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High-level opening up benefits both China and the world

Over the past more than 40 years, China's opening up has led to great achievements which have attracted worldwide attention. This not only advanced rapid Chinese economic and social development, but also made remarkable contributions to world economic growth.

Since the end of the 1970s, under the background of reform within China, the policy of opening up has facilitated the Chinese economy's rapid growth and efficiency of resource allocation has rapidly improved. Having lifted itself out of abject poverty and bleakness, China has now become the world's second largest economy, and the growth rate of the annual average GDP reached as high as 9.5%, much higher than that of the global average—2.9% during the same period. Having contributed more than 70% of its gains to global poverty reduction, the Chinese economy has created one miracle after another.

In the year 1980, the Chinese GDP per capita only accounted for 1/65th of the US GDP and 1/13th of the world average level. The population demographic between ages 15 and 64 in China totaled 585 million, which accounted for 22.4% of the world number. In such circumstances, China's opening up brought potentials rarely seen to the world, such as the lowering of global manufacturing costs. At the same time, the opening up significantly expanded the scope of products' and factors of productions' free flow worldwide. The global division of labor and specialization kept deepening, and efficiency of production had been substantially



The "Great China" Video Corridor was exhibited on Nov. 14, 2018 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. Photo: Shen Bohan/XINHUA

improved. China, which accounted for a quarter of the world's population, not only boosted the establishment of a vertical division of labor system in global manufacturing, but also advanced industrial structure upgrades in developed economies through its opening up.

China's advantage of low-cost labor is gradually weakening. After 2007, wages in the Chinese manufacturing industry (calculated in dollars) began to rise rapidly. By 2019, the Chinese GDP per capita had exceeded \$10,000, and global share of capital had exceeded that of labor. With the accelerated increase in labor costs, China's traditional advantage has been gradually weakening. At the same time, new advantages are gradually forming. For China, "middle-income per capita and huge volumes in total" is its unique national condition. "Middle-

income per capita" means that there are big development potentials in some areas, enjoying "latecomer advantages." "Huge volumes in total" means that the economic volume appeals and attracts advantageous resources around the globe to gather in China. For China today, it should fully utilize its middle-income potentials and the advantage of huge domestic market in continuing with opening up.

The huge Chinese market will provide the global market with more diversified products to satisfy a variety of demands, which will alleviate contradictions between the effect of economies of scale and diverse demands with lower cost. By relying on the middle-income potential and huge domestic market, the implementation of high-level opening up will lay a solid foundation for China to achieve mutually

beneficial results in the new era.

Vigorously developing import trade will help raise the level of opening up in a comprehensive way. Expanded imports will be conducive to improving the domestic supply's ability to adapt to demand in the long run. First, the import of intermediary products can help domestic manufacturers produce products that suit Chinese consumers' demands. Second, the competition from imported products will better optimize the structure of domestic products, which will bring stronger incentive mechanisms. Third, import trade will promote the domestication of imported products. If the Chinese market has a large demand for a certain imported product, and if domestic production costs for it are not high with few barriers for the foreign direct investment (FDI), then FDI will be attracted. This will boost the domestication of imported products and make them part of China's domestic industry. The process is in fact part of China's supply-side structural reform. Therefore, we should fully develop a strong domestic market and promote the new development pattern of "dual circulation," and improve the supply system's adaptability to domestic demand.

In addition, digital trade has increasingly become a new augment for international trade and globalization, and it represents a new field in which China can have advantages. For example, China's manufacturing industry is the largest in scale around the world, which lays an important foundation for the development of cross-border e-

commerce; Chinese internet users account for more than 20% of the world's totality, and their online time per capita ranks among the highest in the world; the internet industry in China is now booming with growing momentum; China has internet corporations which are among the world's top-ranked with continuously updating commercial modes. In short, developing digital trade is both an opportunity and an advantage for China.

At last, in the process of expanding opening up, China should actively participate in the reform of the global economic governance system. The global industrial chain and supply chain reflect the reality that different countries are closely interwoven. Therefore, countries should work in concert to ensure the security and stability of the global supply chain with positive measures. China is one of the economies that possess the most complete industrial chain and is the world's largest trading country. Faced with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, China should, on one hand, maintain the stability of its domestic industrial chain and supply chain to ensure the smoothness of global chain; while on the other hand, it needs to play an active role in pertinent international economic and trade negotiations so as to advance international cooperation.

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Artistic profundity needed for poverty alleviation themed films

2020 is the year when China completed the formidable task of ending its battle against extreme poverty. After eight years of constant efforts, a remarkable victory has been made, attracting worldwide attention.

Those engaged in the fields of literature and art were not absent through this historic major change. They took quick actions, participating in and recording the change by creating films and television series about poverty alleviation. These works inspire people as they strive for progress. Moving stories commend heroic figures who fought on the frontier, recounting their concerted efforts in the hard battle against poverty. Images of a number of primary-level cadres have been shaped. For example, the biography film *Huang Wenxiu* takes

the real story of a rural village's first secretary Huang as a prototype. The comic film *My People, My Homeland* recounts the joys and sorrows, the sweetness and bitterness of life in the process of poverty alleviation in the protagonists' homeland. The documentary film *Beyond the Mountains* records the relocation, road repairs, and other common problems which are difficult to carry out in the process of poverty alleviation.

But we also find that among the large amount of works about poverty alleviation, some works lack profundity. Despite the vivid topic, these works' insights are not deep, they lack artistic appeal, and some superficial works even intend to hype, or advertise for rural tourism.

Regarding the great victory in the fight against poverty, we must

not slacken or relax, because a little carelessness may lead to a return to poverty. To call for masterpieces requires arduous exploration and peaceful minds of literary and art workers.

Responsible artists should recount and discover moving deeds based on the true and vivid stories from the successful battle against poverty. Thematic ideas, aesthetic tastes, stories and entertainment should be integrated into a whole. Creators can focus on the nation and the courage and wisdom of its people from the perspective of the state's strategic level; they can also choose to uncover the stories of primary-level small figures from personal perspectives. Meanwhile, it is also necessary for artists to face the egoism, selfishness, and responsibility shirking that appears

during the battle, and to criticize and reveal the dark side. This is the duty of literary and art workers.

Art works about poverty alleviation aim to inspire, to motivate people and to stimulate increased morale. However, if exquisite texture, careful craftsmanship and artistic essence are neglected in works, and if forms of expression, techniques, and skills which align with the principles of art are not explored in the creation process, the effect may be counterproductive.

Thematic literary creation often has specific connotations and contexts that are unique to the times, which requires that forms of expression and content highlight the best in each other. Literature and art contain aesthetic values and the function of delighting people. Only works full of aesthetic value can

strike a true chord and be passed onto later generations. Those works which lack refined elements and are confined to superficial slogans will not withstand the test of time and will become obsolete. In terms of the relationship between the theme and artistry, many guidelines can be found in documents about traditional Chinese literature and art theory—discussions on the internal relationship between form and substance, word and meaning, body and spirit lasted from the ancient times till today. In the West, art critic Clive Bell put forward the theory of "significant form," which emphasizes the features, laws, forms, and aesthetic values of literature and art. Therefore, grasping the interrelations of form and content is one of the benchmarks that measure the professionalism of literary and art workers.

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