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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

US' chip sales ban further disrupts supply chain; insiders optimistic about China breaking US' stranglehold

Ma Jingjing and Xie Jun

Global Times, September 1, 2022

The US prohibits two firms from selling sophisticated chips to China in the latest move of intensifying containment of China's high-tech sector including artificial intelligence (AI) and supercomputing. The US may further escalate crackdown on China's key chip links by restricting US firms' business and sales of more key chipmaking equipment and materials, but industry insiders are optimistic about the prospect of China breaking US' stranglehold given achievements already made in aspects like chipmaking tools. Nvidia stock price slid 7.6 percent to \$139.47 during morning session. Nvidia said in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that the US government informed the company on August 26 about a new license requirement for any future export to the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong of its A100 and forthcoming H100 integrated circuits. It cited the US government's so-called concerns that the semiconductors may be used by China's military.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274445.shtml>

How the changing language in space reflects the geopolitical tensions on Earth

April Zhang

South China Morning Post, September 1, 2022

In the Chinese space station Tiangong, which means “heavenly palace”, Chinese is the only language used for instructions. This was unimaginable back in 2011, when the US passed the Wolf Amendment to limit cooperation between agencies such as Nasa and Beijing or Chinese companies, effectively excluding China from participating in the International Space Station. And it offers an interesting perspective on how China is affecting the international order and food for thought on geopolitical tensions. Before China's entry, Russia and the United States were the only two countries that had independently launched space stations. The former Cold War rivals had wanted to gain superiority in space technology.

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3190374/how-changing-language-space-reflects-geopolitical-tensions-earth>

Tokyo's militaristic tendency raises regional tensions and alarm as anniversary of the victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression approaches

Global Times, September 1, 2022

Going further down a dangerous path, Japan's defense authority boasted of producing longer-range and hypersonic missiles, and greatly boosting Japan's defense budget for the next year. Chinese experts believe that those signals not only show that Tokyo is speeding up the breakaway from its pacifist constitution and embracing expanding militarism, but that the country is also seeking to enhance its ability to strike. Days before the anniversary of the victory in the War of Resistance

Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) on September 3, Russia, China and several other countries are joining in drills in an effort to uphold post-World War II peace and stability, while countries such as Japan have walked on a different path, hyping so-called threats and targeting neighboring countries, and are going full-swing towards militarism.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274427.shtml>

The Chinese space experiment to help astronauts grow food in low gravity

Zhang Tong

South China Morning Post, September 1, 2022

Astronauts on China's Tiangong space station are flexing their green thumbs as part of an experiment that researchers hope will shed light on the effects of low gravity on plant growth. Seeds carried on the space station's Wentian lab module have sprouted and are in good condition, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said. A photo shows Arabidopsis thaliana plants, also known as thale cress, on the space station have sprouted leaves while long-grain rice plants have reached a height of about 30cm (11.8 inches).

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3190875/chinese-space-experiment-help-astronauts-grow-food-low-gravity>

China sends over 2,000 troops to Vostok-2022 exercises

China Military Online, September 1, 2022

Vostok 2022 strategic command post exercise kicked off at the Sergeevskiy training ground in Ussurisk, a city in Russian Far East on August 31. China, Algeria, India, Belarus, Tajikistan, Mongolia and other countries have sent troops to participate in the exercise. At the opening ceremony, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Lieutenant-General Yunus-bek Yevkurov announced the start of the exercise, followed by the opening remarks made by the commanders of participating troops from various countries. A march-past was held at the ceremony. The exercises aim to deepen pragmatic and friendly cooperation among militaries of participating countries, enhance the level of strategic cooperation among all participating parties, and strengthen their capability to jointly deal with various security threats. The exercises will be carried out in four stages: troops assembly and deployment, joint campaign planning, joint campaign implementation, and troops withdrawal, with an exercise director department and a joint campaign command organization organized jointly by the participating troops.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-09/01/content_10182185.htm

Great Wall-2022 forum eyes building consensus, enhancing int'l anti-terror cooperation

China Military Online, September 2, 2022

The Great Wall-2022 International Forum on Counter-terrorism wrapped up on August 31. Sponsored by the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP), the two-day forum has attracted more

than 170 representatives from the armed police forces or armed forces of this kind in 30 countries including China, Russia, Pakistan, Brazil and Italy. Around the themes of the anti-terrorism international cooperation and the unmanned and smart weaponry in anti-terrorism operations, the participants had exchange of views and discussions on the counter-terrorism ideas, practices and battle examples.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-09/02/content_10182482.htm

Chinese, Russian vessels join drills to uphold post-WWII global order

Global Times, September 2, 2022

Flotillas of Chinese and Russian naval vessels participating in the ongoing Vostok 2022 (East 2022) joint drills met in the northern part of the Sea of Japan, which was the 77th anniversary of Japanese representatives signing the official Instrument of Surrender after Japan's unjust war brought tremendous injuries and pain to people across Asia. Observers noted that China and Russia, as two major regional powers, are committed to jointly maintaining regional peace, stability and the post-WWII global order. This is of great significance at a time of complex changes in the regional situation, including Japan's obvious militarist tendency, which has a historical relevance.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274506.shtml>

Shenzhou-14 crew completes 1st spacewalk mission; China's extravehicular tech 'more mature and task-oriented'

Fan Anqi and Wan Lin

Global Times, September 2, 2022

Having moved into China's space home for nearly three months, the Shenzhou-14 crew smoothly conducted its first extravehicular activity, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said. The entire process took about six hours, and it was the first time that taikonauts ventured out through the airlock cabin in the Wentian lab module, which just arrived at the space station about a month ago. Mission commander of Shenzhou-14 Chen Dong and crew member Liu Yang were assigned to conduct the spacewalk mission this time, while their teammate Cai Xuzhe was responsible for various support work inside the cabin, state media China Central Television reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274466.shtml>

Should China worry about Japan's proposed rise in defence spending?

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, September 3, 2022

The Japanese Defence Ministry has asked for a record US\$40.4 billion for military spending next year, expenditure meant to help the US hold back China, according to a Chinese analyst. The request amounts to a 1.1 per cent increase in annual spending and would cover the purchase or production of more than 100 items, including domestically developed Type 12 surface-to-ship

missiles, projected to be able to hit the coasts of China and North Korea. The spending would also go on six SH-60L anti-submarine patrol helicopters and surveillance vessels, and upgrades to Japan's ability to intercept missiles, such as equipment for the new Aegis-equipped vessels that can block ballistic missile attacks.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3191181/should-china-worry-about-japans-proposed-rise-defence-spending>

Long March 5B rocket arrives at Wenchang spaceport for Mengtian space station lab module October launch

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, September 3, 2022

The Long March-5B Y4 carrier rocket that is commissioned to ferry the China Space Station Mengtian laboratory module into orbit, has safely arrived at the Wenchang Space Launch Site in South China's Hainan Province, the Global Times learned from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). Next, the Long March-5B Y4 rocket will carry out general assembly work at the launch pad and other testing work together with the Mengtian module that arrived earlier, the CMSA said in a press release it provided to the Global Times. China is gearing up smoothly to complete the building of the country's first space station with the Mengtian - third and last part for the basic three-module T structure and the second lab module following Wentian module - to be launched and connected to the current space station combination in October.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274512.shtml>

China launches new remote sensing satellite

Global Times, September 3, 2022

China sent a new remote sensing satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The satellite, Yaogan-33 02, was launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket at 07:44AM (Beijing Time) and has entered the planned orbit successfully. It will be used for scientific experiments, land resources surveys, crop yield estimation, and disaster prevention and relief. This was the 435th flight mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274524.shtml>

China's near-space solar-powered drone that can substitute satellites makes maiden flight

Liu Xuanzun and Liu Yang

Global Times, September 4, 2022

China's near-space solar-powered large unmanned aerial vehicle has recently carried out its maiden flight successfully, with analysts saying that the drone can assume the role of a satellite for reconnaissance, monitoring, surveying and communications relay missions when satellite services are not immediately available in emergencies. The Qimingxing-50, or Morning Star-50, China's

first large drone with solar energy as the only power source, successfully made its maiden flight, the Global Times learned from its developer, the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). According to AVIC, the large solar-powered drone took off in Yulin, Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, and landed smoothly after 26 minutes airborne, successfully completing its maiden flight with all systems operating normally.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274541.shtml>

Washington's chips assault will only hasten China's indigenous innovation

Wen Sheng

Global Times, September 4, 2022

The Biden administration has moved to further restrict China's access to advanced semiconductor products and technology, placing seven more Chinese entities of aerospace on its export control list late August, and ordering Nvidia and AMD last week to stop providing high-end artificial intelligence and supercomputing microchips to Chinese companies in Washington's complete disregard for international trade rules. The US government is intent on engaging in a zero-sum game, but as the saying goes: those who seek to block the way of others will only end up blocking their own way. By constantly politicizing and weaponizing trade and economic issues, Washington is only demonstrating to the world's other countries the growing risks of dependence on the US, spurring them to look elsewhere.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274585.shtml>

Chinese space designers eye moon base in volcanic caves for long-term stays after 2035

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, September 4, 2022

Space architects in China are designing a moon base carved out of volcanic caves, as the country looks at long-term stays for astronauts after 2035. The tunnels, also known as underground lava tubes, were carved out of molten rock during ancient volcanic eruptions. While the outside of the lava flow cooled more quickly and solidified, the rest poured out to leave a hollow elongated shell behind. The tubes can be several kilometres long and tens of metres wide, offering a natural shelter against space radiation and extreme temperatures on the lunar surface.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3191291/chinese-space-designers-eye-moon-base-volcanic-caves-long-term>

Kishida may attend event marking 50th anniversary of ties, but more concrete actions are needed to ease tensions: analysts

Zhang Han

Global Times, September 5, 2022

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is considering attending a business event to mark the 50th

anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries, as hostile remarks by some Japanese politicians and Japan's meddling in the Taiwan question overshadow bilateral relations. Chinese observers noted it is important that both countries summarize their experience in the past half century to deal with today's difficulties and urged Japan not just to talk the talk, but also to walk the walk. The Japan Business Federation, the country's most powerful business lobby better known as Keidanren, and groups dedicated to promoting Japan-China friendship will organize the event on September 29, according to the Kyodo News.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274664.shtml>

China launches cybersecurity week in military barracks

China Military Online, September 5, 2022

A week-long awareness campaign to promote cybersecurity in military barracks kicked off on September 5. It aims to promote civility in cyberspace, boost cyber literacy among military personnel, and solidify cybersecurity in the armed forces to create a sound military-related cyberspace environment for the preparation of the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. A launch event was held at the airborne force of the People's Liberation Army Air Force. All military units will organize their troops to study secrecy regulations on cybersecurity, obtain relevant knowledge and skills, enhance cybersecurity incident response plans, and bolster their capacity to thwart cyber-attacks and sabotage, according to officials at the launch event.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-09/05/content_10182964.htm

China's Y-20 transport aircraft draws attention at Airpower 2022 in Austria

China Military Online, September 5, 2022

China's large transport aircraft Y-20, codenamed "Kunpeng," came under the spotlight at the two-day Airpower 2022 in Austria, the largest airshow in Europe. Designed and manufactured by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), the Y-20 has a maximum takeoff weight of around 200 tons. A Y-20 aircraft set off from an airport in central China and arrived in Zeltweg on the same day, with a one-way distance of nearly 10,000 kilometers. It is the first time for the Y-20 aircraft to head toward Europe to participate in an international airshow. With outstanding performances in cruise range, payload and speed, the Y-20 is an important tool for long-range strategic delivery and the strategic transformation of the Chinese Air Force in both offensive and defensive capabilities.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-09/05/content_10182919.htm

Chinese scientists retrieve ancient ships from depths of South China Sea

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 6, 2022

Chinese marine researchers say they have discovered three ancient merchant ships in an

unprecedented archaeological sweep of the contested South China Sea. The wrecks were found in the vast waterway between China's southern coastline and the Xisha Islands – also known as the Paracels and claimed by Vietnam – according to a report by state broadcaster CCTV. The team of scientists and engineers from more than 10 research institutes used mass surveillance technology, which some observers point out could also benefit the Chinese military. Pottery, porcelain, purple-clay ware, copper coins and wooden planks were among the more than 60 artefacts detected, examined and retrieved from depths of up to 3,000 metres (nearly 2 miles), the report said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3191489/chinese-scientists-retrieve-ancient-ships-depths-south-china-sea>

China marks a milestone in new-gen heavy-duty rocket devt with successful engine test

Global Times, September 6, 2022

China has successfully conducted a whole-craft running test for its 25 ton-level closed expander cycle hydrogen-oxygen rocket engine for the first time recently, which its developers claimed marked the world's largest scale testing for the kind and a key technology breakthrough for the country's development of the new-generation super heavy-lift launch vehicle. The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) revealed on its official website in December 2021 that the closed expander cycle hydrogen-oxygen rocket engine system has the advantages of high performance and high reliability, and has the ability of multiple starts and of large-scale variable thrust adjustment. It can be used for complex space missions such as manned moon landing, manned Mars landing and deep space exploration, according to the CASC.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274765.shtml>

China supports continued presence of IAEA experts at Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

Xinhua, September 7, 2022

China expressed support for the continued presence of the experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UN's nuclear watchdog, at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Speaking at the Security Council briefing on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Geng Shuang, said: "for some time, the safety and security of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant has been nerve-racking for the international community. And it has been the unanimous expectation of all to facilitate an IAEA field visit to the plant as soon as possible." The envoy said that thanks to the joint corporation of Russia and Ukraine, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and his colleagues were able to make a successful visit last week, which helps gain a comprehensive and objective understanding of the nuclear facilities' operation and damage, so as to take targeted actions.

<https://english.news.cn/20220907/3794e9f7864542f2bc284507385790c5/c.html>

Why China is speeding up research on core technologies

CGTN, September 7, 2022

Since 2020, China has successfully carried out a series of flight mission, including the space station core module Tianhe, the Shenzhou-12 and Shenzhou-13 manned spacecraft, and the Tianzhou-2 and Tianzhou-3 cargo spacecraft, achieving remarkable progress in China's space program. Not only in aerospace, for the past decade, Chinese scientists are striving for breakthroughs in core technologies echoing President Xi Jinping's call for resolute efforts to achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields. Xi stressed improving a new system for mobilizing the resources nationwide to the core technologies research and development (R&D) while presiding over the 27th meeting of the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-09-07/Why-China-is-speeding-up-research-on-core-technologies-1d8h2b5F89a/index.html>

China will not give an inch on Taiwan question: former ambassador to US

Global Times, September 7, 2022

The Taiwan question is a matter of China's core interests, and we will not give an inch on it. Our determination and actions to counteract had greatly shaken the US back then, and today our national strength is even stronger, the US attempt to "exploit Taiwan to contain China" is less likely to succeed. It is very dangerous for the US to "exploit Taiwan to contain China." Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was just like Lee's visit to the US; in both cases, the US was the one who initiated and stirred up trouble and who went back on its words and reneged on its commitments to the one-China principle. The US side must not disregard China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits and go further and further down the wrong and dangerous path.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274907.shtml>

President Xi stresses improving system to achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields

Global Times, September 7, 2022

Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed improving a new system for mobilizing China's nationwide resources to achieve breakthroughs in core technologies and establish competitive advantages and seize the strategic initiative in several important areas during a key meeting held in Beijing. While presiding over the 27th meeting of the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform, Xi also stressed comprehensively strengthening efforts to conserve resources, the Xinhua News Agency reported. At the meeting, Xi suggested giving full play to China's socialist system's advantages, which allow the nation to concentrate its strength and efforts on major things, Xinhua reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274803.shtml>

US in no position to mention ‘responsible behavior’ in space as Pentagon doc a grave threat to peace, security: Chinese FM

Global Times, September 7, 2022

The US is in no position to talk about formulating so-called code for responsible behavior in outer space, given the fact that for a long time, the US has openly regarded outer space as a combat domain, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. Mao made the remarks during a routine press conference, in responding to inquiries concerning the freshly released US new "Space Policy" that recognizes outer space "as a priority domain of national military power." The US defense department document states that it will "protect and defend the use of space for US national security purposes, the US economy, and allies and partners of the US." The updated policy formally adopts a list of "tenets of responsible behavior in space" issued by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a July 2021 memo, the spacenews.con reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274879.shtml>

How US can avoid repeating Cold War space race mistakes with China

Paul Freeland

South China Morning Post, September 8, 2022

A new space race between China and the United States is both exciting and worrying. It's exciting – especially to space nerds like me – because space exploration has been an afterthought since the Cold War ended, and that is to our detriment. Our human need to explore, understand and inspire didn't end with the fall of the Soviet Union. It's also exciting because it's damn cool. How else would you describe launching a 32-storey, 26 million kg building into lunar orbit with explosions?

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3191431/how-us-can-avoid-repeating-cold-war-space-race-mistakes-china>

Leap-forward development of PLA Naval aviation force from shore-based to ship-based

Li Yun and Sun Luming

China Military Online, September 8, 2022

A forum on the development of PLA's naval aviation force came to an end in Qingdao, Shandong Province, on September 7. It is learned at the forum that the PLA naval aviation force's transformation from a shore-based force to a ship-based force has been basically completed, with the force playing a more-and-more important role in safeguarding the sovereignty, security and development interests of China both in the air and on the sea. The PLA's naval aviation force was formally established as a service in September 1952. According to a chief from the Aviation Bureau of the PLA Navy Staff Department, as a ship-based force that is taking shape by now, the naval aviation has established a ship-based aircraft system based on four types of aircraft, namely, ship-based fighter jets, helicopters, early warning aircraft and trainer aircraft.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-09/08/content_10183759.htm

China aims to lift Africa's space ambitions in drive to beat US domination

Jevans Nyabiage

South China Morning Post, September 8, 2022

Africa's space ambitions are set to get a further boost from China, as Beijing aspires to become a major player in the US-dominated field. "China is willing to support African Union space initiatives and enhance our cooperation in that regard," He Youlin, minister counsellor, said at an event where Chinese astronauts stationed in space connected with African youth from eight countries via video link. Several countries, including Ethiopia, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Namibia, have already started their space journey with Chinese help, including satellite launches and aerospace infrastructure building, China's mission to the African Union noted in a video played at the event.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3191714/china-aims-lift-africas-space-ambitions-drive-beat-us>

Chinese atomic clock trio bound for Tiangong space station in boost to GPS, dark matter probes

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, September 8, 2022

China will soon send a trio of atomic clocks to its Tiangong space station, to establish a space-based timekeeping system of exceptional accuracy. The clocks can work together to measure time with 10-17 stability – or missing one second every few billion years – the chief scientist of the Chinese crewed space programme said. The devices have been packed inside a pair of fridge-sized cabins and are waiting to lift off from the Wenchang spaceport in southern China in October, Gu Yidong told a recent national space science assembly in Taiyuan.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3191849/chinese-atomic-clock-trio-bound-tiangong-space-station-boost-gps>

China's record-breaking wind tunnel goes Mach 33 thanks to Australian invention

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 8, 2022

The world's largest free-piston driven shock tunnel is now up and running in southwestern China, allowing low-cost, high-quality wind tunnel experiments in hypersonic research, according to scientists involved in the project. The facility, based on a design proposed by Australian scientists, can simulate extreme flight conditions from 2.5 to 11.5 kilometres per second (1.55-7.14 miles per second) – or more than 33 times the speed of sound. The researchers said they expect the advanced facility in Sichuan province to soon contribute to a wide range of missions, such as putting Chinese

astronauts on the moon and the development of a hypersonic aircraft that could reach anywhere in the world in an hour.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3191777/chinas-record-breaking-wind-tunnel-goes-mach-33-thanks>

US' intention to bring NATO to Asia-Pacific through 2022 SDD 'unlikely to bear fruit'

Global Times, September 8, 2022

With the participation of 54 countries and organizations, including the US and NATO, the 2022 Seoul Defense Dialogue (SDD) kicked off at a Seoul hotel, the first return as an offline event after three years. However, observers said the dialogue is unlikely to yield any substantive consensus or results, as the US does not care about the security concerns of regional countries, but only intends to bring the NATO system to Asia to counter China, while regional countries will not provide the support it expects. During the opening ceremony of the 2022 SDD, South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup talked about the country's "audacious plan" to help solve the Korean Peninsula's nuclear crisis, according to Yonhap News Agency.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274914.shtml>

Chinese and Indian troops in area of Jianan Daban begin disengagement

China Military Online, September 9, 2022

On 8th September, 2022, according to the consensus reached in the 16th Round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting, the Chinese and Indian troops in the area of Jianan Daban have begun to disengage in a coordinated and planned way, which is conducive to the peace and tranquility in the border areas.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-09/09/content_10183871.htm

DPRK promulgates law on nuclear forces policy

Xinhua, September 9, 2022

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) promulgated a law on the state policy on the nuclear forces, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. The law stipulates that the DPRK opposes all forms of war including nuclear wars and aspires to build a peaceful world in which the international justice is realized, said the report. The nuclear posture of the DPRK is guaranteed by the reliable, effective and matured nuclear deterrence, defensive and responsible nuclear forces policy, said the KCNA, adding that the opening of the DPRK's policy on the nuclear forces and legal stipulation of the use of nuclear weapons are aimed to reduce the danger of a nuclear war to the maximum by preventing misjudge among nuclear weapons states and misuse of nuclear weapons.

<https://english.news.cn/20220909/f689c040f89647d185d17ca1568f91ce/c.html>

China's Phase-4 lunar probe mission approved by state, expected to build basic structure for Intl Lunar Research Station

Global Times, September 10, 2022

China's Phase-4 lunar probe mission, consisting of the Chang'e-6, -7, and -8 to be carried out successively in 10 years, has obtained state approval and is proceeding smoothly, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced. The mission is hoping to explore the Moon's South Pole region and build a basic structure of the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). The Chang'e-6 probe, which has served as a backup for Chang'e-5 with a sample retrieval capability, will travel to the far side of the moon, Liu Jizhong, Director of China Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center, said in an interview with China Central Television (CCTV). He added that the module has been basically completed.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1275015.shtml>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak with inputs
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