

become the largest Asian destination country for international students. The structure of international students in China has been continuously optimized. In 2019, the proportion of students studying in China with academic qualifications reached 54.6%; the proportion of international students from countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative reached 54.1%. The number of Chinese students studying abroad increased from 860 in 1978 to 704,000 in 2019, with their accumulative number exceeding 6.56 million. In 2019, the total number of Chinese students who returned China after studying abroad exceeded 580,000, a year-on-year increase of 11.7%. In 2020, education cooperation was, to a certain extent, adversely affected by the pandemic, but two major trends — studying abroad and returning from abroad — have become popular, which is increasingly in line with the country's national strategy and industry demands.

III. Experiences and Lessons of China's Opening-up Development

Practice gives rise to wisdom, and history reveals the direction of the future. Through looking back at China's opening-up to the outside world, summing up its successful experiences, understanding and catering to the law of history, and detecting the future direction, the concerned parties will be able to better promote global openness cooperation and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.

1. Adhering to adapting to the general trend based on national conditions

Since the founding of the new republic more than 70 years ago, China has, after taking into consideration its own conditions, seized external opportunities to actively integrate into the world. At the beginning of the country's opening-up, a new round of industrial revolution and economic globalization had just begun. China made full use of its low-cost advantages in such factors as labor, land and resources to fully participate in the international division of labor, develop processing trade and labor-intensive industries, and gradually become the “world factory”. In the new century, the trend of economic globalization is unstoppable. China took advantage of its strong industrial supportive capabilities and adequate infrastructure to undertake higher-level industrial transfers, such as high-end R&D and manufacturing and service outsourcing, and got more integrated into the world economic system. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has given full play to its new advantages, such as comprehensive strength, huge market,

innovation and entrepreneurship, and conformed to the general trend of deep integration with the world and common stake shared by all countries, and promoted the formation of a new pattern of comprehensive opening-up, high-quality joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative, and construction of an open world economy. China's opening-up to the outside world has always reflected the close integration of China's national conditions with the general trend of the world. And, through relentless exploration, it has embarked on a path of opening-up that suits its own conditions.

2. Persisting in opening-up to promote internal reforms and development

Looking back at the history of China's Reform and Opening-up, the reform and Opening-up initiatives have consistently reinforced each other so that they can both move forward as a whole. In a sense, reform means opening-up, and opening-up is also a reform; both aim to better serve the overall economic and social development. Every major breakthrough in China's opening-up to the outside world has accelerated the process of deepening domestic reforms. The first four special economic zones, which were China's first batch of areas adopting opening-up policies, along with coastal, riverside, and border opening-up initiatives, have strongly pushed forward the establishment of China's socialist market economy system. By joining the World Trade Organization, China has effectively aligned with multilateral rules and continually strengthened the role of the market, which helped accelerate the improvement in its socialist market economy system. In recent years, China has actively promoted trade liberalization and facilitation, and accelerated institutional innovation through carrying out stress tests in pilot free trade areas. The high degree of interaction and positive feedback between opening-up and reform, with opening-up pushing forward reforms, is behind China's sustained and rapid development, which is a valuable experience.

3. Adhering to maintaining security in expanding opening-up

China has unswervingly expanded opening-up and carried it out in a steady and orderly manner to promote the dynamic integration of opening-up and economic security. In the early stage of reform and opening-up, China established the special economic zones and economic development zones to bring out their leading and exemplary role in opening-up to accumulate experiences for other parts of the country. After joining the WTO, China has actively fulfilled its commitments. It has consistently

and proactively promoted opening-up to the outside world, adhered to bottom-line thinking, gradually opened up the market, set a transition period, and effectively ensured industrial security. It is like someone opening the windows to breathe the fresh air and enjoy the sunlight, while installing screens to effectively prevent dust.

4. Adhering to self-development and benefiting the world

China's opening-up process proves that its development cannot be separated from the world, and the world's prosperity also needs contribution from China. China does not adopt any beggar-thy-neighbor or protectionist policies. It has always adhered to win-win cooperation, promoted common development, and shares its development opportunities and dividends with other countries through opening-up. China adheres to the principle of mutual benefit, develops economic and trade cooperation with other countries, and assists developing countries to the best of its ability. As the interaction between China and the world economy deepens, China has been committed to improving the system of international trade rules to support the common development of all countries. China has always closely integrated its own development with the common development of the world. It welcomes other countries aboard the *express train* of China's development for free, so that its development can benefit more countries.

IV. Prospect of Promoting High-level Opening-up to the Outside World

China's opening-up development now still faces some problems, such as large-scale but not strong foreign trade, uneven development of regional opening-up, insufficient opening-up in the service sector, and insufficient global resource allocation capabilities. China needs to further increase opening-up and improve its quality. As it embarks on the new journey of building a socialist modern country in an all-round way, China will speed up the building of a new development pattern, carry out high-level opening-up, and promote market connection, industry integration, innovation promotion, and regulation connectivity between China and the rest of the world, so that a virtuous cycle can come into being on the basis of higher level of openness to create more growth, innovation and development opportunities for the world.