

China Development Forum 2021

China on a New Journey of Modernisation

19:00-19:30 21 March 2021

Session I Opening Ceremony

Moderator

LI Wei, Chairperson, Committee on Population, Resources and Environment of CPPCC;
Chairman, China Development Research Foundation (CDRF)

Welcome speech

MA Jiantang, Chair, China Development Forum; Secretary of the Leading Party Members' Group, Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC)

Speech

Oliver Zipse, Chairman of the Board of Management, BMW AG; Co-chair, China Development Forum

Maurice Greenberg, Chairman & CEO, Starr Companies; Co-chair, 1st China Development Forum

Keynote speech

HAN Zheng, Member, Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Vice Premier, the State Council

Key points

- The modernization that China pursues is one that maintains harmony between humanity and nature. China must unswervingly follow a path of high-quality development that is green and low-carbon and puts ecology first.
- China will continue to step up efforts in reform and opening up, and advance international scientific and technological exchange and cooperation with a more open-minded approach and additional measures, and promote technological achievements for the benefit of all mankind.
- International cooperation and multilateralism need to be promoted to new heights, and sustainability will deem to become a new and common agenda across the world.
- China-US relations are considered the world's most important relations today. Due to various reasons, such relations have deviated from the normal path.

Cooperation between the two countries is the best way to solve deviations that exist.

Synopsis

Ma Jiantang noted that in the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China will ground its efforts in the new development stage, apply the new development philosophy, create a new pattern of development, and pursue high-quality development. The ultra-large market and domestic demand potential formed by China's population of 1.4 billion and middle-income group of over 400 million people will be fully released, providing more development opportunities for other countries. China will advance reform and opening up at a higher starting point to support world economic recovery and growth.

Oliver Zipse believed that global economic activity planning is influenced by the following three factors:

- As humans have never been more hungry for prosperity and wellbeing, the growth momentum of the world economy will continue. With the continuous expansion of China's middle-income group, the demand for high-quality innovation-based products and services will also expand, which will become an important factor that drives growth.
- The importance of China in the world is self-evident. China will have positive impact on the whole world as it embarks on its journey of modernization.
- Out of the needs of industrial transformation and upgrade, and a focus on improving the quality of people's lives, China is becoming a world pioneer in the application of digital technologies.

Oliver Zipse advocated whole-cycle thinking. Circular economy can help us solve the dilemma between environmental protection and resource consumption. Global demand for green technologies will bring new opportunities for economic growth. The world should establish a way of working together that seeks mutual benefits, and pursue globalization, connectivity and multilateralism. China's 14th Five-Year Plan has made it clear that the country will open its door wider to the world, manifesting its pursuit of globalization and opening-up. This sends positive signal to the world, which will help lead the prosperous and steady development of the world economy.

Maurice Greenberg began with the importance of the China-US relations and advocated cooperation between the two countries as the best way to solve deviations that exist. In addition to their long-term efforts in children's education causes in China, Starr Companies have long been helping China's insurance industry develop insurance

talent and enhance the industry's competitiveness, rightfully fueling China's reform and opening up.

In his keynote speech, Vice Premier Han Zheng reviewed the achievements in the 13th Five-Year Plan period and looked ahead to the 14th Five-Year Plan period in which China will embark on a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects. President Xi Jinping has made the solemn commitment to the world that China will strive to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. China will take effective measures with determination to address climate change and protect the earth. Confronted with the climate change challenge, humans face a shared future. All countries should follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).

Han Zheng emphasized that China will continue to open its door wider. China will continue to strengthen macro-policy coordination with other countries, and move the world economy out of the shadow of crisis at the earliest. It will also push forward the joint building of the Belt and Road with high quality, continue to optimize trade and investment environments, and continue to participate in international anti-pandemic cooperation. China will strengthen its science and technology to provide strategic support for the country's development.

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