

LNU NEWSLETTER-



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Pan Yishan Delivers Lecture on the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee



On December 4, Liaoning University (LNU) held a lecture report meeting to further study and implement the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Pan Yishan, Secretary of the Party Committee of LNU, delivered the lecture to representatives of the university's faculty and students. The report meeting was presided over by Zhang Hongxin, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of LNU.

During the lecture, Pan Yishan provided a systematic interpretation and in-depth explanation of the spirit of the Fourth Plenary

Session. He focused on five key aspects: accurately grasping the significant meaning of the Fourth Plenary Session; correctly understanding the important position of the "15th Five-Year Plan" period within the process of basically realizing socialist modernization; deeply comprehending the guiding principles and main objectives for economic and social development during the "15th Five-Year Plan" period; fully understanding the strategic tasks and major measures for economic and social development in the "15th Five-Year Plan" period; and upholding and strengthening the

Party' s overall leadership. His presentation closely integrated these points with the specific realities of the university.

Pan Yishan emphasized that the entire university must regard studying and implementing the spirit of the Plenary Session as a major political task for both the present and the period ahead. It is essential to genuinely unify thoughts and actions with the major judgments and decisions made by the Party Central Committee. The study and implementation of the Plenary Session' s spirit should be interconnected with the study and comprehension of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It should also be combined with studying and implementing the spirit of President Xi Jinping' s important speeches and directives concerning the revitalization of Northeast China and Liaoning Province. Furthermore, it must be aligned with planning and arranging the university' s own "15th Five-Year Plan" development. By pooling the wisdom and strength of all faculty and students, the university will further clarify its development positioning, goals, and tasks for the next five years, ensuring the faithful and thorough implementation

of the strategic deployments and major measures outlined by the Plenary Session.

Pan Yishan required that the university deepen its educational philosophy of "stepping out of the campus, engaging with society, and advancing the frontiers." He called for mobilizing the entire university' s strength to extensively expand the practical path of integrating education, technology, and talent, driven by real-world scenarios and authentic societal problems. The aim is to continuously build a "Vibrant Liaoning University, Excellent Liaoning University, Entrepreneurial Liaoning University, and Happy Liaoning University." These efforts are intended to create a new phase of high-quality

development for the university in the new era and on the new journey, contribute to building a strong education system for both the nation and the province, advance Chinese modernization, and demonstrate LNU' s greater commitment and role.

The report meeting was attended by members of the university leadership team, representatives from various democratic parties and prominent individuals without any party affiliation, members of the University Party Committee' s Theoretical Propaganda Group, all cadres at the section chief level and above, and representatives of faculty and student Party members.



High-quality Development Symposium of Liaoning Education Association for International Exchange Held at LNU



On December 24, the High-quality Development Symposium of Liaoning Education Association for International Exchange was held at Liaoning University (LNU). Pan Yishan, Secretary of the University CPC Committee, met with the visiting guests prior to the meeting. Huo Chunhui, Vice President of LNU, attended the symposium and delivered a keynote report. Lu Hui, Vice President of LNU and Vice President of the Association, addressed the meeting, and Han Dongmei, Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Department of Liaoning Provincial Department of Education, and Liu Guanglin, President of the Association,

were present and delivered speeches.

During the symposium, three invited speakers — Zong Wa, former Deputy Secretary-General of the China Education Association for International Exchange; Huo Chunhui; and Tian Pengying, Dean of the Institute of Chinese-Style Modernization at Northeastern University — delivered keynote speeches respectively titled “Strategic Planning for Innovative Development in International Education: Ushering in a New Chapter of ‘Going Global’ and ‘Bringing In’ ” ; “Deepening International Cooperation to Empower Double First-Class Initiative: Liaoning University’ s Practices and

Insights” ; and “Studying Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era” .

Appointment certificates were also awarded to the presidents, vice presidents, secretaries-general, deputy secretaries-general and supervisors of the branch associations at the meeting.

Representatives from universities across the province held discussions and exchanges on topics including international exchange, international student recruitment, Chinese-foreign cooperative education, study abroad programs, international Chinese education, talent introduction, higher vocational education, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan education, the promotion of international industry - education integration, country and regional studies, international communication education, private and basic education, culture, art and sports, and international employment.

Pan Yishan Delivers Ideological and Political Theory Lecture to Doctoral Students

On the afternoon of November 21, Pan Yishan, Secretary of the CPC Committee of Liaoning University, delivered a thought-provoking, contemporary, and inspiring ideological and political theory lecture to doctoral students at the Puhe Campus. The lecture, held in the Report Hall of the Discipline Inspection and Supervision Building, was themed “Practicing the Spirit of Scientists: Being a Builder and Leader in the Liaoning Practice of Chinese Modernization”.

Secretary Pan structured his lecture around six key dimensions: “Upholding the Spirit of Scientists”, “Mastering Marxist Standpoints, Viewpoints, and Methods from the General Secretary”, “Cherishing Communist Ideals and Beliefs”, “Establishing the Concept that Moral Choices Are Economic Choices”, “Identifying Major Issues through Small Scenarios in Liaoning’s Modernization Practice”, and “Cultivating Ten Good Habits”.

Drawing upon the moving stories of renowned scientists such as Qian Xuesen, Chen Jingrun, and Tu Youyou, Pan vividly interpreted the profound essence of the spirit of scientists. He emphasized that this spirit - defined by patriotism, innovation, pragmatism, dedication, collaboration, and education - has integrated into the spiritual pedigree of Chinese Communists and serves as a fundamental guide for scientific professionals and all talents.

Closely aligning with General Secretary Xi Jinping’s discourse on technological innovation, Pan noted that innovation is a critical variable in the “great changes unseen in a century”, a core element of Chinese modernization, and the primary engine for developing new quality productive forces. He analyzed characteristics such as the high permeability and high growth potential of technological innovation, revealing the inevitable transition from a “following” to a “leading” mindset, and from traditional pathways to scenario-based applications. He summarized the

road-map for developing new quality productive forces with the maxim: “Innovation is the lead, data is the foundation, computing power is the bedrock, transformation is the path, and talent is the support”, while elaborating on the significance of Liaoning’s role in Chinese modernization.

Pan placed special emphasis on mastering Marxist methodology, particularly the “problem-oriented” approach. He guided students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity as an inviolable baseline and to view “moral choices as economic choices”. Using the premise that “problems are the starting point and motive force of innovation”, he systematically explained the standard research paradigm: “Topic → Social Reality Scenario → Real Problem → Cause Analysis → Countermeasures”. He encouraged the doctoral students to delve into social realities, discover “big issues within small scenarios” amid Liaoning’s revitalization, and effectively “write their papers on the vast land of the motherland”. His aim is for students to enhance their ability to solve practical problems, unifying their service to Liaoning with their service to the nation.

In his concluding remarks, Pan offered advice to the young scholars, urging them to cultivate ten lifelong habits, including “learning by doing”, persistence, and focus. He specifically highlighted the need to shift from “purely theoretical work” (paper-to-paper) to “direct practical engagement”, and to always maintain a grateful heart. He expressed his hope that students would internalize the spirit of scientists and translate it into action, growing into courageous innovators and leaders capable of shouldering the heavy responsibility of national rejuvenation.

The lecture, characterized by profound theory and vivid case studies, provided both ideological inspiration and practical methodological guidance. Following the session, the doctoral students expressed that they would take the spirit of scientists as their compass.

LNU Hosts Frontier Forum on Energy Catalysis



To focus on core issues in the field of energy catalysis, build a high-level platform for academic exchange and cooperation, and empower discipline innovation alongside the collaborative cultivation of talent through science and education, the “Frontier Forum on Energy Catalysis” was held in Shenyang from January 9 to 11. The event was hosted by Liaoning University (LNU) and organized by the College of Chemistry. Pan Yishan, Secretary of the CPC LNU Committee and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. The ceremony was presided over by Lu Anhui, Vice President of LNU, with Zhang Xinghong, Assistant to the President, also in attendance.

At the opening ceremony, Pan Yishan extended a warm welcome to all distinguished guests on behalf of the university and expressed heartfelt gratitude to those who have long supported the development of LNU’s chemistry and chemical engineering disciplines. He pointed out that energy catalysis, as a core field serving major national strategic needs, is a key support for driving high-quality development and practicing green development concepts. It plays an irreplaceable role in new energy development, the upgrading

of traditional industries, and the realization of the Dual Carbon Goals. Pan systematically introduced LNU’s achievements in the “Double First-Class” construction and its “Three Walks” educational philosophy, emphasizing the breakthrough progress made in chemistry, environmental science, and engineering since the implementation of the university’s plan to revitalize science and engineering disciplines. He stated that the College of Chemistry, as an important pillar of the university’s science and engineering development, has deeply cultivated the field of energy catalysis for years. Its research outcomes in clean coal conversion, efficient catalytic hydrogen production, and high-value utilization of carbon dioxide have provided strong technological support for the green transformation of regional industries. He expressed hope that this forum would serve as a bond to pool wisdom, build consensus on cooperation, drive original breakthroughs in energy catalysis, and contribute to national self-reliance in science and technology.

During the academic report session, top experts and scholars from prestigious universities and research institutes—including Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, the University of Science and Technology of China, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, East China University of Science and Technology, as well as the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics and the Institute of Metal Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences—focused on core directions such as breakthroughs in basic research, frontier technological innovation, and interdisciplinary integration. They comprehensively shared the latest research progress and practical achievements in the field of energy catalysis and engaged in in-depth discussions on core scientific problems and future development directions. The reports covered multiple dimensions, including the precise design of catalytic materials, the enhancement of energy conversion efficiency, and the research and development of low-carbon technologies, combining theoretical depth with practical application value.

Guangming Daily | Adhering to Opening-Up and Enhancing Development Resilience

Recently, Professor Yu Miaojie, Fellow of the International Economic Association (IEA) and President of Liaoning University (LNU), was interviewed by *Guangming Daily* on China's development resilience. The full text of the report is reproduced below:

On December 18, the official launch of the island-wide customs closure operation of Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) took place. This is not only an upgrade of customs supervision models but also a crucial step for China to improve its policy and institutional advantages and test its governance effectiveness in the global context. Its spillover effects extend far beyond a single island or region, bringing more benefits and dividends to people's livelihoods.

Recently, the Central Economic Work Conference identified "adhering to opening-up and promoting win-win cooperation in multiple fields" as one of the key tasks for China's economic work next year. It also deployed specific measures such as "steadily advancing institutional opening-up", "deepening the reform of the foreign investment promotion system and mechanism", and "promoting the signing of more regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements". These efforts have created a more stable and effective policy environment for us to further construct a new development pattern with the domestic big cycle as the main body and the domestic and international dual cycles promoting each other.

China has long adhered to opening-up, has promoted win-win cooperation with countries around the world in multiple fields, and pursued inclusive and fair economic globalization. Currently, China is the world's largest goods trading nation and the second-largest service trading nation, with both outward direct investment (ODI) and foreign direct investment (FDI) ranking among the top globally. In 2024, the goods trade volume

between China and countries along the Belt and Road reached 22.1 trillion yuan, contributing 67.8% to China's foreign trade growth. Looking ahead, while facing the increasing uncertainty and instability of external demand, we need to take actions from the following aspects to enhance the resilience and risk resistance of China's economy.

Deepening factor-oriented openness dividends and vigorously advancing institutional openness can be achieved by promoting deeper opening-up in capital, talent, intermediate goods, energy, technology, management, and other factors, thereby unleashing the benefits of factor-oriented openness. For instance, leveraging our comprehensive competitive advantages to attract specialized talents from overseas contributes to creating an environment where "the world's talents are gathered and put to good use." Continuing to advance unilateral, bilateral, or multilateral openness, reducing tariffs on imported intermediate goods, and integrating imported intermediate goods with domestic ones can achieve a synergistic effect where "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

Efforts in rules, regulations, governance, and standards help form new dividends of institutional openness. Active participation in new multilateral trade and investment agreements, along with proposing high-quality international trade rules and regulations suited to China's national conditions, can gradually guide new trends in international trade and investment. Specifically, optimizing the layout of pilot free trade zones and solidly advancing the construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port are key steps. The development of the Hainan Free Trade Port represents a major decision by the central leadership in the new era of comprehensive reform and opening-up. As an important gateway for China's opening-up in the new era, the Hainan Free Trade Port has become a new frontier for China's institutional

openness. Its development aligns with high-level international openness models, offering more opportunities and stable expectations for domestic and foreign enterprises. Data show that over a hundred countries and regions have invested in Hainan, demonstrating significant achievements in attracting foreign investment. Moving forward, accelerating related developments involves establishing modern industrial systems in areas such as blue skies, oceans, green development, digital technologies, and seed industries. Enhancing innovation capabilities, improving industrial structures, removing institutional barriers, and reducing trade costs will help build a new hub for cooperation and mutual benefit, fostering a new engine for economic globalization.

Orderly and gradual expansion of autonomous openness in the service sector, along with accelerating the integration of trade and investment as well as domestic and foreign trade, is essential. Autonomous openness in the service trade should focus on expanding scale, adjusting structure, and building distinctive features. On one hand, multiple measures can expand the total volume of the service trade, broaden growth spaces, and build a comprehensive, multi-level trade promotion system. On the other hand, introducing relevant policies and measures can effectively reduce trade deficits, particularly in areas such as tourism, education abroad, finance, and healthcare. For example, expanding “visa-on-arrival” policies for tourists from friendly countries, comprehensively improving the quality of tourism facilities and services, and reducing language barriers for foreign tourists in China can enhance seamless travel experiences. These efforts help boost inbound tourism consumption and reduce the service trade deficit in tourism.

Currently, some countries pursue trade protectionism and impose high tariff policies on China’s export products. While resolutely safeguarding free trade and conducting countermeasures in a reasonable, beneficial, and moderate manner, we should also actively encourage enterprises to “go global” and carry out horizontal investment of the “export

substitution type” . China should proceed in light of local conditions and seek truth from facts, and strive to promote greenfield investment and merger and acquisition investment. At the same time, it is important to further promote the integration of global value and industrial chains, vigorously advance the level of vertical investment of the “export complementarity type” , while supporting the export of Chinese products, and truly realizing the integrated promotion of trade and investment. In addition, we need to ensure that domestic and foreign trade products meet the “Three Identicals” standard - same quality, same production line, and same standard - through the establishment of such a system. With the help of digital trade, this will simultaneously improve the quality of domestic and foreign trade products, and realize the “dual circulation” at the product level.

Moreover, deepening the reform of the foreign investment system and mechanism and promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative are also key measures. On one hand, foreign-invested enterprises are allowed to enjoy “pre-establishment national treatment,” and on the basis of relaxing foreign investment access, an open, fair, and just business environment is created, enabling foreign enterprises to feel a sense of gain from investing in China. On the other hand, by improving the services of overseas warehouses, the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative is promoted, truly achieving mutual consultation, joint construction, and shared benefits in trade exchanges. At the same time, based on the coordinated advancement of the “Land Silk Road” and the “Maritime Silk Road,” differentiated development between the two can be achieved. For example, the recently held 2025 Maritime Silk Road International Cultural Tourism Festival highlighted distinctive features such as international exchange, cohesion of overseas Chinese, integration of culture and tourism, and sharing by all people. The festival plans content in sections like intangible cultural heritage, art, and national trends, and is committed to creating a cultural and tourism event that is shared globally and participated in by all, injecting new momentum into the high-

quality development of culture and tourism. of comprehensive reform and opening-up. As an important gateway for China' s opening-up in the new era, the Hainan Free Trade Port has become a new frontier for China' s institutional openness. Its development aligns with high-level international openness models, offering more opportunities and stable expectations for domestic and foreign enterprises. Data show that over a hundred countries and regions have invested in Hainan, demonstrating significant achievements in attracting foreign investment. Moving forward, accelerating related developments involves establishing modern industrial systems in areas such as blue skies, oceans, green development, digital technologies, and seed industries. Enhancing innovation capabilities, improving industrial structures, removing institutional barriers, and reducing trade costs will help build a new hub for cooperation and mutual benefit, fostering a new engine for economic globalization.

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Exclusive Interview with Yu Miaojie on Strengthening the Foundation of the Real Economy and Activating the Momentum for Revitalization and Development

Yu Miaojie is a Deputy to the 14th National People's Congress, a specially appointed supervisor of the National Commission of Supervision, a Fellow of the International Economic Association (IEA) of the United Nations, and currently President of Liaoning University. He also serves as Vice President of the Chinese Society of World Economy, Vice President of the Chinese Society of Quantitative Economics, and Vice President of the Chinese Society of Industrial Economics. He is the first Chinese recipient of the Royal Economic Society Prize, a Boya Distinguished Professor at Peking University. His main research areas include international trade, world economy, and China's economic development.

The Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development reviewed and adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, has charted the course and provided direction for China's economic development over the next five years and beyond. What new opportunities will China's economy encounter during the "15th Five-Year Plan" period? How can Liaoning leverage its own strengths to further strengthen the real economy? How can it capitalize on its advantages in science, education, and industry? Regarding these questions, Yu Miaojie, President of Liaoning University was specially interviewed.

Focusing Economic Development on the Real Economy

Reporter: The "15th Five-Year Plan" proposal lists "building a modern industrial system and consolidating and strengthening the foundation of



the real economy" as the first strategic task. What signal does this send?

Yu Miaojie: Placing it at the top highlights the crucial role of the real economy in China's development. The real economy is key for a country, especially a developing one, to overcome the "middle-income trap." The so-called "middle-income trap" refers to a situation where, after a country or region's per capita GDP exceeds \$10,000, extensive growth models lead to economic stagnation. Only by improving total factor productivity and cultivating new quality productive forces can high-quality development be achieved. The cultivation of new quality productive forces relies precisely on the real economy, with manufacturing as its mainstay.

The “15th Five-Year Plan” proposal explicitly calls for accelerating the development of a strong manufacturing nation, a quality-focused nation, a leading aerospace nation, a robust transportation network, and a powerful cyber-country. Among these, a strong manufacturing nation is the foundation, with the goal of improving product quality. Establishing standards is the key to enhance quality. In the future, China must become a standard-setter, establishing its national strength on standards, in order to become a quality-focused nation. In the specific implementation process, the “sky” (aerospace), the “ground” (transportation), and the “invisible” (cyber) network all serve the real economy. Efforts should focus on three key areas: first, optimizing and upgrading traditional industries. The “15th Five-Year Plan” proposal emphasizes “adhering to the directions of intelligentization, greening, and integration.” Integration provides a clear direction for digital development, enhancing the overall competitiveness of industries through the deep integration of digital technology and the real economy. Second, nurturing and expanding emerging industries. Accelerate the cluster development of strategic emerging industries such as new energy, new materials, aerospace, and the low-altitude economy. Third, promoting future-oriented industries. Focus on advancing six key areas: quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen and nuclear fusion energy, brain-computer interfaces, embodied intelligence, and sixth-generation mobile communication, aiming to seize the high ground for future development.

Reporter: The foundation of Liaoning’ s comprehensive revitalization lies in the real economy. What measures should Liaoning take to consolidate and strengthen this foundation?

Yu Miaojie: Traditional industries are an essential part of Liaoning’ s real economy. To consolidate and strengthen this foundation, the primary task is to optimize and upgrade traditional industries by applying new technologies, promoting their deep integration with traditional sectors, and accelerating the transformation and modernization

of these industries. Traditional industries should not be simplistically labeled as “sunset industries” ; there are only “sunset technologies,” not “sunset industries.” For example, the steel industry, empowered by intelligentization, greening, and integration, can fully transform into a sunrise industry.

Transforming Educational, Scientific, and Industrial Advantages into Advantages for Innovative Development

Reporter: The “15th Five-Year Plan” proposal calls for “accelerating high-level self-reliance and strength in science and technology to lead the development of new quality productive forces.” What is the internal logic between the two?

Yu Miaojie: New quality productive forces encompass two core meanings: first, revolutionary breakthroughs in technology and innovative allocation of production factors; second, driving the deep transformation and upgrading of industries. The key to revolutionary technological breakthroughs lies in achieving high-level self-reliance and strength in science and technology, thereby enhancing total factor productivity. The ultimate goal of new quality productive forces is the improvement of total factor productivity and differentiated development based on local conditions.

Technological innovation can be divided into two stages: first, original innovation from 0 to 1, which is the blueprint design phase; second, technological improvement from 1 to N, which involves moving from blueprint design to laboratory R&D, and then to industrial application. Judging from the current state of development, China is already at the forefront globally in “going from 1 to N” , demonstrating clear comparative advantages. However, in “going from 0 to 1” , there remains a certain gap compared to some developed countries. This necessitates continuously increasing investment in basic research and advancing the integrated development of education, science and technology, and talent.

Reporter: How can Liaoning transform its educational, scientific, and industrial advantages

into developmental advantages?

Yu Miaojie: Liaoning boasts over 40 higher education institutions, with rich resources in science, education, and talent. Liaoning also has a relatively comprehensive industrial system. Within the national economic classification of 41 major industrial categories, 207 medium industrial categories, and 666 minor industrial categories, Liaoning possesses 40, 197, and 519 respectively, indicating significant comparative advantages. We should strengthen deep cooperation between universities and enterprises. By establishing regular supply-demand matching platforms, we can promote in-depth collaboration between universities and enterprises in talent cultivation, technological R&D, and commercialization of research results, achieving precise alignment between supply and demand, and transforming educational, scientific, and industrial advantages into advantages for innovative development.

Unlocking Market Potential and Stimulating Consumption Vitality

Reporter: The “15th Five-Year Plan” proposal calls for “building a strong domestic market and accelerating the formation of a new development pattern.” Consumption is the main engine driving economic growth. How can Liaoning fully unleash its market potential?

Yu Miaojie: Building a unified national market fundamentally involves balancing the relationship between consumption and investment. In the past period, China's domestic demand was primarily driven by investment. During the “15th Five-Year Plan” period, we must accelerate the cultivation of consumption as a driver of the economy. Consumption and investment are mutually reinforcing. Consumption is the fundamental purpose and driving force of social production, while investment is the tool and means to meet consumption needs. In other words, demand drives supply, and supply in turn creates demand.

For Liaoning, vigorously boosting consumption and unleashing market potential requires adopting the concept of “developing Liaoning by looking beyond Liaoning.” The target consumers should

cover the whole country, even East Asia and the world. To achieve this, on one hand, we must strengthen promotion efforts and create a batch of new consumption scenarios with broad impact and high visibility, stimulating consumption through initiatives like first-launch economy, ice-and-snow economy, and red tourism economy. On the other hand, we must continuously optimize the business environment, uphold integrity as the foundation, and constantly enhance market attractiveness, so that more tourists and investors from other regions are willing to vacation, travel, and invest in Liaoning.

Enabling More Workers to Join the Middle-Income Ranks

Reporter: The “15th Five-Year Plan” proposal calls for the “continuous expansion of the middle-income group.” What impact will this have on the lives of ordinary people in Liaoning?

Yu Miaojie: The continuous expansion of the middle-income group will not only improve people's quality of life but also further enhance Liaoning's attractiveness, achieve net population inflow, and inject lasting momentum into Liaoning's sustained economic improvement.

Continuously expanding the size of the middle-income group requires addressing two issues: first, increasing the average social wage; second, narrowing income disparities, such as those between urban and rural areas or between “blue-collar” and “white-collar” workers. Wage levels are determined by the supply and demand relationship of labor. From the supply side, improvements in education quality increase the supply of high-quality labor. From the demand side, technological progress increases the demand for high-quality labor. To expand the middle-income group, the demand for high-quality labor must exceed its supply. This requires accelerating the cultivation of new quality productive forces, promoting industrial upgrading and structural optimization, creating more high-quality jobs, and enabling more low-income individuals to join the middle-income ranks.

a pioneering stance in the national landscape of opening-up. Regarding hub development, Zhejiang has fully utilized its geographical advantages to achieve multi-dimensional connectivity by sea, rail, and air. Moving forward, efforts should continue to enhance the radiating role of open hubs, boosting international competitiveness and influence.

Thirdly, fostering a spirit of thriving through openness to energize the momentum of entities engaged in opening-up. Zhejiang has long been characterized by a pioneering and enterprising cultural spirit, with the thriving "sweet potato economy" benefiting from the courage of Zhejiang entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities abroad. In my view, Zhejiang should further leverage its cultural strengths, strengthen and refine the "sweet potato economy," and expand the Zhejiang economy through the economic activities of its people.

Fourthly, fostering an optimal business ecosystem to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. I have noted that the Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee has proposed to "create an open environment with optimal services, lowest costs, and highest efficiency." This can be achieved through the systematic integration and efficient coordination of policy measures to help realize optimal services, lowest costs, and highest efficiency. For example, by strengthening the development of "Credit Zhejiang," the foundation for "doing business

with the world" can be solidified. Through the empowerment of "Digital Zhejiang," continuous innovation in models such as "digital + foreign trade" and "digital + finance" can be pursued, exploring the practical application of digital technology in cross-border trade, service trade, smart ports, and other areas.

Looking to the Future and Expanding Openness Space

Reporter: With the goal of building a high-level open province by the end of the 15th Five-Year Plan period, from which aspects do you believe Zhejiang can further expand new openness spaces and cultivate new drivers for openness?

Yu Miaojie: In the face of the current international trade environment, Zhejiang must maintain strategic resolve, actively expand independent openness, and seize strategic initiative. Specifically, there are three areas to consider: Firstly, unlocking the deep-seated potential of factor-based openness while cultivating the broad benefits of institutional openness. On one hand, continue to promote deeper openness in various factors such as capital, talent, intermediate goods, energy, technology, and data. On the other hand, steadily advance institutional opening-up by proactively aligning with high-standard international trade rules, regulations, management practices, and standards. Zhejiang should aim to pioneer innovative outcomes in its areas of strength, including the digital economy, service sector openness, scientific and educational collaboration, and financial services.

Secondly, diversification of export markets and differentiation of export products should be promoted. Zhejiang can further expand economic and trade exchanges with ASEAN and other regions, continuously broadening its "network of partnerships" in opening-up. At the same time, considering the varying income levels of consumers in different destination markets, future export products should follow a differentiated approach. On the basis of ensuring quality, pricing and product designs should be tailored to market demands and specific needs, thereby enhancing added value.

Thirdly, self-driven opening in the service sector should be expanded in an orderly manner, with a focus on scaling up, adjusting structures, and building distinctive strengths. For example, in tourism, the policy of visa-free transit for foreigners should be fully utilized to improve service facilities at local tourist attractions, enrich cultural and tourism experiences, and boost inbound tourism consumption. In education, qualified universities should be encouraged to enroll international students, enabling them to better understand China. In healthcare, the rich heritage of traditional Chinese medicine and culture should be leveraged to explore trade in wellness and healthcare services. In terms of institutional development, the negative list management system for cross-border trade in services should be refined, with efforts focused on elevating the standardization of service trade.

Yu Miaojie: Leveraging Strengths and Expanding Horizons to Master “Opening-Up” Strategy



Expert Profile: Yu Miaojie is a deputy to the 14th National People’s Congress (NPC) and a specially appointed supervisor for the National Commission of Supervision. He serves as the President of Liaoning University (LNU). He is also a Fellow of the International Economic Association (IEA), the first Chinese recipient of the Royal Economic Society Prize, and a Distinguished Professor of a national-level program appointed by the Ministry of Education. He is a recipient of the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars and a Boya Distinguished Professor at Peking University. His primary research focuses on international trade, the world economy, and China’s economic development.

Openness serves as a crucial engine for economic growth. The proposal for Zhejiang Province’s 15th Five-Year Plan clearly states that during this period, the province must “expand high-

level opening-up, build a high-capacity open economy, and enhance resource allocation capacity, global influence, institutional innovation, and international competitiveness.” Faced with a complex and evolving international trade environment, how can Zhejiang further leverage its strengths and broaden its horizons to build a high-capacity open economy? A reporter from our newspaper interviewed Yu Miaojie, Fellow of the International Economic Association and President of Liaoning University, on this topic.

Building on the Present and Leveraging Unique Strengths

Reporter: During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, Zhejiang’s overall openness has significantly improved, with its export scale rising to second place nationwide. In your view, what unique strengths should Zhejiang consolidate and leverage to advance high-level opening-up in the next step?

Yu Miaojie: In my opinion, Zhejiang can further leverage four major strengths. Firstly, it can continue to unleash market vitality through its vibrant private sector, enhancing its appeal to foreign investment. By encouraging private enterprises to integrate into global industrial chains with an open approach, collaborating with high-quality foreign capital, and continuously introducing advanced technologies, talent, and management expertise, Zhejiang can achieve industrial restructuring and upgrading. The clustering and frontier development of industries will, in turn, expand its international market presence. Secondly, leveraging high-level open platforms and hubs to highlight Zhejiang’s role as a strategic pivot in domestic and international dual circulation. From the perspective of platform development, Zhejiang has long adhered to using openness to drive reform and development, actively undertaking national pilot initiatives. The next step should involve deepening reforms, constructing a high-standard hub for bulk commodity resource allocation, advancing a new phase of comprehensive reforms in Yiwu’s international trade, and implementing an upgrade strategy for the pilot free trade zone, demonstrating

Collaborative Paper by Professor Cooper Accepted by Top Macroeconomics Journal *AEJ: Macro*

The collaborative paper “TFPR: Dispersion and Cyclicity” by Professor Russell Cooper from the China Economic Research Institute at Liaoning University (LNU) and researcher Ozgen Ozturk from the Bank of England has been accepted by the top macroeconomics journal *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* (AEJ: Macro).

This paper marks the 17th publication by faculty members of the Division of Economics of LNU in recent years in internationally top-tier journals across various fields of economics. These include *Review of Economics and Statistics* (one paper by Yu Miaojie), *Journal of Development Economics* (one paper each by Yu Miaojie, Yin Lijuan, Yang Guohao, and Wang Zhifeng), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (one paper by Qiu Huanguang), *Journal of International Economics* (one paper by Ma Xiangjun), *Journal of Public Economics* (one paper by Chen Feng), *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy* (one paper by Gao Ming), *Journal of Labor Economics* (one paper by Yang Zhe), *Journal of Economic Theory* (one paper by He Chao), *Journal of Human Resources* (one paper by Zhou Yu), *Journal of Monetary Economics* (one paper by Wang Xiaowen), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* (one paper each by Yang Zhe and Chen Feng), and *International Economic Review* (one co-authored paper by Russell Cooper and Yan Ping). This achievement represents another landmark outcome in the “Double First-Class” development, signifying further important progress in the high-level scientific research output of LNU’s applied economics “Double First-Class” development.

Paper Introduction

This paper investigates the determinants of the cyclicity of revenue-based total factor productivity (TFPR). The distribution of TFPR depends on exogenous shocks and the endogenous determination of prices. The paper employs an overlapping generations (OLG) model to examine the factors shaping the TFPR distribution. It primarily focuses on three empirical features: (i) the countercyclicity of TFPR dispersion, (ii) the countercyclicity of price change dispersion, and (iii) the countercyclicity of price adjustment frequency. The model can match these features if mean shocks to physical total factor productivity (TFPQ) are negatively correlated with dispersion shocks, or if monetary authorities respond to TFPQ dispersion shocks by “leaning against the wind” .



LNU Signs Educational Exchange Cooperation Agreement with Universidad de Alcalá

To advance high-level educational openness in the new era, promote cooperation and exchange with overseas universities, and expand quality collaborative networks in Spanish-speaking countries and regions, Liaoning University has officially signed an educational exchange cooperation agreement with Universidad de Alcalá, Spain (UAH). The two institutions will engage in in-depth collaboration in areas such as faculty and student exchanges, joint teaching, scientific research, and other academic activities, working together to foster the exchange and development of higher education between China and Spain.

Founded in 1499, Universidad de Alcalá is located in Alcalá de Henares, approximately 30 kilometers from Madrid. The university boasts four campuses and has a long history and profound humanistic heritage. Over the past five centuries, it has made significant contributions to science, art, and the dissemination of the Spanish language and culture. In 1988, the university was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Among Spanish public universities, Universidad de Alcalá ranks among the top, with a global QS comprehensive ranking of 621–630 and a five-star teaching level rating. The university demonstrates strong academic advantages in fields such as electronic information engineering, environmental science, ecology, agricultural science, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, and education. Its electronic information engineering program is ranked 150–200 globally in the Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects. Currently, the university has over 27,000 enrolled

students, offering 44 undergraduate programs, 54 master's programs, and 29 doctoral programs. It is supported by five educational research centers, three university research institutes, and approximately 150 academic research teams.

The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Spain, a significant milestone and testament to the expansion and deepening of bilateral relations. Against this backdrop, the cooperation between Liaoning University and Universidad de Alcalá holds strategic significance. The signing of the agreement not only expands Liaoning University's collaborative network in Spanish-speaking regions and strengthens its academic and educational ties with Spain but also lays a solid foundation for comprehensive cooperation with universities and research institutions in Spanish-speaking countries in the future. As the first formally signed cooperative partner of Liaoning University in Spain, the inclusion of Universidad de Alcalá will further enhance the university's international cooperation level and educational openness.



LNU Signs Cooperation Agreement with Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of Russian Academy of Sciences

To further expand the university's international scientific research cooperation network, deepen exchanges and collaboration with high-level international research institutes, and better serve national development strategies as well as the economic and social development of the Liaoning region, Liaoning University (LNU) recently signed a cooperation agreement with the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The two sides will carry out cooperation in areas such as academic exchanges, scientific research collaboration, and academic resource sharing.

The Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INION RAN) was established in 1969, with its academic origins tracing back to 1918. It is a key research institution within the Russian Academy of Sciences system engaged in social sciences and humanities research, providing long-term academic information and research support



to research institutions and universities.

The Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences is a significant social sciences and humanities research institution in both Russian and international academic circles. Its publications cover monographs, analytical reports, abstract collections, bibliographies, academic journals, and briefings. The institute currently publishes various academic journals, 16 of which are included in the list of journals recommended by the Russian Federation's Higher Attestation Commission. The institution also maintains a relatively comprehensive basic research

library and digital bibliographic resources.

Previously, in November 2025, Olga Lavreonva, Chief Researcher at the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences, was invited to the university for exchanges. She delivered an academic report on the theme of cultural landscape studies for faculty and students, promoting academic communication and mutual understanding between the two sides.

2026 New Year Gala Successfully Held at Liaoning University



On the evening of December 30, 2025, the “Loving Liaoning University, Embarking on a New Journey” 2026 New Year Gala, jointly organized by the University Youth League Committee, the Department of Student Affairs, and the University Labor Union was held at the Auditorium of Chongshan Campus, Liaoning University (LNU). University leaders attended the event, along with representatives from various university departments, teachers, students, alumni, and retired faculty and staff, who were invited to gather together and embark on the new journey.

The entire gala was elaborately designed around the theme of “Liaoning University Spirit”, unfolding in four chapters: “Party Spirit,” “Sense of Responsibility as an Eldest Son,” “Inclusiveness and Openness,” and “Diligence

and Self-Reliance.” On stage, teachers and students performed with full devotion and deep emotion. Through vivid dances, melodious songs, and exquisite artistry, they closely connected each program to the “Liaoning University Spirit,” vividly demonstrating how members of the Liaoning University community, guided by this profound spiritual foundation, integrate personal ideals, university development, and the responsibilities of the times, and forge ahead with vigor. The gala also rallied the tremendous power of “Loving Liaoning University.”

In the new year, the teachers and students of Liaoning University will, with greater passion and more uplifting spirit, carry forward the “Liaoning University Spirit” and join hands to compose a brandnew chapter of endeavor in 2026!

LNU Teachers Win Gold at 3rd Liaoning Career Planning Competition



On December 3, the final of the Curriculum Teaching Track of the 3rd Liaoning Province College Students' Career Planning Competition was held at Liaoning Mechanical & Electrical College of Technology. Representing Liaoning University (LNU), Zhao Senhao, a teacher from the Division of Information, and Hu Wenhui, a teacher from the School of Art, both delivered outstanding performances and were awarded Gold Medals. This dual victory marks a historic milestone, representing the university's best-ever result in the history of this competition.

In the competition, Zhao Senhao and Hu Wenhui competed alongside teachers

from many prestigious universities such as Dalian University of Technology and Northeastern University. Based on the "Three-Step" philosophy, the two contestants took school-based training as the starting point, highlighting the innovation regarding open classrooms, focusing on cultivating students' ability to solve real-world problems, and aiming to promote students' high-quality employment and serve Liaoning's revitalization. They reported the design concept and practical effects of our university's college students' career development and employment guidance courses, and demonstrated a solid

theoretical foundation, sharp critical thinking skills, as well as a profound understanding and firm practice of the university's education philosophy.

This competition was sponsored by the Liaoning Provincial Department of Education, co-organized by the Liaoning Provincial College Students' Employment and Entrepreneurship Center, and undertaken by Liaoning Mechanical & Electrical College of Technology. After an online review, the competition organizing committee selected 48 contestants from those recommended by various universities to enter the provincial semi-finals to advance to the provincial final, including 36 in the Higher Education Group and 12 in the Vocational Education Group.

