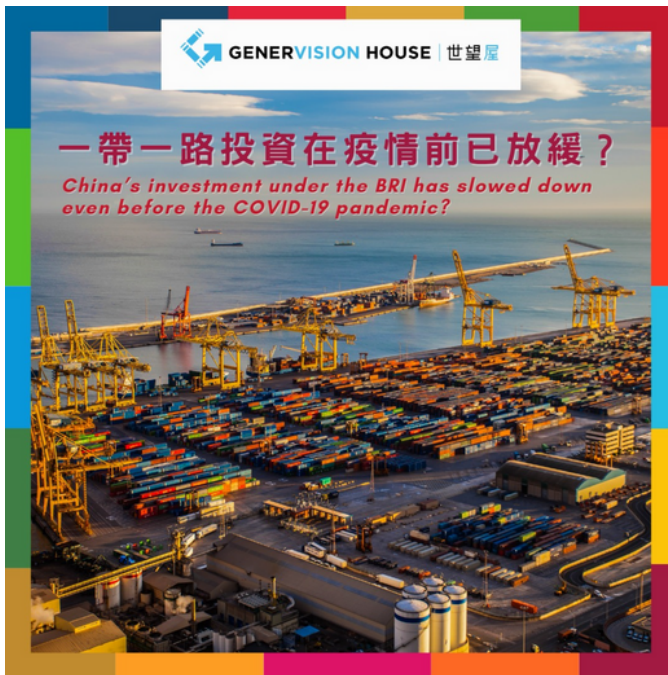


GenerVision Cape

Issue No. 17 | 05.2022



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Quiz of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

1. In which currency the majority of Belt and Road projects are financed?

- a. RMB b. US Dollar
c. Currency of partner country d. Euro

2. BRI projects are undertaken by:

- a. Chinese state-owned enterprises
b. Chinese private enterprises
c. Non-Chinese enterprises
d. All of above

3. Which of the following is not part of the BRI's five major pillars of its goal as Chinese government has announced?

- a. policy coordination b. infrastructure connectivity
c. unimpeded trade d. financial integration
e. political integration

(Answers are on the last page)

4. China's lending and investment under the BRI has slowed down even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

- a. True b. False

5. Which of the following claims about BRI are supported by evidence?

- a. Military motives drive the BRI
b. Chinese enterprises overseas only hire Chinese labors
c. Belt and Road is centrally run by the central government only;
d. China prefers investing in countries with corrupt governments
e. None

Featured Articles

Does China's investment under the BRI has slowed down even before the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes.

China's outbound lending and investment has been in decline since 2016. This was particularly obvious in Chinese infrastructure lending to Africa, which fell from \$11bn in 2017 to \$3.3bn in 2020, the lowest amount since BRI was unveiled in 2013. This is not a surprise due to three major reasons.

First, China's big banks are re-evaluating their lending practices after high-profile stumbles with Venezuela, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and other major borrowers. This has been accompanied by an increase in debt renegotiations.

Second, increased deleveraging pressure in China has affected Chinese banks' ability and willingness to make major new loans, especially in high-risk settings.

Third, some recipient countries have started pushing back against China's BRI lending. The Hambantota Port case in Sri Lanka put alleged Chinese "debt trap" diplomacy in the spotlight. In addition, high costs, corruption allegations, and implementation issues have increased resistance in recipient countries. There are growing number of countries have re-evaluated infrastructure plans and canceled or renegotiated new projects.

Accordingly, China's second Belt and Road Forum in 2019 directed China's financiers to focus on lending to fewer, more sustainable projects.

Weekend/Mother's Day Recommendation: Documentary: Woman (2019)

Over 3 years, across 50 countries, interviewing over 2,000 women, this documentary brings together the life issues of women around the world, including education, poverty, childbirth, justice and courage.

Regardless of nationality, ethnicity, race, religion, or sexual orientation, the things that women need to experience are so similar that they seem to share emotions, pain, discontent, anxiety, and happiness. The resilience and courage they show in the face of inequality and injustice shows that even though the postures might be different, the message is the same: my fate is in my hands. They are different individuals, but they are also a whole.

On Mother's Day, this documentary can remind all of us to understand our mothers from different angles and all mothers to understand themselves from different perspectives. A mother is not just a mother, she may be a sister, a wife, a daughter or a best friend, but she is more than that, she is herself.



Labor protection for food delivery industry in Macau needs overhaul: learning from Mainland China, Australia and the US

In the face of the economic downturn in the city, more people are joining the food delivery industry. Unlike traditional employment, workers in the industry are often employed on a more flexible basis, meaning that they are freelancers and independent contractors instead of full-time employees. Although the job itself can offer a lot more flexibility, gig workers working under such flexible arrangements are not always guaranteed basic labor protections.



The tragedy of a food delivery driver that happened last month flagged an eminent and long-overlooked issue in the local food delivery industry - the lack of proper training, safety guidelines, and insurance to protect the workers as well as the public safety. According to some drivers, they will receive fewer delivery orders if they fail to deliver an order on time, or if they are given a bad review by customers. As the industry becomes more competitive, drivers are propelled to race against time in order to receive more orders. Prior to the accident, there were already many voices concerning the regulation of the industry including legislator and community services advisory boards in Macau. They suggested that the government should set safety codes and guidelines for the industry, including the establishment of comprehensive insurance and leaves system, as well as a “delivery driver registration system” for better regulation.

Last June, the State Administration for Market Regulation along with six other administrative departments in China issued guidelines that protect delivery drivers of their basic labor rights, including a base income above minimum wage and social welfare. Similarly, the New South Wales government in Australia and lawmakers in New York City have passed bills that aim at protecting the labor rights and safety of delivery drivers, demanding food delivery platforms provide compulsory induction training to their gig workers and to let drivers choose not to accept trips over bridges or in tunnels.

According to the Labour Affairs Bureau in Macau, the labor rights of gig workers depend on the respective legal requirements of formal employment and self-employment. However, the line is blurred in the relationship between food delivery drivers and the platform, where their work is controlled and restricted by the delivery platform, and they must wear uniforms and follow the distribution of orders made by the platform without having the freedom to accept or reject certain orders. We hope that the Bureau will conduct an overhaul of the industry and bridge the gap of protection for the gig workers to ensure fairness and accountability.

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and Macau

Samson Cheng

6,200 evacuees and 160 homes destroyed by the South Korea forest fire. Historic drought looms for 20 million living in Horn of Africa. Australia flood claims a lost of two billion dollars and took 22 people's lives... These are only some of the many tragedies that have occurred around the world since the beginning of 2022. The tragedies that have occurred around the world are all related to global climate change.

"Nature" is not only a "victim" of climate change, but also an "important actor" to deal with climate change, and the "Nature-based Solution" (NbS) emphasizes respecting the laws of nature and enhancing the functions of nature through reforestation, strengthening farmland management, protecting wetlands, marine ecological protection, and ecological restoration, and improving ecological management. The term NbS was coined by the world's leading scientists as a way to improve nature's service functions, control greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the ability to cope with climate risks.

The term NbS was first introduced by the World Bank in its 2008 report "Biodiversity, Climate Change and Adaptation: Nature-based Solutions in the World Bank's Investments", emphasizing the importance of biodiversity conservation in adapting to and mitigating climate change. The UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019 is a milestone in the development history of NbS. At the summit, NbS was listed as one of the nine areas for accelerated global climate action.



For Macau, a typical example of NbS is the mangrove forest. Mangrove plants are a secluded coastal intertidal woody plant community in tropical and subtropical regions, mainly distributed between the north and south regression lines, and in Macau, the mangrove forests are mainly located in the Cotai wetlands. Macau's mangrove forests are home to many different types of flora and fauna, and also have the ability to cleanse the air and seawater, and are strong to absorb greenhouse gases (carbon sink capacity). According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), mangroves in coastal wetlands store four times more carbon than tropical rainforests and can play a role in mitigating climate change; in addition, the natural barrier formed by mangroves can resist the impact of storm surges and huge waves, effectively protecting the coastline of Macao and thus adapting to climate change. In some coastal areas, mangroves are the first choice to protect against floods, as they are 1000 times cheaper per kilometer than building dams.

Therefore, mangrove conservation can not only protect biodiversity, but also increase carbon sinks and improve the ability to resist climate change. It is a comprehensive means of mitigating and adapting to climate change. This is also the subtlety of NbS's "applying nature" to combat climate change.

In addition to conserving mangroves, Macao also has the potential and room for development of NbS in terms of afforestation and marine ecology protection. The "Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2021-2025)" mentions that the SAR government will complete the formulation of the "Long-term Carbon Reduction Strategy Study"; the "Macao Environmental Protection Plan (2021-2025)" also mentions The SAR government will "strengthen the conservation of wetlands" and "carry out the second ecological survey of Macao". It is hoped that NbS or related concepts can be adopted in the "Long-term Carbon Reduction Strategy Research", taking into account the synergistic effect between ecological conservation and addressing climate change and, thus, effectively advance the protection of climate.

(Published in Plataforma Media)

Solarpunk: envisioning a utopia where people live in harmony with nature with the help of technology

From Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* to Denis Villeneuve's *Dune*, there are never a short of dystopian films that remind us of the future when technological development went rogue and societies and nature are destroyed - and they belong to a genre called cyberpunk, sci-fi that features high-tech and low-life. !!It is hard to believe that our future is of any hope when cyberpunk has become a mainstream culture, where famous owners of tech giants Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are already exploring the possibility of life on another planet. Although cyberpunk gives us chills and gloomy excitement, should we believe in the future that it portrays?



A 2017 research founds that in hunter-gatherer societies (our ancestors in roughly 12,000 years ago), human ability to survive hardships is bettered by storytelling. In other words, humans build their existence from the stories that they tell themselves. If we are to survive the challenges and difficult environment, we have to tell a better story that inspires us to make positive and optimistic changes. Enter the new genre of sci-fi that depicts a world where humans live in harmony with nature with the help of technology: Solarpunk.

Solarpunk is a 21st-century movement that rejects the doom and gloom cyberpunk and embraces high-tech (such as solar panels) & low-tech (such as passive heating in housing design) AND a high-life future. Examples of solar punk aesthetics can be seen in the World of Wakanda, where the greatest technological advancement can help thrive a country's ecosystem, and *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*, where an ecologist princess tries to sustain the natural resources still on her deteriorated planet. As some would put it, Solarpunk looks like a lush paradise from Studio Ghibli films with solar panels. Besides advanced technology, the solarpunk utopia also stresses strong relationships with our community, one where we deepen our interpersonal relationships.

Art and Sustainability: "Support"

Arts have the opportunity to bring the important issue of sustainability to a wider audience, to make people think about human development in new ways, and to invite them to participate in building a better future.



Venice, for example, is known for its romantic gondolas, exquisite artwork and beautiful architecture. However, due to climate change, rising sea levels, and the fact that Venice as a whole is sinking, the city, which is built into the canal system, is now particularly vulnerable.

Many of you will remember that in 2019, Venice experienced the second highest tide in its history, with 85% of the area once submerged in seawater. According to the Venice Tide Office, sea levels in Venice are 10 cm higher than they were 50 years ago, and if sea level rise is not curbed, the city will be one of the first to be inundated in this century.

In 2017, Italian sculptor Lorenzo Quinn created a sculpture called "Support" based on the Ca' Sagredo Hotel in Venice, which features two giant child's hands that, at a glance, are hard to identify whether they want to tear down or hold the building next to them.

Lorenzo uses this ambiguity to express the two sides of human behavior: the side that can destroy the world, and the side that can save it. Of course, the title of this work and the child element suggest that the artist is still appealing to the side of hope.



UN Human Rights Council confirms Israel's apartheid against Palestinians

A special report published in the 49th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council says that Israel is practicing apartheid in the occupied Palestinian territory, echoing the recent findings by other international human rights organizations, Palestinian and Israeli included.

According to the Rome Statue of International of Criminal Court, apartheid is when “an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime”. It is a crime against humanity.

The report states that Israel’s military purposefully engineer an illegal claim over the occupied territory, all the while imprisoning Palestinians within smaller and more restrained land - through “arbitrary and extra-judicial killings, torture, the denial of fundamental rights, an abysmal rate of child deaths, collective punishment, an abusive military court system, periods of intensive Israeli military violence in Gaza and home demolitions”. According to another report, during the hostile conflict in Gaza from 10 to 21 May in 2021, the Israeli security forces fired live ammunition and killed 315 and injured 17,597 Palestinians, many of which are civilians.

A friend of Genervision House said in a statement that the Israeli Defense Forces disrupt all aspects of daily life in occupied Palestine: "Despite the IDF continuing to traumatize Palestinians and killing their children, youth, women, and elderly, they are being protected by the apartheid Israeli regime" - killings of unarmed civilians are often unjustified and seldom led to any meaningful criminal investigation that can hold the IDF accountable. The killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in the West Bank and the attacks of Israeli police made on the pallbearers of Abu Akleh’s coffin during her funeral yesterday is one example of the Israeli forces perpetrating unnecessary violence and disturbance towards Palestinians.

China had called an urgent UN Security Council session to discuss the escalating violence between Israelis and Palestinians in May last year. Still, the effort was blocked by the United States, whose officials cited it was “working behind the scenes” to calm the situation and it was “not sure that a statement at this point would help”. According to the US Congressional Research Service in 2022, Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign assistance since World War II. To date, the United States has provided Israel with \$150 billion in bilateral assistance and missile defense funding. For 2022, the Biden Administration requested \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing for Israel and \$500 million in missile defense aid.

Today is 74th anniversary of Nakba, the day when Israel expelled at least 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and lands and captured 78 percent of historic Palestine.



Answer of the Quiz of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

1. b. Despite all the hype about the Chinese currency challenging the US dollar, and China's efforts in promoting internationalization of RMB, the majority of Belt and Road projects are financed in dollars (Andrew Browne, 2019; The Economist Corporate Network, 2020). Yuan held outside China remain relatively scarce. A mature and complete RMB use system has not yet been formed.

2. d. Although BRI projects are mostly funded by Chinese banks, they are not always contracted to Chinese state-owned enterprises. However, in terms of implementing mega infrastructure with high value, Chinese state-owned enterprises are still the major contractors (Rand, 2020). State capital can lead to different decisions than private capital, but this depends on China's strategic interests in the sector (Ching Kwan Lee, 2017).

3. e. The fifth one should be connecting people. Despite in total of 5 pillars were proposed, BRI projects have been largely focusing on two pillars: infrastructure connectivity and unimpeded trade. Investment in financial integration constitutes a rather small portion (Zhou et al., 2018). There is much to be done in policy coordination and connecting people. China has put more attention on them recent years though as BRI is heading towards "High quality development" (Benabdallah,2020).

4. a. China's outbound lending has been in decline since 2016 (Booster or Brake,2020). This was particularly obvious in Chinese infrastructure lending to Africa, which fell from \$11bn in 2017 to \$3.3bn in 2020 (Baker McKenzie, 2021), the lowest amount since BRI was unveiled in 2013. This is not a surprise due to three major reasons. "First, China's big banks are re-evaluating their lending practices after high-profile stumbles with Venezuela, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and other major borrowers. This has been accompanied by an increase in debt renegotiations. Second, increased deleveraging pressure in China has affected Chinese banks' ability and willingness to make major new loans, especially in high-risk settings. Third, some recipient countries have started pushing back against China's BRI lending. The Hambantota Port case in Sri Lanka put alleged Chinese "debt trap" diplomacy in the spotlight. In addition, high costs, corruption allegations, and implementation issues have increased resistance in recipient countries. There are growing number of countries have re-evaluated infrastructure plans and canceled or renegotiated new projects. Accordingly, China's second Belt and Road Forum in 2019 directed China's financiers to focus on lending to fewer, more sustainable projects." (Booster or Brake,2021).

5. e. The a,b,d are the common myths towards BRI often mentioned by the Western media, scholars and politicians. However, there is no evidence supporting the a, b, d arguments.



Founders Arianna U & Christy Un
Graphic Designers Dino Mok
Content Contributors Gladys Ng, Arianna U & Samson Cheng
Editing Assistant Samson Cheng
Contact Us
Email: info@genervision.org
Subscription Form: <https://bit.ly/3sxOYWZ>
Website: <http://genervision.org>



GENERVISION HOUSE NEWSLETTER | 2022
GENERVISION HOUSE 望望屋
GenerVision Cape
Issue No. 10 | Oct 2022

2022 核心成員招募
CORE TEAM RECRUITMENT

FEATURED ARTICLES

1. 2022年10月10日
2. 2022年10月10日
3. 2022年10月10日
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5. 2022年10月10日
6. 2022年10月10日
7. 2022年10月10日
8. 2022年10月10日

2022 GenerVision House Core Team Recruitment
We are currently recruiting social professionals to contribute to our organization and work for other sectors, we also welcome your application to read.

If you are interested, send us your CV to our mailbox, info@genervision.org. We will provide further details of the position. The rules are a voluntary service, with no major compensation or other commitment. We welcome you to

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