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Policies

Xi Jinping urges China to become more self-reliant

[SCMP, 23-10-2018] Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that China must become “self-reliant”, state media reported, as he toured the country’s manufacturing hub.

Xi arrived in the southern province of Guangdong on Monday, and visited the precision moulding plant and a key laboratory at Gree Electric Appliances in Zhuhai, one of the country’s biggest manufacturers.

There he said the country must develop its manufacturing industry and technology to become a “strong” country, according to *People’s Daily*.

Click [here](#) for details

China mulls 2nd draft revision on rural land contract law

[Xinhua, 22-10-2018] A second draft amendment to China's law on rural land contracts was submitted on Monday for review to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature.

The revision identifies and offers clearer support for the transfer of management right of rural land, enabling farmers to retain contract rights over their allotted land and only transfer the management rights if they choose to lease the land to others.

It stipulates the means, procedure and basic requirements for conducting transfers of management rights. The revision also introduces regulation on voluntary registration of management right transfers and forbids farmers from unilaterally dissolving contracts.

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China vows to further protect environment while fighting poverty

[Xinhua, 21-10-2018] Environmental and ecological protection will play a bigger role in advancing poverty alleviation, according to China's environment authority.

Emphasis will be placed on developing the ecological economy, particularly ecological tourism and agriculture, healthcare and elderly care, the organic food industry as well as the ecology recovery industry, said Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment Zhuang Guotai.

Ecological recovery will focus on returning farmland to forests and grasslands as well as on wetland protection and water treatment.

Click [here](#) for details

China's new animal feed standards set to lower soybean consumption

[Reuters, 28-10-2018] New standards of protein content in animal feed that China announced on Friday 26 October will cut the country’s annual soymeal consumption by 11 million tonnes and soybeans by 14 million tonnes, according to a statement from the agricultural ministry.

China is entering what is typically its top buying season for U.S. soybeans, a critical source of protein in livestock feeds, and higher tariffs - part of an escalating Sino-U.S. trade war - could drive up prices.

China’s Feed Industry Association approved new standards for the feed for pigs and chickens, lowering the protein levels in pig feed by 1.5 percentage points and those for chickens by one percentage point, the ministry said.

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China's Q3 GDP growth slowest since 2009, misses expectations

[Reuters, 19-10-2018] China's third quarter economic growth slowed to its weakest pace since the global financial crisis, and missed expectations, as a years-long campaign to tackle debt risks and the trade war with the United States began to bite.

The economy grew 6.5 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, slower than the second quarter, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday 19 October. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected the economy to expand 6.6 percent in the July-September quarter.

On a quarterly basis, growth slowed down to 1.6 percent from a revised 1.7 percent in the second quarter, in line with expectations of 1.6 percent growth.

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Chinese premier tells European, Asian leaders Beijing will continue reform

[Reuters, 20-10-2018] Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said at a meeting between Asian and European leaders in Brussels that China will continue to open up its economy, push forward reforms and improve its business environment, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on Saturday.

Li said that China's economy is healthy but is facing challenges including changes to the external environment.

The Chinese premier said he supports improvements to the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), but that changes must be carried out on the basis of the WTO's existing rules and the interests of developing countries must be respected, Xinhua reported.

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UK-China relations entering 'diamond era', says premier

[Guardian, 19-10-2018] One of China's most senior leaders has said his country's relationship with Britain is entering a "diamond era".

Premier Li Keqiang was speaking as he met Prime Minister Theresa May for talks at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Brussels.

Building commercial ties with China was one of the top foreign policy priorities of Mrs May's predecessor David Cameron and former chancellor George Osborne, who declared a "golden era" of warm relations with the far eastern giant at the start of the decade.

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Science, Technology and Environment

China reaping harvest of agricultural R&D

[Xinhua, 22-10-2018] China is transforming its traditional agriculture sector, using science and technology to drive rural revitalization and modernization.

Delivering a report on the development of China's agricultural science and technology recently, Tang Huajun, president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), said remarkable progress has been made in innovation, which has played an important role in ensuring national food security and increasing farmers' incomes.

However, production costs remain high while the price of products has reached its "ceiling", resulting in reduced profits. China is also facing challenges such as limited resources and environmental pollution, and lacks core competitiveness, Tang said.

The academy has drawn up a five-year plan for developing key technologies in fields such as high-quality crop varieties, automated machines, agricultural products processing, modern

food manufacturing, water efficiency, pollution control, agricultural waste recycling, and ecological restoration and protection.

Click [here](#) for details

China plans to be a world leader in artificial intelligence by 2030

[SCMP, 01-10-2018] Artificial intelligence (AI) has come to occupy an important role in Beijing's 'Made in China 2025' blueprint. China wants to become a global leader in the field by 2030 and now has an edge in terms of academic papers, patents and both cross-border and global AI funding.

In 2017, China published its "Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan", which laid out plans to ultimately become the world leader in artificial intelligence, with a domestic AI industry worth almost US\$150 billion. The first step of that plan is to catch up with the US on AI technology and applications by 2020.

China now dominates AI funding. Last year, 48 per cent of total equity funding of AI start-ups globally came from China, compared to 38 per cent funded by the US, and 13 per cent by the rest of the world.

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Chinese tech companies get into farming

[The Economist, 27-10-2018] The sleek offices of NetEase in Hangzhou, a traffic-clogged city in eastern China, seem an unlikely place to find a farmer. Yet the video-gaming company also runs a pig-rearing division. Ni Jinde launched Weiyang, its swine affiliate, almost a decade ago, after a stint in its financial team. At a state-of-the-art farm in nearby Anji county, Mr Ni oversees the rearing and slaughter of 20,000 organic free-range hogs a year, with the aid of tracking sensors, big-data analysis and soothing music. A second farm, to open in December, will raise another 150,000.

China's pig-rearing remains remarkably inefficient. It has long been a family affair: nine in ten of an estimated 40m pig farmers are thought to raise fewer than 50 hogs a year. Only about one in five Chinese sows is in industrialised production, estimates Bill Christianson of Genus, a British firm that is the world's biggest supplier of breeding pigs.

Foreign suppliers also hope to put their snouts in the trough as pig farming industrialises.

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More agricultural plastic film recycled in Xinjiang

[Xinhua, 09-10-2018] Plastic film farming, although cost-effective, has brought a side effect of white pollution in China's vast rural areas. However, the problem has been basically solved through recycling in northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

According to the regional department of agriculture, 42 recycling stations have been set up to deal with the plastic waste from mulching cultivation in Xinjiang.

With the new recycling technology, more than 60 percent of agricultural plastics in the region can now be recycled for reuse. The recycling rate is expected to exceed 80 percent in two years, according to the department.

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More protection given to aquatic life in Yangtze River

[GOV.CN, 15-10-2018] China is to enhance the protection of aquatic life in the Yangtze River region, according to a guideline released by the State Council on Oct 15.

The goal is to make fishing off-limits throughout the year, improve the construction and oversight of the conservation areas for aquatic life and curb the trend of a worsening ecological environment and decreasing diversity of aquatic life by 2020. By 2035, the ecological environment will be greatly improved, with its aquatic resources increased.

It urged coordinating the overall protection, systematic restoration and comprehensive management of the mountains, rivers, forestry, lands, lakes and grasslands in the Yangtze River region, and scientifically designating areas for mariculture, or the cultivation of marine life.

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Yunnan regulation protects biodiversity

[China Daily, 17-10-2018] The southwestern province of Yunnan has passed a regulation protecting local biodiversity. The regulation is the first local regulation in China on biodiversity protection.

The regulation, effective on Jan. 1, 2019, stipulates that a government-guided system should be established to protect biodiversity in ecosystems, species and genes.

It details a series of lists on endangered species and urges efforts to protect rare species. Special attention should be given to distinctive species in Yunnan, according to the regulation.

It also prohibits anyone or any organization from introducing alien species into the wild without authorization.

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Chinese researchers call for stronger protection of snow leopards

[Xinhua, 23-10-2018] Researchers from 19 Chinese organizations have called for more efforts to promote protection of snow leopards and their habitats.

They made the call at the launch event of a report about the status of China's snow leopard survey and conservation in Beijing on Tuesday 23 October, which is International Snow Leopard Day.

The report was initiated by an alliance composed of leading nature conservation agencies, research institutions and universities. It was based on 57 Chinese and English references on snow leopards in China published between 1980 and 2018.

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China's NE farming belt accused of livestock pollution failures

[Reuters, 24-10-2018] Waste from poultry and livestock farms has contaminated land and water supplies in China's northeast farm province of Heilongjiang due to inadequate and poorly run treatment facilities, a government review said on Wednesday.

Just 47 percent of the province's large-scale poultry and livestock farms had installed proper waste treatment facilities, and many weren't running those facilities correctly, the report published by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said.

Livestock pollution has emerged as one of China's biggest pollution threats, and new regulations have forced thousands of facilities to relocate or close near densely populated or environmentally sensitive regions.

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China environment facing pressures from economic slowdown

[Reuters, 29-10-2018] China's pollution control efforts are coming under increasing pressure from the nation's slowing economy and officials must not drop their guard this winter, the country's environment minister said in remarks published on 29 October.

Minister of Ecology and Environment Li Ganjie told officials that China's clean-up campaign was becoming "increasingly complex", according to details of the meeting published by the ministry's official publication, China Environmental News.

After shutting down huge swathes of industry last winter to meet politically crucial smog targets, it has promised to take a more flexible approach this year, giving local governments the power to set their own goals.

Click [here](#) for details

China launches HY-2B satellite to monitor marine environment

[Xinhua, 25-10-2018] China sent a new satellite into orbit Thursday morning to form a network with the subsequent HY-2C and HY-2D for maritime environment monitoring.

A Long March-4B rocket carrying the HY-2B satellite took off at 6:57 a.m. from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.

Used to collect oceanic data, the HY-2B can provide 24/7 all-weather observation with a design life of five years. It can cover 90 percent of the world's oceans, and obtain dynamic ocean environment data, such as sea surface temperature, wind speed, sea ice, and rainfall level.

Click [here](#) for details

Can China's agricultural transformation offer lessons for Africa?

[FT, 24-10-2018] When 200m farmers are responsible for feeding the entire population of China, any chance of halving hunger levels relies on helping these smallholders become more productive and, in the long term, more efficient.

This is precisely what China is doing, and the results have spared 155m people from hunger and malnutrition since 1990, accounting for two-thirds of the global fall in hunger levels.

With sub-Saharan Africa facing a hunger crisis of a similar order, China's rapid agricultural transformation offers valuable insights that could help the region achieve much-needed productivity gains.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese researcher wins international award for breakthroughs in agricultural efficiency

[IFA, 12-10-2018] Chinese researcher Professor Weifeng Zhang has been awarded the IFA Norman Borlaug Award ahead of Global Fertilizer Day (October 13) for his pioneering work to improve both farm efficiencies and agricultural productivity in China.

Prof. Zhang has been the driving force behind several initiatives and government policies in recent years that have bolstered China's ability to feed a growing population, while also reducing the environmental impact of more intensive farming.

Based at China Agricultural University in Beijing, Prof. Zhang has played a significant part in China's ongoing development, which has already seen 800 million people lifted out of poverty and 155 million people spared from hunger and malnutrition since 1990.

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Trade and Business

The first China international import expo to welcome 2800 exhibitors

[PRNewswire, 25-10-2018] The first China International Import Expo (CIIE) is to gather 2800 companies from over 130 countries and regions to meet with over 150,000 buyers in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10, 2018.

The UK, one of the Guests of Honor to the event, will bring more than 30 British companies across sectors such as healthcare, life sciences, financial and professional services, education, creative industries, consumer goods, food and agricultural products, aviation and aerospace, automotive, AI and Big Data; featuring companies including JLR, Standard Chartered, HSBC, Kenwood and British Airways.

"Britain has a reputation for being strong in the creative industry, education and financial services. But Chinese consumers see less of some of its high-end manufacturing, aerospace, automotive products. We hope that CIIE can be a good opportunity for Chinese consumers to see some of the very best British products from a variety of different industries," said John Edwards, British Consul-General in Shanghai.

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U.S.-China trade forum held amid trade disputes

[Xinhua, 27-10-2018] U.S.-China Agriculture Food Trade Forum was held Thursday 25 October in the western U.S. state of California, focusing on the promotion of marketing communication and cooperation between the agriculture and food industry of the two countries amid Washington-triggered trade tensions.

The event, jointly hosted by the Representative Office in the United States by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the China Certification and Inspection Group, CCIC North America Inc., attracted around 200 representatives from both countries.

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Alibaba uncorks \$290 million deal with stake purchase in wine e-tailer 1919.cn

[Reuters, 18-10-2018] Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd will invest 2 billion yuan (\$288.25 million) in domestic wine and spirits importer and retailer 1919.cn to tap into resurgent demand for imported wine in China.

The wine and spirits platform, listed on China's over-the-counter equities exchange, said in a statement to the National Equities Exchange and Quotations (NEEQ) on Thursday 18 October that Alibaba would buy over 39.3 million shares in a share subscription.

China is expected to become the world's second largest wine market behind the United States in the next five years, with consumption set to rise over a third to hit \$23 billion, according to wine fair operator Vinexpo.

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How Australians are helping China become the world's biggest wine maker

[ABC, 01-10-2018] For Australian winemakers, the Chinese market is booming.

For the first time they have sold more than \$1 billion in their biggest export market — and it is only going to get much, much bigger.

But the Chinese are now pushing back, planning to become the world's top number winemakers and produce top-quality wines to win back their own consumers.

In major cities of China, the rising middle classes are drinking more and more wine — and it's mostly red.

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China has ample soybean supplies, big price moves unlikely: agriculture ministry

[Reuters, 19-10-2018] China has ample supplies of soybeans and significant price fluctuations are unlikely, a senior agriculture ministry official said on 19 October.

Domestic soybean planting acreage has increased and China is set for a bumper harvest, supported by government subsidies and crop rotation policies, Tang Ke of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs told a press briefing.

The soybean market has been roiled by the Sino-U.S. trade conflict, with Chinese buyers steering clear of beans from the United States, instead increasing purchases from Brazil and reducing their use of the bean in animal feed.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese farms hope to grow and import more soybeans from Russia's Far East

[GT, 25-10-2018] As the *Longtui 603* ship offloaded a thousand tons of soybeans at a wharf in Fuyuan, Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on October 18, it marked the first shipment of soybeans grown in Russia's Far Eastern region by a Chinese company, Dongjin Group.

China is trying to find alternative suppliers to replace US soybean as China's soybean imports declined by 2.1 percent from January to August year-on-year. Currently, 70 percent of the total amount of soybean imports come from Brazil, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said recently.

This may bring an opportunity for China and Russia to explore further agricultural cooperation along their border areas.

Click [here](#) for details

China drops ban on rapeseed meal from India

[Reuters, 22-10-2018] China has dropped a years-long ban on rapeseed meal imports from India as the government seeks to diversify sources of protein used in animal feed, the customs administration said on Monday, 22 October.

Rapeseed meal shipments from India can resume from Monday if they meet certain inspection and quarantine requirements, the General Administration of Customs said on its website.

The move is China's latest effort to reduce its reliance on U.S. soybeans, as Beijing and Washington remain locked in an outright trade war.

Click [here](#) for detail

Chinese traders play down impact of new animal feed guidelines on soy demand

[Reuters, 29-10-2018] Oilseed traders in China played down the potential impact on soy consumption of new government guidelines to lower the protein content of animal feed, saying that rising soymeal and soybean prices would be a far bigger curb on appetite.

The nation has been pursuing multiple ways to reduce its consumption of feed ingredient soymeal, made from soybeans, amid a festering trade war with the United States, its No.2 supplier of beans.

China, which typically buys about two thirds of globally traded soybeans to help feed its huge livestock herd, has been taking steps such as turning to alternative meals and reducing protein levels in feed.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China says situation of African swine fever outbreaks under control

[Xinhua, 25-10-2018] China has reported African swine fever outbreaks in many provinces, but the situation is generally under control, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

As the country intensified prevention and control of the disease since the first outbreak was discovered in August, all the outbreaks have been effectively addressed and quarantine has been lifted in 12 affected regions, the ministry said on its website Wednesday 24 October.

More than 4,000 cases of the disease have been reported in 14 other countries this year.

Click [here](#) for details

China to crack down on illegal activity at slaughterhouses to combat African swine fever

[Reuters, 30-10-2018] China's agriculture ministry said on Tuesday 30 October it will launch a three-month investigation into illegal activity by slaughterhouses to combat the spread of African swine fever.

The ministry said it will step up checks on the illegal transport, slaughter and processing of sick pigs.

China has reported more than 40 outbreaks of the highly contagious disease across 13 provinces since it was first detected in the country in early August.

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China blames feeding kitchen waste to pigs for African swine fever spread

[Reuters, 24-10-2018] China's agriculture ministry said on Wednesday it would ban the feeding of kitchen waste to pigs after linking the practice to the majority of the early cases of African swine fever.

Beijing has not yet said how the disease first entered the country but the ministry found 62 percent of the first 21 outbreaks were related to the feeding of kitchen waste, a statement published on its website said.

The ministry also said in the statement it will set up a registration system for vehicles transporting live hogs, poultry and other livestock to control the spread of the disease better.

The long distance transport of live hogs has been the main channel for transmitting African swine fever across different regions, it said.

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China's Guangdong Province bans transport of live hogs as swine fever spreads

[Reuters, 23-10-2018] China's southern Guangdong province on Tuesday banned the transport of live hogs to other parts of the country after two outbreaks of deadly African swine fever were reported in a neighboring area.

Beijing has prohibited the transport of pigs from any provinces that have reported African swine fever cases, as well as from neighboring regions. Guangdong acted after authorities in Hunan province to the north found the disease on two farms.

Guangdong's ban will last until all neighboring provinces lift African swine fever-related restrictions, the region's department of agriculture and rural affairs said on its website.

Click [here](#) for details

African swine fever outbreaks in October

Date	Location	Details
8 Oct	Yingkou City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
9 Oct	Anshan City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
11 Oct	Dalian City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
12 Oct	Anshan City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
12 Oct	Jizhou District, Tianjin	Click here for details
14 Oct	Anshan City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
15 Oct	Three cases in Jinzhou City and Panjin City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
16 Oct	Three cases in Tieling City and Panjin City, Liaoning province	Click here for details
17 Oct	Panjin City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
17 Oct	Datong City, Shanxi Province	Click here for details
21 Oct	Zhaotong City, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
21 Oct	Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province	Click here for details
23 Oct	Two cases in Yiyang City and Changde City, Hunan Province	Click here for details
25 Oct	Hezhang County, Bijie City, Guizhou Province	Click here for details
26 Oct	Qixingguan District, Bijie City, Guizhou Province	Click here for details
28 Oct	Changde City, Hunan Province	Click here for details
30 Oct	Three cases in Yangqu County in Shanxi Province, Yuanling County in Hunan Province, and Pu'er City in Yunnan Province	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in October

Date	Location	Details
3 Oct	Lianyungang City, Jiangsu Province	Click here for details
10 Oct	Yueqing City, Zhejiang Province	Click here for details
16 Oct	Yixing City, Jiangsu Province	Click here for details
17 Oct	Xuancheng City, Anhui Province	Click here for details
17 Oct	Wuhu City, Anhui Province	Click here for details

19 Oct	Three cities, Chuzhou, Wuhu and Xuancheng in Anhui Province	Click here for details
23 Oct	Tongling City, Anhui Province	Click here for details
30 Oct	Xinxiang City, Henan Province	Click here for details
31 Oct	Gongzhuling City, Jilin Province	Click here for details

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