

► Summer Davos panelists call for concerted, proactive steps

China leads in Asian efforts to cope with climate change

By Zhang Han in Tianjin

The extreme summer heat in northern China has made discussions on climate change at the World Economic Forum's 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions even more relevant, as Asian countries face the common challenge of maintaining development and simultaneously coping with climate change.

A strong sense of necessity and urgency can be felt among Asian representatives who brought up the topic at various panels at the Summer Davos event, which is held in North China's Tianjin from Tuesday to Thursday.

Attendees called for concerted and proactive efforts to address the problem which is very much a historical burden resulting from the West-led industrialization yet China is taking a leading role to deal with.

Asia, with its large population, quick pace of industrialization and urbanization, is projected to contribute about 70

percent of all global growth in 2023, with China alone contributing 34.9 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund's latest estimates.

The most immediate measure of carbon cuts is to shift to renewables, where China plays an integral part. China saw its newly installed capacity for renewable energy reach 152 million kilowatts in 2022, accounting for 76.2 percent of the country's newly installed power generation capacity, media reported.

Those domestic efforts and exports translate to 2.83 billion tons of carbon cuts in 2022, or 41 percent of global carbon cuts, by shifting to renewables.

Challenges in grid connection, financing and price setting remain, but they are addressable, and the practice can be replicated in more Asian countries, Ma Jun, director of the Beijing-based Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, told the Global Times, as he underscored China's synergizing carbon cuts and rural revitalization to

untangle the development vs. decarbonization paradox.

A recent study led by the University of Leeds and published in the UK journal Nature Sustainability, said almost 90 percent of excess carbon emissions come from developed countries such as the US, who could be liable to pay \$170 trillion in climate reparations to low-emitting countries.

This research proves that developed countries have historical responsibilities, legal obligations and moral responsibilities for climate change, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning commented on Tuesday.

The fiercer the West attacks and pushes China, the less integral their moral stance stands, observers said.

What China does goes beyond politicization of the climate issue, because the challenge impacts everyone and we are thinking of all mankind when we should consider carbon emission cuts responsibilities, Ma noted.

Israel to enhance ties in PM's reported visit amid 'wave of reconciliation'

By Deng Xiaoci

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed on Tuesday that he is set to visit China next month, and according to Chinese analysts on Wednesday, Israel will seek to enhance bilateral ties with China in the regional power rebalancing process at a time when countries in the Middle East have increasingly engaged in a "wave of reconciliation" since China brokered a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran in March. It will also serve as a reminder to the US that Israel has other diplomatic options than Washington, experts noted.

The Israeli premier announced his China trip when he met with US lawmakers in Jerusalem on Tuesday. The visit has not been officially announced by Israel or China as of press time.

However, Israeli local media said that Netanyahu's China visit comes at a time when ties between Israel and the US have suffered under the current government, with the Biden administration increasingly outspoken in its criticism of Israeli policies.

Netanyahu's China visit would send the US a clear message that Israel could have multiple partners in different fields – having the US as its security partner and China as its political, trade and science and technology partner, Sun Degan, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times on Wednesday, adding that despite Biden government's displeasure and opposition, Israel will not make concessions over its policies.

However, it would be an underestimation to think Netanyahu's upcoming trip is all about pressuring the US, experts point out. Ties between China and Israel have been warming over recent years, marked by cooperation especially in fields such as infrastructure and technology innovation. The US factor should not be considered as a deciding one in the development of China-Israel ties, Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Research Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

Ding expects that during Netanyahu's visit, China would also persuade Israel to remove non-economic factors hindering China-Israel cooperation, such as US pressure to reject Chinese companies from participating in major projects.

► Riot aftermath



French technical and scientific police officers examine the facade of a burnt-down annex town hall of the Le Val Fourre neighborhood in Mantes-la-Jolie on June 28, 2023, a day after French police killed a 17-year-old teenager who refused to stop for a traffic check in the city. The event has prompted violent protests in west Paris. An officer has been detained and is under investigation for voluntary manslaughter. Photo: VCG

China's position on Ukraine crisis consistent and clear, says FM on remarks of envoy to EU

By Chen Qingqing

In response to the latest remarks of the Chinese envoy to EU Fu Cong at Al Jazeera addressing Ukraine's 1991 territorial integrity, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday China's position on Ukraine crisis is consistent and clear.

"We believe that all parties should create conditions for a political settlement of the crisis through dialogue and negotia-

tion," said Mao Ning, a spokesperson of the ministry.

Mao's comments were made following Al Jazeera on Tuesday publishing an interview with Fu whose remarks were interpreted as that China could back Ukraine's aims of "reclaiming its 1991 territorial integrity, which includes Crimea question."

"I do not know Ambassador Fu's specific statement, but as I just said, China's position on the Ukraine crisis is consistent

and very clear. With regard to your mention of Crimea, we also hope that Crimea can be resolved through political channels," Mao said.

In a recent interview with Al Jazeera and two other media outlets, when Fu was asked about whether he supports Ukraine's goals, "which includes reclaiming other Ukrainian regions now occupied by Russia," the Chinese diplomat said, "I don't see why not."

Some Chinese observers

believe that Fu's quotes were taken out of the context with ill-intentioned motives of creating discord between China and Russia or creating pressure on China over the Ukraine crisis, and some chose to spin the remarks as "China unexpectedly supports Ukraine's desire to liberate Crimea."

"China's position on the Ukraine's territorial claims have not changed, but the Western media is now trying to create ambiguity from clarity, cre-

ating new pressure on China," said Cui Hongjian, director of the Department of European Studies at the China Institute of International Studies.

Fu's remarks are considered to be a reiteration of China's consistent position, but Al Jazeera and other media outlets over-interpreted them, Cui noted.

