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# Innovation key to achieving sustainable development

By ZHANG JIE

As economic globalization has progressed, countries have become increasingly interdependent in terms of economy, politics, society and culture, while issues of global concern have ensued. How to achieve sustainable development has become a common issue for governments and the international community. From May 9 to 10, a forum on sustainable development was held in Jinan, Shandong Province. Scholars conducted in-depth discussions on related issues and gave suggestions.

Innovation stimulates the transformation of economic development mode and is the only way towards sustainable development. Su Haihong, deputy director-general of the Department of Science and Technology for Social Development under the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, said that since reform and opening up, especially from the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China onwards, science and technology have provided strong support to China's sustainable development. In a circular on the plan to build demonstration zones nationwide in an effort to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the State Council pointed out that during the country's 13th Five-Year Plan, about 10 national demonstration zones should be built and typical patterns for



A forum on sustainable development was held in Jinan, Shandong Province. Photo: SDNU

sustainable growth should be formulated. The aim is to play an exemplary and leading role for other areas' sustainable development at home and abroad.

Qi Rang, former vice president of the China Association for Science and Technology, said that to implement the innovation-driven development strategy, it is necessary to raise people's scientific literacy, strengthen the independent innovation capacity, and achieve integrated development of science and technology, economy and the society. We should enhance our confidence in innovation, integrate resources, combine our strength, and establish a sound mechanism for applying innovation. Meanwhile, we should deepen the reform of the system for science and technology, strengthen the principal position of enterprises in technological innovation, and transform passive innovation into active in-

novation. In addition, we should establish a sound system for technological management; promote the integration of the innovation chain, the industrial chain and market demands; and improve talent cultivation for technological innovation.

China thinks highly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides knowledge and experience in promoting sustainable growth both in theory and practice. Wu Hongbo, former deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, said that many ideas put forward by China have contributed to a new model for global sustainable development, such as the idea of building a global community of a shared future, the idea that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," and the Belt and Road initiative, which not only transforms China's development mode, but also provides positive reference for other countries.

# Scholars highlight B&R legal cooperation research

By LU HANG

On May 12, The Fourth Chang'an and Rome International Conference on Belt and Road Legal Culture Dialogue was held at Northwest University of Political Science and Law (NWUPL). Scholars and experts held discussions on issues related to the Belt and Road (B&R) legal cooperation and global legal governance and explored new paths for common prosperity and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Yang Zongke, president of NWUPL, said that Chang'an and Rome are representative historical and cultural cities of the Chinese and Western cultures. Chang'an is an important head of China's legal system. The formation of the *Tang Lü Shu Yi* (the laws of the Tang Dynasty, the extant oldest and most complete feudal penal code) here is regarded as the completion of China's legal system, while the Law of the Twelve Tables was the legislation that stood at the foundation of Roman law. We hope that through academic symposiums, the tradition of communication between the two cities can be passed down and a bridge for communication can be built in the new era. Meanwhile, we should push ahead with studies on China's legal system and Roman law, strengthen academic exchanges, share academic experience, effectively expand the range of research objects, and enrich research methods, in a bid to enrich studies on ancient laws and the content of modern private laws.

Riccardo Cardilli, a professor and director of the Center of Eurasian Studies at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, said that the B&R initiative shows a new concept of development, that is, one that transcends the national paradigm. On the basis of respecting different political situations, the B&R initiative seeks incremental development in terms of economy, law, society and culture. As a bridge for peaceful development in Europe and Asia, the B&R initiative is of great importance for many countries and even the whole world. The B&R initiative is an achievement that follows the times and that will instigate cultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

M. A. Machmudov, a professor and former president of the Court of the Constitution of Tajikistan, said that Roman law has been the foundation for the formation of legal thought for hundreds of years. Long-term studies on Roman law has inspired modern legal thought and has been the cornerstone for the development of modern legal studies. Through generations, Roman law has always exerted direct and indirect influences on the development of law and legal studies, therefore, studies on Roman law's adoption in modern law is of great practical significance.

Tatiana Alexeeva, a professor from the Higher School of Economics of Russia at the National Research University, said that the concept of rule of law is the crystallization of all human civilization and is widely applied to practices in national and global governance. Although countries differ in their understanding of rule of law, they agree on the effect of rule of law. In addition to promoting security and strengthening justice, rule of law is beneficial to the building of a harmonious order and is a method of governance adapted to economic globalization.

With rule of law being an important guarantee for international cooperation and world peace, international rule of law has become a core concept in global governance. Wang Guiguo, a professor from Zhejiang University, said that with economic globalization, global governance aims to provide a guarantee for institutions and regulations. With the B&R initiative keeping abreast with economic globalization, we should pay attention to studies on the features of global governance when promoting the B&R initiative. Facts show that settling disputes in participating countries' courts cannot win broad recognition, because the current dispute settlement mechanisms have defects, and some multilateral mechanisms cannot directly apply to dispute settlement between B&R countries. Therefore, establishing a dispute settlement mechanism which is jointly recognized by and suited for B&R countries is the only way to settle disputes.

# Internet as an engine for cultural consumption upgrading

By PAN YUEFEI

The widespread use of internet technology has spawned new cultural business models. Through integration, the internet has become an engine for the upgrading of cultural consumption.

Xie Xuefang, a professor from the School of Humanities at Tongji University, said that the internet-driven upgrading of cultural consumption contains three aspects, namely, the upgrading of content, the upgrading of copyright awareness, and the convenience and ubiquity of cultural consumption.

The internet has become an important platform for cultural consumption and has promoted cultural consumption upgrading through technological innovation, integrated innovation and updating. Li Lin, a professor from the National Research Center of Cultural Industries at Central China Normal University, said that we should better leverage the internet

in cultural consumption upgrading. First, we should invigorate the cultural consumption market, improve people's cultural consumption capacity, transform potential consumption desire into real consumption action, and push ahead with smart cultural consumption. Second, we should provide education related to cultural consumption, enhance residents' cultural sophistication, and help people develop a healthy cultural consumption habit. Third, we should conduct a comprehensive evaluation of cultural consumption's social value and find problems in time, so as to promote healthy, sustainable and high-quality cultural consumption.

Cultural consumption upgrading in the internet era is an evolutionary process through the integration of cultural consumption and the internet. Xie added that, first, we should clarify the position of the internet in cultural consumption upgrading. Cultural consump-

tion upgrading is not the simple integration of culture and the internet, but the reconstruction of all modes of work and life. Second, we should leverage internet companies' innovation ability and focus on their responsibilities as well. As the providers and regulators of internet culture, internet companies pursue the maximization of economic interest on the premise that they produce positive social effects. Meanwhile, internet enterprises should adhere to cultural ethics and technology ethics, in a bid to create an environment that respects original content and intellectual property. Third, we should have a correct understanding and make use of the dual identity of netizens. Netizens are both cultural consumers and producers in the cultural consumption process. A positive feedback loop of internet cultural consumption and production should be established in the process of cultural consumption upgrading.