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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°33

Articles, news and events on China.

The China Center is an interdepartmental and multidisciplinary Research Centre of the University of Macerata, founded in 2012 within the initiatives of the Department of Law.



Scientific Articles

Blockchain adoption in supply chains: implications for sustainability

Written by Tianyu Zhang, Fu Jia, and Lujie Chen, published online on 03/01/2024

This study systematically reviews 69 high-quality academic papers (2008–2023) on blockchain adoption in supply chain management (SCM) to identify its drivers, sustainable impacts, and factors influencing implementation stages. It highlights blockchain's ability to enhance economic efficiency, social transparency, and environmental sustainability within SCM. A conceptual framework is proposed to link blockchain adoption to these outcomes, emphasizing its role in achieving sustainability goals. The study identifies four major themes and outlines research gaps, such as scalability and regulatory challenges, to guide future inquiries. This work offers valuable insights for advancing blockchain applications in sustainable SCM

practices.

The paradox of decelerated technology importation and accelerated innovation in China: Insights from national technology development zones

Written by Wenyin Cheng, Bo Meng, Yuning Gao, David Dollar, published online on 13/11/2024

This study explores a paradox in China's innovation landscape post-2008: an innovation surge occurring alongside a decline in technology importation. Using firm-level data from 1995 to 2013, the research examines the dual effects of National Technology Development Zones (NTZs) on innovation. While NTZs initially promoted innovation in patent quantity and quality, a post-crisis decline in patent quality emerged, driven by distortions linked to both autonomous development and technology importation. Importantly, tangible technology importation and creative capacity had a stronger negative impact than absorptive capacity and intangible technology flows. The findings provide insights into how China's innovation trajectory is shaped by NTZ policies and global trends in technology protectionism, highlighting the need for balanced strategies to sustain innovation quality amid evolving challenges.

News from China



Trump 2.0 and the Future of the Taiwan Strait Conflict

Written by Juan Alberto Ruiz Casado, posted by The Diplomat on 18/11/2024

The possible return of Donald Trump to the White House could dramatically reshape U.S.-China-Taiwan relations, introducing heightened risks and shifting dynamics. Trump's approach, likely focused on strategic and economic self-interest rather than democratic values, may accelerate militarization in the Taiwan Strait, pushing the U.S. closer to conflict. His administration, dominated by staunch China hawks, could intensify efforts to contain Beijing, advocating for expanded arms sales and military bases in the region while pressuring Taiwan to increase its defense spending. Such moves could provoke

China into stronger countermeasures, though Beijing would likely avoid direct conflict unless Taiwan's independence is formally recognized. The potential for a proxy war looms large, particularly under a pro-U.S., pro-independence Taiwanese government. This scenario could devastate Taiwan's economy while fulfilling U.S. goals of weakening China at minimal cost. Meanwhile, China has been preparing for such contingencies, adapting to the hardline U.S. policies prevalent since Trump's first term. A second Trump administration could prioritize escalating trade, technology, and geopolitical tensions, solidifying Taiwan as a critical flashpoint in U.S.-China relations.

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BRICS Will Shape the World With China

Written by Jodie Wen, posted by China-US Focus on 18/11/2024

The 2024 BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, marked a historic milestone, showcasing the bloc's growing influence after its expansion to include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, Iran, and Ethiopia. Originating in 2006 as a platform for emerging economies, BRICS now represents 34% of global landmass and 45% of the population, with its collective purchasing power exceeding the G7. Over the years, it has actively promoted multipolarity and the reform of global governance, becoming a critical voice for the Global South. The Kazan Declaration emphasized financial and trade cooperation, including a cross-border payment system to reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar, symbolizing the bloc's ambition for a



fairer, more inclusive global order. China has played a pivotal role in BRICS' evolution, advocating for the BRICS+ mechanism and integrating its efforts with the Belt and Road Initiative to maximize developmental synergies. It continues to lead on financial innovations, such as the internationalization of the yuan, blockchain standardization, and digital currency development, while fostering collaboration in education, science, and culture. Despite challenges from geopolitical tensions and diverse member interests, BRICS' commitment to consensus-building and inclusive cooperation underscores its potential as a transformative force in international affairs.

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The firms that cultivate the most Chinese AI entrepreneurs

Written by JEFFREY DING, posted by ChinAI Newsletter on 18/11/2024

According to data collected by IT Juzi, among the top five companies where Chinese AI entrepreneurs gained significant work experience before starting their own ventures, two are multinational corporations. This contrasts sharply with the academic background of these entrepreneurs, as the top five universities producing them are all domestic institutions, such as Tsinghua University and Peking University. The findings indicate a dual pathway: while Chinese universities dominate the educational foundation, foreign firms play a substantial role in shaping the professional expertise of these entrepreneurs. Companies like Microsoft, Google, and IBM provide critical

exposure to global technologies and practices, contributing significantly to the entrepreneurial skill set in China's AI ecosystem.

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The calendar of activities for the Centre in 2024 has been released. Click [here](#)

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