE OF 'STRICT PARENTING'

Clear guidelines set on domestic violence, custody changes, protection of youngsters

By CAO YIN
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In China, the traditional belief that strict — and sometimes physical — discipline results in obedient and well-behaved children still persists in some families. However, legal research and numerous cases have shown that such methods can easily lead to psychological trauma, behavioral issues and physical injuries, potentially constituting domestic violence or child abuse.



In late November, the Supreme People's Court highlighted eight landmark cases, underscoring a "zero tolerance" approach to those who harm family members and stressing the importance of protecting minors in domestic violence situations. The country's top court said courts at all levels must prioritize

the well-being of children in their handling of cases, and stated that parents or guardians who use violence as a means to discipline or educate children are committing a potential act of domestic violence. It has also clarified that Chinese courts will support changes in child custody arrangements if it is found that violence has caused a minor to develop a distorted understanding of family relationships, mental health issues, or undertake imitative behaviors. See *Protection*, page 2



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