China promotes military anti-graft chief to general

Xi Jinping (C), chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), poses for a group photo with Zhang Shengmin (1st L), secretary of CMC discipline inspection commission, after a promotion ceremony in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 2, 2017. (Xinhua/Li Gang)

The Central Military Commission (CMC) on Thursday promoted Zhang Shengmin, secretary of its discipline inspection commission, to the rank of general, the highest rank for officers on active service in China.

At the promotion ceremony, CMC Chairman Xi Jinping presented Zhang with a certificate of command, shook hands with him and extended his congratulations.

Zhang is also a member of the CMC.

Chinese scientists complete genome sequencing for coconut

Chinese scientists announced Thursday that they had completed sequencing the genome of the coconut.

Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences sequenced and assembled the genome of the coconut, laying solid foundations for further research of functional genes of the coconut and Palmae family.

A genome is the full complement of an organism’s DNA – complex molecules that direct the formation and function of all living organisms. The size of an organism’s genome is measured by the number of bases it contains – base pairs being the building blocks of DNA.

“We found 282 unique genome families in the coconut,” said Yang Yaodong, a researcher with the academy.

“The completion of the genome sequencing is like finishing drawing a map of coconut genes,” Yang said. “Following the map, scientists will be able to bread more high-yield, drought-enduring, and disease-resistant species, with a shorter breeding cycle.”

Scientists began the genome sequencing project more than 4 years ago. The research paper was published in Giga Science journal.

Chinese farm to harvest avocados

The first batch of home-grown avocados from a farm in southwest China’s Yunnan Province are to be harvested, the grower said.

The 500 hectares avocado farm, located in city of Pu’er, is one of the largest in China.

The total output of avocados is estimated at 200 tonnes this year, said Qi Jiazhu, chairman of the board of the Greenbank Avocado Company, the farm investor.

Avocados can be grown mainly in southern China, according to Chen Weiqiang, a researcher at the Yunnan Honghe Institute of Tropical Science.

“With its superior natural conditions, Yunnan is the most suitable place to grow avocados,” he said.

According to the Greenbank Avocado Company, after years of experimenting they found Menglian, an autonomous county in Pu’er, the most suitable place to grow a mainstream species of avocados.

The county plans to have about 6,670 hectares of avocados planted by 2025. Output next year is expected to reach 2,000 tonnes.

Avocados, native to Central America, have become very popular in China in recent years.

Public back China's active part in global climate change governance

The ceremony to release the Survey Report on Chinese People's Understanding of Climate Change and Climate Change Communication is held at China Hall of Science and Technology, November 1st, 2017. [Photo by Zhang Liying / China.org.cn]

A survey released on Nov.1 shows 94 percent of respondents support China's implementation of the Paris Agreement, while 96.8 percent agree the country should participate in international cooperation to tackle climate change.

Xie Zhenhua, China's special representative for climate change, described the findings in Chinese People's Understanding of Climate Change and Climate Change Communication as highly encouraging approval of the country's efforts to deal with the threat.

The survey was conducted by the Center for China Climate Change Communication, the first think tank dedicated to climate change communications research and practice in developing countries.

Covering 4,025 ordinary people from China's 332 prefecture-level administrative units and four centrally-controlled municipalities, it provided a comprehensive picture of public understanding of climate change in terms of causes, influence, methods of response, government policies and communication effect, etc.

More than 90 percent of the respondents support the central government's measures in mitigation and adaption, indicating China's commitment to addressing climate change is responding to public wishes.

While America is looking at quick ways of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, China is intensifying efforts to contribute more to the global campaign.

Taking a driving seat in the cooperative international response to climate change, China has become an important participant, contributor and torchbearer in the global endeavor for ecological civilization, according to the report delivered by President Xi Jinping at the 19th CPC National Congress.

Seeing climate change as one of the unconventional security threats, China will continue to cooperate with other countries in tackling the problem to protect the planet for the sake of human survival.

Confronted with America's slack attitude towards climate change, the world will expect much from China to meet the global challenge at the upcoming 2017 UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn from Nov. 6th to 17th.

With staunch public support, the Chinese government will be more confident in

actively participating in global climate change governance, said Professor Zhang Haibin from the School of International Studies of Peking University, speaking at the ceremony to release the survey report.

Beijing, Shanghai most scientifically productive cities in China

China’s Beijing and Shanghai has been named by the Nature Index as China’s most scientifically productive cities, which also enjoy the highest city-to-city collaboration in the country.

In an article posted on its website on Wednesday, Nature Index says China’s economic rise dramatically boosted research activity across the country, including the two leading cities.

Between 2012 and 2016, researchers in Beijing increased their contribution to papers in the Nature Index by 43 percent, and Shanghai’s contribution increased by 22 percent. These trends supported a national growth of 45 percent for the same period, says the article.

The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 68 high-quality science journals. The database is compiled by Nature Research.

Last year, Beijing’s contribution to journals included in the Nature Index, measured as weighted fractional count (WFC), was 1,693, and Shanghai’s was 762. Together, the two cities contributed to more papers than the next dozen cities combined in China, according to the Nature Index.

Beijing and Shanghai both attract the best researchers from across the country and overseas, and incentives for cooperation remain strong.

The number of partnerships between an institution in Beijing and an institution in Shanghai has increased since 2012. The two cities have formed 382 institutional partnerships in 2016, the highest city-pair in the country, figures provided by the Nature Index show.