**Views on "the contribution of development**

**to the enjoyment of all human rights"**

--By United Nations Association of China (UNA-China)

**I. Contribution of development in promoting and protecting human rights**

Peace, development and human rights, three pillars of the United Nations, are inter-related and mutually reinforcing. And all categories of human rights are indivisible and interdependent, and should be advanced in a balanced way.

Development is a universal human theme and defined as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political progress. It contributes to better enjoyment of human rights, such as the right to health, education, food, water, sanitation, housing and social security, and promotes civil rights and political rights.

The right to development is a basic human rights and a combination of individual and collective human rights, which can be mutually promoted. The right to development focuses on having equal development opportunities and sharing development benefits, so that everyone can be fully developed. Equal access to development opportunities and development benefits are the ideals of human society wherein each and every individual can achieve all-rounded development and enjoy full right to development. The right to development is incorporated into other human rights, and other human rights create the conditions to facilitate development and realize the right to development. The pursuit of the right to development is the means to reduce development gap and deficit for the purpose of realizing all human rights for all.

Sustainable development is a prerequisite for materializing the right to development. All 17 goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are closely correlated with the right to development. Only sustainable development can guarantee the realization of the right to development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a basic global guide to addressing the challenges faced by the full enjoyment of all human rights, especially the right to development. Poverty is the biggest obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights. The implementation of the SDGs is an effective means of eliminating poverty, which provides the conditions necessary for realizing all other human rights. On the other hand, human rights principles and standards are reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The focus on the right to development contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

Development is essential to realize the right to peace. Peace and development are interdependent. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that there can be no development without peace, and there can be no peace without sustainable development. Underdevelopment increases the risks of conflicts and wars. Development is the fundamental guarantee for sustaining peace.

The right to education, a very important social and economic right, is an essential part of the right to development. Education plays a critical role in improving livelihood and creating conditions for eradicating poverty, enabling people to acquire skills that help to ensure access to employment, a good standard of living, health services and housing. Education not only brings material benefits, but enables citizens to broaden their minds, make informed choices about good governance and choose a way of life that promotes the enjoyment of all human rights.

Sustainable development enables the achievement of the environmental rights. Global warming and extreme weather remind us that humankind should launch a green revolution and move faster to create a green way of development and life, preserve the environment and make the Earth a better place for all. The Paris Agreement on climate change charts the course for the world to transition to green and low-carbon development. It outlines the minimum steps to be taken to protect the Earth. All countries need to pursue innovative, coordinated, green and open development for all, seize the historic opportunities presented by the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, achieve a green recovery of the world economy in the post-COVID era and thus create a powerful force driving sustainable development.

Digital capacity has become an important catalyst for better enjoyment of human rights in modern society. Development can help people equip with digital knowledge and improve access to infrastructure and facilities, especially fill the “digital divide” faced by disadvantaged groups, and ensure that each member of the international community can have an equal access to a digital life, and truly enjoy the digital rights.

**II. Ensuring that development contributes to promoting and protecting human rights**

The right to development must be enjoyed and shared by all peoples. Realizing the right to development is the responsibility of all countries and also the obligation of the international community.

At the national level, development should be people-centered and must be firmly rooted in equity. Each Government should put the right to subsistence and development on the top of its development strategy, giving priority to eradicating extreme poverty, improving education, health, employment, infrastructure and addressing other issues of concern to its people, and integrating the SDGs into the country's development strategy and planning.

At the international level, the importance of the right to development has never been fully acknowledged globally, especially by the developed countries, causing global governance deficit and development gap between the developed and developing countries. Thus, it is extremely important that the entire international community come to a consensus on a clear definition of the right to development and a strong recognition of the importance of both development and the right to development to the enjoyment of all human rights. It is critical that all 17 development goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be treated and implemented in an equal and balanced manner. Development is the primary task for developing countries. Developed countries should provide financial and technical support to help developing countries achieve their development goals in order to promote and protect human rights. With developing countries taking up 80% of the global population, whether they can achieve the right to development matter a great deal to the international human rights cause. In carrying out international human rights cooperation, the will of developing countries needs to be fully respected and heeded and the right to development and economic, social, and cultural rights deserve more attention. All the possible obstacles impeding the achievement of the right to development need to be identified, and proper strategies and working plans need to put in place. The special obligation and commitment of developed countries in providing assistance and financial aid to developing countries should be fulfilled and honored. Human rights definitions should not be monopolized by developed countries, otherwise the beautiful words of human rights would lose luster and attraction to people in developing countries. And all dimensions of human rights should move forward in balance and developing countries must be able to benefit from international human rights cooperation.

COVID-19 has once again proved that we are living in a community of shared future for mankind. All countries and nations and other stakeholders should bear collective responsibilities to address global challenges, through global and regional partnership. The international community needs a strong UN. The role of the UN should be further strengthened and multilateralism should be firmly uphold.

**III. Challenges and recommendations**

With the big divide and differences between developed and developing countries on the recognition of the right to development as a fundamental human right, the biggest challenge is lack of collective political will and unified efforts that undercut the global movement toward the achievement of the right to development. UN human rights system is not poised to support developing countries to achieve the right to development as a integral part of all human rights. Human rights rhetoric has not treated collective rights the same as individual rights.

The ever increasing non-traditional risks, such as extreme weather, natural disasters, terrorism, global pandemics, especially the climate change, have posed enormous challenges to development and the right to development. The rise of unilateralism, populism and nationalism has weakened solidarity and cooperation. The politicization of human rights and double standards in human rights have damaged the international cooperation. And the unilateral coercive measures imposed against some countries and their economies have driven vulnerable and marginalized persons to a desperate situation.

COVID-19 is the most pressing challenge, posing enormous threat to people's life and health and bringing negative impacts on human rights. The global economic recession has greatly affected the implementation of SDGs in various countries. Vaccine nationalism has hindered global anti-epidemic and economic recovery and seriously threatened multilateralism.

It is urgent for international community to emphasis the role and authorization of the United Nations. Governments, civil society and private sectors should firmly support multilateralism and uphold the international system with the UN at its core and international order based on international law. All countries should engage in dialogue and cooperation on an equal footing.

The UN should aim at problem solving and move forward tangible outcomes as it advances security, development and human rights in parallel. In particular, as the UN advances its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, priority should be given to addressing non-traditional security challenges and the issues of development should be highlighted in the global macro framework. There should be a greater emphasis on the promotion and protection of the rights to subsistence and development. COVID-19 is slowing down the implementation of SDGs, the UN needs to take measures to accelerate the process.

Fight against the COVID-19 is a priority for every country. All countries need to contain the epidemic while pushing for economy recovery. COVID-19 vaccines should be the global public goods and benefit everyone. People in developing countries should have access to vaccine in a timely manner. Vaccine nationalism and protectionism can only hinder the global fight against the epidemic, which are violations of human rights.

To effectively address climate change, every country needs to make a commitment to be carbon neutral. We should stick to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, giving full consideration to the development capacity of the developing countries. Developed countries have an obligation to provide financing and technology to developing countries to achieve carbon neutrality.

The international community should honor their commitment on development assistance. We need to take robust measures in such fields as debt relief and international assistance, and help these countries overcome their difficulties.

**VI. Examples of best practices of contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights**

**Example 1: Protection of Maternal and Infant Health**

In order to constantly improve the level of rural health, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) has launched the rural health project, which has contributed to improving the health of poverty-stricken population and assisting poverty alleviation in the mode of providing medical assistance, equipment and facilities for people in poverty-stricken areas as well as offering training for primary-level medical personnel.

The Maternal and Infant Health Care Program targets at reducing maternal mortality and infant mortality, and improving maternal and child life support and health conditions in poverty-stricken areas. The Program carried out 120 action items for maternal and infant health care.

From the year 2000 to December 31, 2019, the Maternal and Infant Health Care Program received more than 165 million Yuan (RMB) in donations. The Program covered 27 counties (cities and districts) in 11 provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions) including Yunnan, Chongqing, Fujian, Ningxia, Anhui, Sichuan, Shanxi, Hebei, Hunan, Liaoning and Beijing, benefiting more than 747,000 person-times.

**Example 2: Nutritious Meals Program**

In 2008, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) launched the Nutritious Meals Program, a philanthropic program focusing on improving children’s nutrition in poverty-stricken areas. After years of practice and exploration, CFPA has gradually formed a three-in-one program including nutritious meals, kitchen renovation, and nutrition knowledge promotion. From October 9, 2008 to December 31, 2019, funds raised for the program exceeded 360 million Yuan (RMB), and the accumulative input exceeded 320 million Yuan, covering 111 poverty-stricken counties from 58 cities (prefectures) in 17 provinces Sichuan, Yunnan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, Guizhou, Liaoning, Hebei, Henan, Fujian, Xinjiang, Jiangxi, Heilongjiang, Anhui, Ningxia, Gansu and Shaanxi, benefiting 1,134,000 person-times, providing 57.60 million nutritional meals for students, with the establishment of 2,172 standardized kitchens of love. Meanwhile, beginning from 2015, smiling school feeding programs were carried out in Ethiopia, Sudan, Cambodia, Myanmar and Pakistan, benefiting 6,6000 person-years total.

**Example 3: Poverty Alleviation through Tourism**

The Bona Villa Program was launched by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation in 2013, aiming to alleviate poverty through development of rural tourism. By exploring a brand-new model of poverty alleviation through development of rural tourism+, the program intends to set up platforms bridging the rural areas and the outside world, re-evaluate the poverty-stricken villages and create chances for development for them. On the basis of rural residents association, the program facilitates the sustainable development in rural areas by actively attracting social capital, information, faculties and other key elements.

From May 2013 to December 31, 2018, this program received a donation of 118 million Yuan (RMB). In 2018, the amount of donation for the program totaled 29 millionYuan, with an investment of 29.25 million Yuan. The program benefited 19 villages in 18 counties (districts) of 7 provinces, among which 2 villages were rebuilt after disasters had stricken, 10 were moderately poor, 5 severely poor, and 2 ordinary. Among the 25,476 people in these 19 villages, 5,269 were registered poor households. By the end of 2018, 4 villages had started to operate the inns while the remaining 15 still hadn’t started, of which 4 were in pilot operation, 3 under construction, 3 under planning stage and 4 yet to be initiated.

In 2018, the total revenue generated by inns in operation amounted to 3.20 million Yuan, with an average annual income per capita of 29,116 Yuan. The program created more than 100 new jobs, and more than 30 targeted people for poverty alleviation have been employed. An indirect profit of 3.44 million Yuan was created through tourism.

**Example 4: Bridge Construction Project**

Bridge Construction Project was initiated in 2007 in joint efforts by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Jiangling Motors Corporation, China National Automotive Journalist Association and China Automotive News with the purpose of building convenient bridges in poverty-stricken areas for those in need.

From 2007 to the end of 2018, the project had received 49.8 million Yuan (RMB) of donation and had implemented 727 bridge projects in total. The project brought convenience to 146 counties in 24 provinces and benefited more than 1.1 million person-times.

The project received 3.34 million Yuan in 2018 and implemented 76 bridge projects, benefiting 17 counties in 7 provinces and 71,083 person-times. The year witnessed the completion of 60 constructions with a total input of 5.25 million Yuan.

**Example 5: Disaster Prevention and Risk Reduction**

Through Disaster Prevention and Risk Reduction Program, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) raises public awareness on reducing disaster risks and enhances people’s ability to respond to disasters. The program consists of three parts, raising public awareness, training, and aid. It has established a community disaster risk reduction model based on studies of disaster risk reduction in community, the training of first community rescuer and community aid equipment. It has also established a disaster risk reduction model for children, which is mainly based on popular scientific knowledge sharing activities, publication of educational materials and building of disaster risk reduction classrooms.

From 2016 to 2018, the program input 5.89 million Yuan (RMB) and benefited 201,000 person-times. In 2018, CFPA launched SAY NO 512 National Disaster Reduction and Mitigation community activities, Disaster Risk Reduction Classroom Program, Little Disaster Reduction Activist, First Rescuer Training Program and research on the rural communities’ capacity building for preventing and mitigating disasters. 4.02 million Yuan had been input in this field, helping 78,000 person-times in 20 provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions).

**Example 6: Providing Microfinance to Keep Farmers' Development Company Microfinance Self-Reliance**

Microfinance is a small and micro financial service supplier that takes root in rural areas. It aims at providing tailored multidimensional services, including small-amount credit loan, insurance, investment and e-commerce business, for middle and low income people in rural areas who can hardly enjoy services of traditional financial institutions and helps them live a good life through development, production and growth in earnings.

By the end of 2018, Microfinance Management Co Ltd initiated by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) set up small-amount loan projects in 21 provinces and 313 branches nationwide. In 2018, 430,900 loans were granted and the amount totaled 12.9 billion Yuan (RMB), with an average of 29,943 Yuan per loan. The loan balance was 9 billion Yuan as the average household balance reached 25,203 Yuan. The rate of risk loans over 30 days was 1.04%. Among 357,000 customers, 88.6% were farmers, 59.1% were female and 84.3% holding junior school or lower degrees.

**Example 7: Rural Education Development Program**

To improve the level of rural education, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation launched a Rural Education Development Program. The Program provides resource support for the development of rural education through measures such as building school infrastructure, developing training for poverty-stricken students and teachers, and subsidizing students from poverty-stricken families, so as to improve the quality of rural schools and help poverty-stricken students in rural areas to develop in an all-round way. The Program currently consists of small and medium-sized projects such as Building Schools and Dormitories Program, construction projects of schools and supporting facilities, and comprehensive poverty alleviation projects for rural education. In 2019, the Program supported the construction of schools and funded students, and provided 31.46 million Yuan (RMB), benefiting 53,074 person-times from 14 counties in 6 provinces.

**Example 8: E-Commerce for the Poor**

With the conviction of bringing out value of honest production and the vision of farmer being respected and consumer getting more healthy food, Shanpin E-commerce supports the cooperation between rural households, and their production of high-quality agricultural goods. By helping these small rural households access the market and cultivating public brands of regional agricultural products and cultivating local talents, Shanpin E-commerce continuously promotes the development competitiveness of poverty-stricken areas and groups with market forces.

From January 29, 2015 to December 31, 2019, Shanpin E-commerce received a donation of 76.97 million Yuan (RMB) and input 55.28 million Yuan. In 2019, Shanpin E-commerce raised 16.55 million Yuan, and invested 15.43 million Yuan. The Program benefited 51 associations in 35 counties (cities and districts) of 14 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), covering the products of poverty alleviation in 4 categories of fresh food, nut fruit, drink and grain and oil. In 2019, Shanpin E-commerce helped the agricultural products in poverty-stricken areas reached the online sales of more than 40 million Yuan. Other impressive numbers included: 450 million Internet traffic, 23,685 benefited farms, 2,951 registered poor households and support from 100,000 consumers.

**Example 9: Communication operators expand free Wi-Fi coverage for students in remote areas in Inner Mongolia**

After the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools shut down and students have to study at home during the first half of 2020. Students in many remote areas face challenges to get access to the internet. Determined to let no one lag behind, China’s communication operators beefed up home internet at counties and expanded free Wi-Fi coverage for students living in remote areas during the epidemic, ensuring everyone including students enjoy their digital rights and connect with the outside world.

**Example 10: Alipay Ant Forest: Using Digital Technologies to Scale up Climate Action**

Alipay is one of the world’s most popular online payment and lifestyle platforms. Hailing from China, the platform serves over one billion users worldwide in partnership with its local e-wallet partners.

Alipay’s online and mobile payment platform is used by more than a billion people to pay for everything from groceries, to bike rentals, to wealth management products. In August 2016, the Chinese company turned the power of its digital technology to promote climate action. The Alipay Ant Forest project, launched on the company’s mobile app, rewards its users with “green energy points” each time they take a step to reduce their emissions, such as by biking to work, going paperless and buying sustainable products. These green energy points grow into a virtual tree on the user’s app, which Alipay matches by planting a real tree or protecting a conservation area, in partnership with local NGOs.

Since its launch, Alipay Ant Forest has attracted over 500 million users, planted 100 million real trees in Northwest China covering a total area of 112,000 hectares, and protected a total area of 12,000 hectares of conservation land. Alipay Ant Forest has also helped create around 400,000 job opportunities and RMB 60 million (USD 8.4 million) in income by working with farmers to plant trees, develop organic agricultural products, and connect them with e-commerce platforms.

**Example 11: Rural Infrastructure Building Program**

The Rural Infrastructure Building Program was initiated by the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation. By building infrastructure for poverty-stricken areas, including roads, village clinics, villagers' activity centers and industrial bases, this Program aims to improve villagers' production and living conditions, enhance the well-being of the rural people, and help the poor people to shake off poverty and increase income.

In 2019, the Program raised funds of 10 million Yuan (RMB), and input 15.53 million Yuan, benefiting 4 counties of 2 provinces. The Program completed the construction of 7 clinics in Jinping County, the preliminary acceptance of public health centers in Malipo, the poverty alleviation and environmental improvement project for the village residence of Jiangjun College in Lianhua County, and the improvement of poverty alleviation and environment in Wenshan City, benefiting 48,200 person-times.

**Example 12: Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Development Program**

The Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Development Program is an important part of the rural development project of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, aiming to cultivate a group of local talents who love the countryside, understand technology and are good at management. Through the combination of training and entrepreneurial practice, the Program takes practicality and pragmatic as the main line, integrates social resources to cultivate and experience the five core abilities of young farmers, actively participates in poverty alleviation and rural revitalization to train and transport new professional farmers for poverty-stricken areas, and inject vitality and sustained momentum into rural development.

Since May 2019,the Program has raised 4.56 million Yuan (RMB) as of December 31, 2019. A total of 3 talent trainings were organized in Beijing, Chengdu and Chahar Right Banner, including 101 trainees of Phase I Training of Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Development Program from 22 associations of 10 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), 60 trainees of Phase II Training of Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Development Program from 28 associations of 12 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities),and 30 trainees of the program of Promoting Rural Areas by Talent from 50 administration villages of Chahar Right Banner.

**Example 13: Ethiopia - Water Cellar Project**

Starting from 2017, the Water Cellar Program aims to contribute to sustainable rainwater management and improve water supply for multiple uses through constructing rainwater harvesting cellar at rural households in Ethiopia. In 2019, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) built 40 water cellars in rural area of Ethiopia to provide access to clean and safe water in a renewable, sustainable and environmentally-friendly way. The project also promotes the protection and development of the rights of women and children.

**Example 14: Nepal - School Reconstruction Project**

The Post-disaster School Reconstruction Project in Nepal has supported three schools. In addition to Yuba Sahabhagita School completed in 2017, MAV school was completed and successfully handed over to Nepal local community on June 1st. The third school, Ananda-kuti School, received donations from the Enlai Foundation to rebuild its Karuna Building, which has been under construction since January 2019 and was completed in August 2020.

**Example 15: Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages**

China has launched a project known as Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages aimed at providing digital TV connection for rural communities in more than 20 African countries, opening a new window for them to see the world. It has provided assistance to projects for radio and TV centers in Seychelles, the Comoros, Tanzania and Mauritius to improve the transmission capacity of local radio and television networks, making them important vehicles for cultural communication in their respective localities.

**Example 16: Hybrid Rice Creates Food Security**

The Republic of Madagascar has nearly 25 million population, more than 80 percent are engaged in agriculture. Rice is the main crop, covering more than half of Madagascar’s 2.9 million hectares of farmland. However, rice production remained low, and nearly 2 million people faced the threat of famine. The main difficulty in cultivating rice was a lack of quality seeds and advanced technology.

More than a decade ago, Chinese hybrid rice expert HU Yuefang came to Madagascar and visited almost all the rice-growing areas on the island. Mentored by YUAN Longping, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, HU and his team successfully cultivated three kinds of high-yield hybrid rice seeds suitable for the local soil and climate conditions, which were all approved by the government of Madagascar.

Today, Madagascar regards growing hybrid rice as one of the key measures to achieve food self-sufficiency and even export food. In 2019, the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center’s Africa sub-center was established in Madagascar to training agricultural technicians, the center supports local seed companies, builds sales networks, seeks to reduce seed production costs, and helps more farmers to use high-yield hybrid seeds. The hybrid rice technology is anticipated to increase Madagascar’s grain production and income, and possibly even change its status from a food importing country to a food exporting country.

**Example 17: From Water Tower to Power Tower**

Guinea, known as the “water tower” of West Africa. It is the birthplace of the three main rivers in West Africa, the Niger, Senegal and Gambia, and has a great potential to generate hydropower. Due to the weak economic foundation and the lack of large-scale development, the harnessing of water resources remained low for a long time.

In the past, Guinea suffered from an acute shortage of electricity. Even in capital Conakry, it was common to have power outages dozens of times a day. The situation greatly improved after the completion of the Kaleta hydropower station built by a Chinese company in 2015. It has not only solved the power shortage in Conakry but also is supplying electricity directly to the surrounding areas. Conakry has seen a boom in home appliance purchases, with some shops running out of their stock of television sets and refrigerators. The lives of ordinary people have changed a lot.

With the help of Chinese company, some other hydropower stations were built in Guinea, which is becoming a veritable power tower. The hydropower stations have injected a strong impetus into the economic development of Guinea, and even West Africa, and turned Guinea into an energy-rich country.

**Example 18: The Gift of Clean Water for Sri Lanka**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a key way to reduce the incidence of the disease is by providing clean and safe drinking water.

Sri Lanka has been hard-hit by CKDu (chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology) and sought assistance from the Chinese Academy of Sciences to find the origin of the disease and provide the people with safe drinking water.

To facilitate the cooperation, the China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Center for Water Technology (Water Center) was established in 2016 under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Sri Lanka’s Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply. Experts in water energy, geology, medicine, life sciences and other streams joined the center.

The Water Center decided to build a water testing laboratory at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka and focus on two tasks: providing safe drinking water and carrying out research on the origin of CKDu. The Center adopted three ways to help Sri Lanka acquire safe drinking water, by collecting and purifying rainwater, setting up special drinking water stations and building water purification plants. The Center also started training professionals to ensure the progress of joint research. Now to have safe drinking water is not a luxury in Sri Lanka.

**Example 19: The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway and the Future of Kenya**

Mombasa and Nairobi were connected by a narrow-gauge railway (with a 1-meter track gauge) built in 1896. Due to disrepair and aging equipment, its average speed was only 22 kilometers per hour and it took 21 hours to complete the whole journey. Besides, the operation was unstable and the railway would be frequently out of service for several days at a time. There were also accidents such as derailments and collision with animals. It was a century-old dream of Kenyans to have a new railway.

On May 31, 2017, with the assistance of China, the long-awaited Mombasa-Nairobi Railway was finally ready for commercial operation. President Kenyatta and his entourage were on board when the first passenger train made its maiden trip, welcomed by tens of thousands of local people. “After 122 years, Kenyans have got their new railway at last. We are going to open a new chapter.” said President Kenyatta.

As a Chinese saying goes, “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.” In constructing the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Chinese builders brought knowledge, technology and experience to the African continent far from their home and became friends and teachers of the local employees. China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the general contractor responsible for the construction and operation of the railway, has provided financial support for 100 outstanding Kenyan high school graduates to receive railway-related higher education in China. In addition, the company has built a local training base and a railway college to train professionals for Kenya’s railway development.

Rides on the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway have become a popular tourist attraction. During the 2019 Easter holiday, Nairobi-Mombasa tickets sold out one month in advance, and the hotel occupancy rate in Mombasa was over 90 percent. In CNN Travel’s May 2019 list of the “20 best things to do in Kenya”, a ride on the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway comes fifth. British broadsheet The Daily Telegraph also mentions a ride on the SGR as one of the 13 most attractive railway journeys in the world in a 2019 report.

The SGR has boosted the development of the local logistics industry. Goods loaded in Mombasa in the morning can be transported to Nairobi in the afternoon and logistics costs have been slashed by up to 40 percent. The transportation efficiency from the port to the hinterlands of East Africa has improved significantly. With an improved East African railway network and supporting infrastructure, the logistics industry in East Africa is being upgraded and it is anticipated regional economic cooperation and cultural exchanges will reach a new high. The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway has promoted Kenya’s economic development and ushered in a new era of development in Kenya, improving the national image.

**Example 20: Panda Pack Project in Some Least-Developed Countries (LDCs)**

In February 2019, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation launched the Panda Pack Project jointly with Alibaba Philanthropy. The Panda Pack Project aims to improve the basic learning conditions Project of primary school students in need and help the development of quality education in beneficiary countries. With the theme of "Gifts from Panda Land", it embodies the good wishes of the Chinese people to the children in beneficiary countries, and expresses the friendship of Chinese people and strengthens people-to-people ties.

Each Panda Pack contains 105 learning supplies. The pattern design of the backpack and learning supplies fully reflects the cultural characteristics of China and the beneficiary country. A friendship card prepared in the local language would let the students better feel the greetings and wishes from "Panda Land".

In 2019, the Panda Pack Project landed in ten countries including Nepal, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Laos, Pakistan, Mongolia, Namibia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and 348,945 students benefited from it. The Panda Pack Project continues to sow the seed of hope and bring love across the border.