

## WORLD

## Rescue efforts underway in Libya

International relief teams hindered by roads' destruction as floods leave thousands dead

DERNA, Libya — Bodies were washing ashore in eastern Libya on Wednesday, swelling the death toll from a storm that swept whole neighborhoods out to sea, with thousands already confirmed dead and many thousands more still missing.

The floods damaged or destroyed many access roads to the coastal city of Derna. Bridges over river Derna that link the city's eastern and western parts have also collapsed, said the International Organization for Migration, or IOM. The destruction has hampered the arrival of international rescue teams and humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of people whose homes were destroyed or damaged.

Bulldozers worked over the past two days to fix and clear roads to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid. Heavy equipment was urgently needed for the search and rescue operations. The city is 250 kilometers east of Benghazi, where international aid started to arrive on Tuesday.

Libya's neighbors, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, as well as Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates, have sent rescue teams and humanitarian aid.

Also, the EU said Wednesday its members Germany, Romania and Finland had dispatched assistance.

Ossama Ali, a spokesman for the Ambulance and Emergency Center in eastern Libya, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that at least 5,100 deaths were recorded in Derna, along with around 100 others elsewhere in eastern Libya.

More than 7,000 people were injured in the city, most receiving treatment in field hospitals that authorities and aid agencies set up.

The flooding caused significant infrastructure damage in the coast-



A boy pulls a suitcase past debris in a flash-flood damaged area in Derna, eastern Libya, in this picture released on Tuesday. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

al city of Derna and displaced at least 30,000 people, the UN migration agency said.

Local emergency responders, including troops, government workers, volunteers and residents, continued digging through the rubble looking for the dead. They also used inflatable boats and helicopters to retrieve bodies from the water and inaccessible areas.

"This is a disaster in every sense of the word," a wailing survivor who lost 11 members of his family told a local television station as a group of rescuers tried to calm him. The television station did not identify the survivor.

Ahmed Abdalla, a survivor who joined the search and rescue effort, said they were putting bodies in the yard of a local hospital before taking them for burial in mass graves at the city's sole intact cemetery.

Four major oil ports in Libya have reopened after shutting down on

Saturday because of the storm that swept the country, port agent Al Omran International Maritime Agencies said on Wednesday.

The eastern ports of Brega, Es Sidera and Ras Lanuf opened on Tuesday and the port of Zueitina opened on Wednesday morning, Al Omran said.

## Country torn apart

The invasion of Libya by the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization has torn apart the country that could have found peaceful solutions to the problems, leaving behind chaos and vulnerability to natural disasters, observers have said.

The catastrophic event was triggered by a Mediterranean storm that made landfall in eastern Libya on Sunday, resulting in widespread flooding and causing extensive damage to infrastructure along its path.

Abdul-Hamed Dbeibah, the prime minister of Libya's Tripoli-

based Government of National Unity, on Tuesday urged the country's political parties to unite to help deal with the aftermath of the floods.

Mohamed Masoud, head of the Information Office of the eastern-based House of Representatives, the parliament, told Xinhua that most of the victims were from Derna.

Meanwhile, Tamer Ramadan, Libyan envoy representing the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told a UN meeting on Tuesday that he believed there were still at least 10,000 people unaccounted for in the flood-hit areas.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed "heartfelt condolences" to the Libyan authorities and families of those who have perished as a result of the deadly storm, his spokesman said on Tuesday.

AGENCIES—XINHUA

## UN envoy calls for deeper South-South cooperation

By MINLU ZHANG  
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China's top envoy to the United Nations called on Tuesday for deepening South-South cooperation.

The advancement of developing countries is an important component of global progress, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN, on the 2023 United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. Without the advancement of these nations, there can be no common development of all countries, let alone the realization of equality, fairness and justice.

The international community should actively build a more equal and balanced global partnership to form strong synergy for joint development, Zhang said.

"Developed countries should fulfill their development assistance commitments and fully demonstrate their role as the main channel for North-South cooperation. Developing countries should help each other within their capabilities and actively play the complementary role of South-South cooperation," the envoy said.

Zhang also said the UN shoulders primary responsibility for international development cooperation and should insist on prioritizing development issues.

"Unity and cooperation should be vigorously advocated, and a good political environment and conditions should be created. Development institutions should be mobilized to focus on supporting South-South cooperation, and multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions should be encouraged to provide more resources to developing countries," Zhang said.

He urged the majority of developing countries to safeguard the basic principles of South-South cooperation such as respect for

national sovereignty, national independence, equality and mutual benefit; strengthen the sharing of development experience and best practices; and continue to deepen South-South cooperation.

Zhang said the international community should start with responding to common challenges, focus on the urgent needs of developing countries, adopt pragmatic means, and provide financial, technological and capacity building support in poverty reduction, climate change, digital economy and green development. That assistance is needed to help developing countries achieve sustainable development, he said.

## Common development

Zhang emphasized that China firmly supports South-South cooperation and insists on doing its best to help other developing countries achieve common development. "China has always been a pioneer in South-South cooperation," he said.

The Global Development Initiative, or GDI, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, now includes over 200 cooperation projects, Zhang said.

Xi announced at the meeting of the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue in Johannesburg in August that Chinese financial institutions will soon set up a special \$10 billion fund dedicated to the implementation of the GDI.

"China is willing to continue to work with all parties to deepen South-South cooperation under the GDI and inject new impetus into accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda," Zhang said.

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is observed every year on Sept 12. This year's theme for the day is "Solidarity, Equity and Partnership: Unlocking South-South Cooperation to Achieve the SDGs."



Shandong Heavy Industry Group's Global Partner Conference and a product exhibition under the brand "Friendly Shandong, Remarkable Shandong" are held in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan on Sept 4. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Sinotruk unveils new chapter of Central Asia market under BRI

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Shandong Heavy Industry Group's Global Partner Conference and a product exhibition under the brand "Friendly Shandong, Remarkable Shandong" were held in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, on Sept 4, inviting more than 400 of Shandong Heavy Industry Group's channel operators, major customers and partners from five Central Asian countries.

Lin Wu, Party secretary of Shandong province, said during the event that exchanges and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Shandong have become increasingly close.

Shandong Heavy Industry Group and other Shandong enterprises have also invested and built factories in Kazakhstan and cooperated with local partners.

Shandong's high-tech growth is strong, its innovation capacity is accelerating and its major

technologies, such as heavy commercial vehicle powertrains and high thermal efficiency diesel engines, are among the best in the world, he added.

In his speech, Marat Karabayev, minister of transport of Kazakhstan, said that Shandong Heavy Industry Group is one of the most successful companies in terms of cooperation with local enterprises in the fields of science and technology.

He said that Kazakhstan plans to introduce more trade assistance systems and formulate practical measures to expand strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Tan Xuguang, chairman of Shandong Heavy Industry Group, and also chairman of Sinotruk and Weichai Group — subsidiaries of the group, then shared the company's business development in Central Asia.

"Sinotruk will further leverage its technological advan-

tages, synergies of large-scale resources, and leading advantages in the new energy industrial chain to continuously provide world-class product solutions for global partners. The company aims to establish a close and collaborative relationship with global partners, rooted in local operations, and achieve mutual benefit and common progress," Tan said.

Since 2018, Sinotruk has seized opportunities brought by Uzbekistan's reform and opening-up, developed adaptive products for the country and promoted localized production.

From January to July, it sold 2,290 heavy trucks in Uzbekistan.

Its market share exceeded 50 percent, ranking it first among heavy truck makers in the country.

On Sept 6, a Sinotruk HOWO V5 truck drove out of the factory of Uz Truck and Bus Motors, marking the

3,000th Sinotruk vehicle produced by the company.

In January 2020, Sinotruk invested 10.78 million euros in Uzbekistan through capital increase and stock expansion in establishing Uz Truck and Bus Motors in partnership with UzAuto and Germany's MAN truck and bus maker.

The joint venture mainly imports vehicles, spare parts, and components from Sinotruk and MAN for assembly and sales, as well as provides vehicle services.

On Sept 8, Alikhan Smailov, prime minister of Kyrgyzstan and Lin, Party secretary of Shandong, jointly unveiled the Shandong Heavy Industries (Kyrgyzstan) Maintenance Service Center.

After its completion, the center will be the largest industrial equipment maintenance service center in Central Asia.

Tan presented the Zhongtong CT medical vehicle to the Kyrgyz side on the spot.

## International outlook pays off with growing exports

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Jinan-based truck leader Sinotruk, a subsidiary of Shandong Heavy Industry Group, has developed a unique path of internationalization for Chinese brands by integrating its product, market, channel and brand.

The company announced at the Sinotruk Global Strategic Partnership Conference on Aug 28 that the proportion of high-end products in its exports had increased from 2.7 percent in 2018 to 32 percent now.

The conference attracted more than 2,000 people, including domestic distribution partners, dealers and major customers from 55 countries and regions.

It was divided into five themed exhibition areas: new energy, intelligent technology, global market, commercial vehicles and high-efficiency power.

A total of 26 complete vehicles and 20 component models jointly made their debuts, bringing a cutting-edge product and technology feast to the commercial vehicle industry. It also expressed the strength and vision of open cooperation and creating a better future with global partners.

Over the past five years, Sinotruk has established a "triangular alliance" of marketing, technology and service through forward-looking analysis of exports. It has been the domestic heavy-duty truck export champion for 18 consecutive years.

Currently, it occupies more than 50 percent of the total sales volume of Chinese heavy-duty truck exports and has sold more than 500,000 heavy-duty trucks in over 110 countries and regions worldwide.

Sinotruk is responding to the Belt and Road Initiative and integrated into the dual-circulation development pattern, achieving balanced development in both domestic and international businesses.

In 2020, despite the weak domestic market due to the COVID-19 pandemic and cyclical downturn, Sinotruk continued to expand its overseas market.

The export of heavy-duty trucks increased from 30,000 in 2020 to 89,000 in 2022, maintaining first place in the industry for the export of heavy-duty trucks among domestic counterparts.

In October 2022, it surpassed the monthly export of 10,000 heavy-duty trucks, a record in China.

Tan Xuguang, chairman of Shandong Heavy Industry Group and Sinotruk, said at the conference that the group has been a pioneer in Chinese commercial vehicles entering the overseas high-end market.

The explosive growth of its overseas exports is the best result of its restructuring and reform. In recent years, Sinotruk has used its advantages as a large group, strengthening synergy, promoting stable foreign trade and making efforts in both domestic and international markets.

Sitrak, Howo TH7 and other high-end products have gone global and competed in international market with leading heavy-duty truck products.

Ricardo Melesio, sales director of Mexico's Aite Group, stated in an interview that Sinotruk's heavy-duty trucks are popular in Mexico. They have good vehicle quality, cost-effectiveness and timely after-sales service, he said.



On Sept 6, a Sinotruk HOWO V5 truck drives out of the factory of Uz Truck and Bus Motors, marking the 3,000th Sinotruk vehicle produced by the company. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY