



## New high-altitude drone makes first flight

China recently carried out the maiden flight for a type of new high-altitude, high-speed demonstrator drone, which can help test and verify a number of new technologies **3**

## China's NEV sales to reach 6.5 million in 2022

Sales of NEVs in China are expected to reach 6.5 million, an industry association said, as consumers' enthusiasm is unleashed by favorable policies **8**

## Vaccine R&D shows people's life a top priority for CPC

Chinese vaccine expert shares views on vaccine's rapid development over the last decade, as well as the benefits reaped, and challenges faced in the process **12-13**

www.globaltimes.cn

VOLUME 14 • NO. 3916 • FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2022

PRICE 2 YUAN



The 2022 Chinese-Arab Media Cooperation Forum is held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on December 5, 2022. The forum, co-sponsored by the CMG and Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Media, gathered more than 150 government officials, representatives of media organizations, and scholars from China and 22 Arab countries. Photo: Xinhua

► Xi, Saudi king agree to hold regular head-of-state meetings

# China, Saudi Arabia deepen relations amid devt synergy

By Yu Jincui, Xing Xiaojing in Riyadh and Chen Qingqing in Beijing

A grand welcoming ceremony, high-level bilateral meetings and wide-covering investment agreements are among proofs that China-Saudi Arabia relations have been lifted to a new high.

President Xi Jinping and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Thursday signed an agreement on the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries and also agreed to hold a meeting between the two heads of state by turns every two years.

Experts believed that Saudi Arabia's industrial diversifica-

tion endeavor can be a perfect match for China's Belt and Road Initiative and its policy of developing high-tech industries. During the visit, Saudi and Chinese companies signed 34 investment agreements, covering green energy, transportation, logistics, medical industries and construction, local media reported.

In the welcoming ceremony held by Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud on behalf of King at the royal palace in the capital Riyadh on Thursday, Xi reviewed the guard of honor, who extended the most solemn welcome

## More than 70% of Arabs anticipate closer ties with China: GT poll

GT INVESTIGATES

By Liu Xin and Chen Zishuai

With the world paying close attention to China-Arab relations as the two sides further promote their friendship this week, a latest poll showed that over 70 percent of more than 5,000 respondents in China and Arab countries agree with "closer China-Arab" relations in the future, while China is also chosen by most Arabs as their "friend" among major powers in the world.

As US and Western development models have been losing appeal in the Middle East, more Arab states are eager to learn from China's path to modernization. Also, compared with the US and some Western countries that have brought only turmoil and chaos to the region, China has brought more development opportunities, analysts said.

This poll, which was jointly conducted by the Global Times Research Center and School of Arabic Studies of Beijing Foreign Language Studies University, was based on membership database sampling. It processed 5,100 valid questionnaires from respondents aged from 18 to 70 years old in cities across China and six Arab states - Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan and Algeria from November 8 to 25.

The questionnaires are made up of three parts - how much Chinese and Arabs know about each other; how Arabs see China-Arab relations, and how Chinese people think about bilateral relations. It included detailed questions on respondents' attitudes toward

► 2  
Demonstration  
See also  
Page 6

► 2  
Chinese



Address: The Global Times English Edition, 2 Jintai Xilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100026 • The Global Times is published six times a week from Monday to Saturday.

News Dept: (8610) 65367574 editor@globaltimes.com.cn • Ads Dept: (8610) 65369595 advertising@globaltimes.com.cn • Subscription Dept: (8610) 65369602 subscription@globaltimes.com.cn • Marketing Dept: (8610) 65367665 marketing@globaltimes.com.cn

违法和不良信息举报电话: 010-65363263 • 举报邮箱: jubao@people.cn • 地址: 北京市朝阳区金台西路2号环球时报社英文版 • 邮政编码: 100026 • 国内统一刊号: CN11-0272 • 国际标准刊号: ISSN 2095-2678 • 邮发代号: 1-181



# 'Demonstration effect' can expand to more nations

► China, from Page 1

to the Chinese president with traditional sword-holding etiquette.

This visit also witnessed the efforts of the two sides to enhance people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. In a signed article published Thursday on the Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh, Xi said that "China and Saudi Arabia have admired each other and conducted friendly exchanges since ancient times. The prophet Muhammad said, 'Seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China.'"

Such mutual respect has been carried forward to today. On Thursday China agrees to list Saudi Arabia as a destination for group travel and expand personnel exchanges as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two sides.

Experts believed that China-Saudi relations play a crucial role in boosting the relations between China and Arab countries, serving as an example as South-South cooperation. As the only G20 member among Arab countries, Saudi Arabia has seen its influence grow, playing a leading role in the affairs of GCC as more Arab countries are realizing that compared to China that promotes peace and development in the region, the US

instigated conflicts and divergences, imposes extra geopolitical conditions in its cooperation with Arab countries.

## A new level

Abdulaziz O. Sager, chairman of the Gulf Research Center in Saudi Arabia told the Global Times that China-Saudi Arabia relations is a good role model that can be expanded to different countries in the Middle East region, as the great relationship is based on mutual interests and non-intervention in the domestic issues from both sides.

"We will not interfere in the issues between the US and China. We will not take US' position when it comes to China. We think our relationship with China is extremely important, and extremely valuable," said Sager.

China and Saudi Arabia will reportedly sign a plan to harmonize the Kingdom's Vision 2030 with China's Belt and Road Initiative, according to people familiar with the matter.

In the past, many Middle Eastern countries were seen as proxies of the West but are now trying to get rid of such identity by working on development on their own, seeking a balance in cooperation with major powers, Zhu Weilie, director of the Middle East Studies Institute at Shanghai International Studies

University, told the Global Times.

"China-Saudi strategic relations have now entered a new level covering many more areas, and the two countries share similar aspirations in the country's development and reform, especially in green energy and digital economy," Zhu said, adding that deepening cooperation is in line with their own development targets, and it's not targeting any third-party country.

Fahad Almeniaee, Director of the China and Far East Unit of the Riyadh-based Center for Research and Intercommunication Knowledge, told the Global Times that the relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and China is a multi-faceted relations ranging from trade to culture. "Xi's visit has been successful by all standards," he said.

## Broader cooperation

Xi also met with leaders of several other regional countries, including Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabahon, on Thursday.

Commenting on China-Arab States Summit, news site Middle East Eye said the goals of China and the Gulf are aligned in many domains, which means

the summit is only likely to produce new synergies. "It is a growing reality in the Gulf and it is likely that the summit will elevate these economic synergies to a new level and a possible free trade agreement, oil deals in yuan and membership of BRICS Plus would hugely strengthen Gulf-China ties and further challenge US hegemony," the news site said.

Xi's visit to Saudi Arabia came amid strained US ties with the Middle East country, some US media reports said, which also underlines Beijing's growing influence in the Middle East and draws "inevitable comparison" to a low-key welcome afforded to Biden when he visited Saudi Arabia in July.

"And more Gulf countries understand that when the US mentions 'security,' it has become insecure for them while China-proposed ideas promoting peace and development are much more welcomed," Wang Guangda, secretary-general of the China-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development at Shanghai International Studies University.

China hopes to promote the benefits for people of the both sides rather than competing with the US in terms of the influence in the region or filling "vacuum" left by the US, Wang told the Global Times.

## Chinese modernization shines as Western governance style loses lustre: expert

► More, from Page 1

China-Arab relations, their understanding of relations with other countries and also on the channels for the peoples to know each other and how they value future cooperation.

The poll was released against the backdrop of the China-Arab States Summit which will be attended by President Xi Jinping on December 9. Observers hailed it as a watershed moment in China-Arab ties, and both China and Arab countries are eager to take bilateral relations to new heights.

## Close friends

The questionnaires sent to Arab and Chinese respondents began with questions on how well they know each other. Over 70 percent of Chinese and Arab respondents believe they have some knowledge of each other. The poll shows that 42.8 percent of the respondents in Arab states have had contact with China, including paying visits to China or having Chinese friends.

Arabs have growing awareness of China, since Chinese products have become indispensable in their everyday lives, said Li Shaoxian, head of the China Institute for Arab Studies at Ningxia University.

The Chinese civilization is the historical and cultural



**People visit an exhibition themed China-Arab friendship and cooperation in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 7, 2022, its opening day. There are 103 rare photos from the archives of China's Xinhua News Agency on display, illustrating the achievements of cooperation and exchanges between China and Arab countries in economy, society, culture, the fight against COVID-19 and humanitarian aid.** Photo: Xinhua

foundation for the Arab world's understanding of China. Furthermore, China has made significant progress since opening-up and reform, and has enjoyed expanding global influence, experts said. They noted that China and the Arab world have a long history of cordial interactions along the Silk Road and share a common destiny of seeking national revolution and

preserving sovereignty since China's opening-up, bilateral collaboration has grown significantly, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative(BRI), and more Arabs now consider China a friend.

## High anticipation

More than 75 percent of Arab respondents believe China can offer valuable governance experience

to the Middle East. 46.9 percent of them agree that it is China that has played a positive role in regional issues while only 23.7 percent of respondents selected the US.

The Chinese approach of achieving enormous economic success while maintaining stability appeals to Arab states, said Niu Xinchun, director of the Middle East Institute of

Contemporary International Relations.

On the question of which fields Arabs hope China will be involved in when it comes to Middle East governance, the survey finds that 39.4 percent want China to support regional sustainable development, 36.6 percent want China to counter US influence.

Observers said China has contributed to improving the region's security environment, such as participating in peace-keeping efforts. These stand in stark contrast to the US' attempts to use military force to incite conflict in the region.

More than 71 percent of Arab respondents expect deeper relations with China in the future, with 43 percent anticipating expanded collaboration and 28.2 percent believing Arab countries need China's help and cooperation in regional and global issues. The poll also finds that 44.5 percent of Arab respondents anticipate economic collaboration with China.

The reason of China's popularity is that its economic cooperation with other countries has no political conditions attached, and it will not exert pressure on other countries for its own interests, experts said.