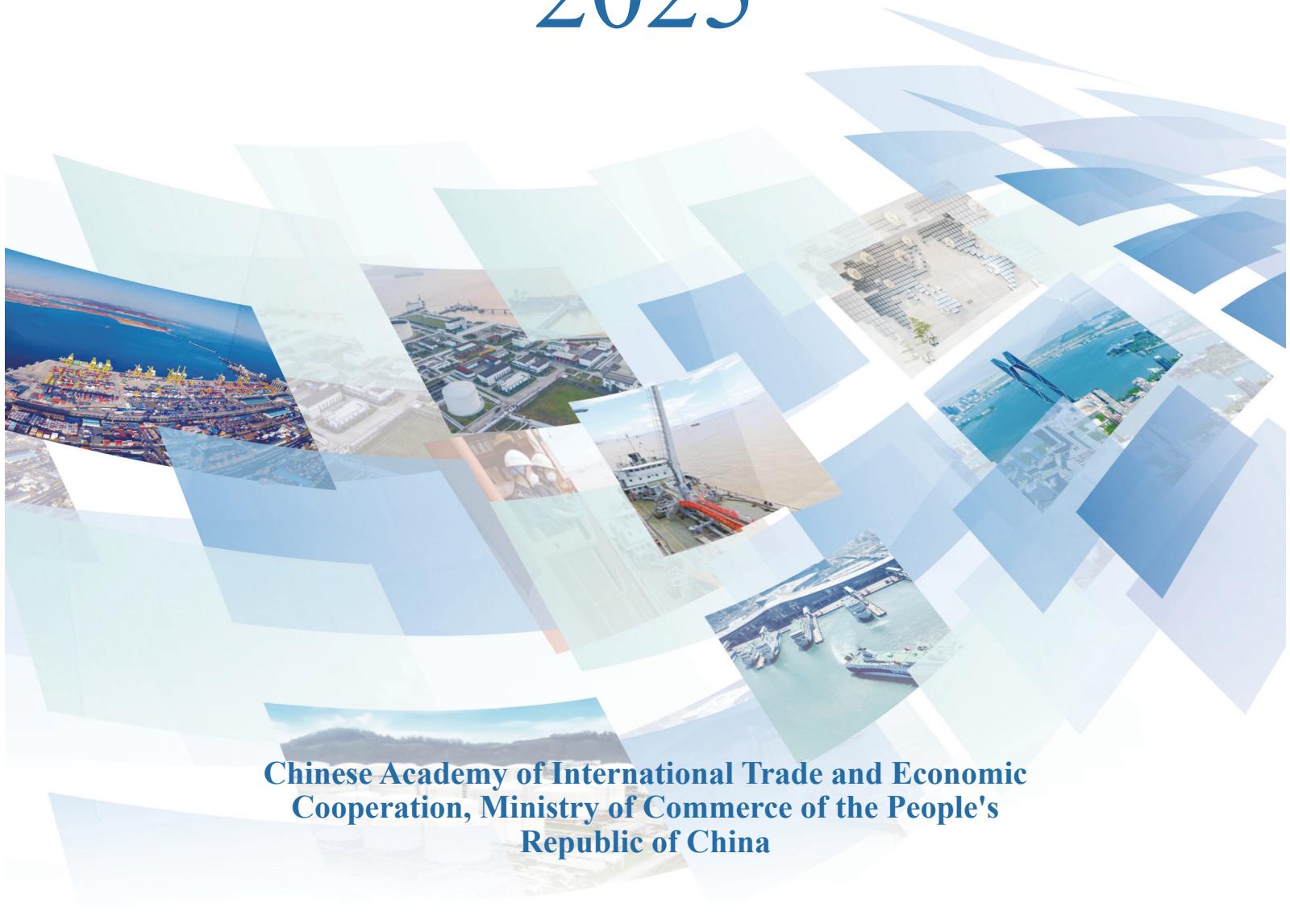




Report on China's Pilot Free Trade Zones

2025

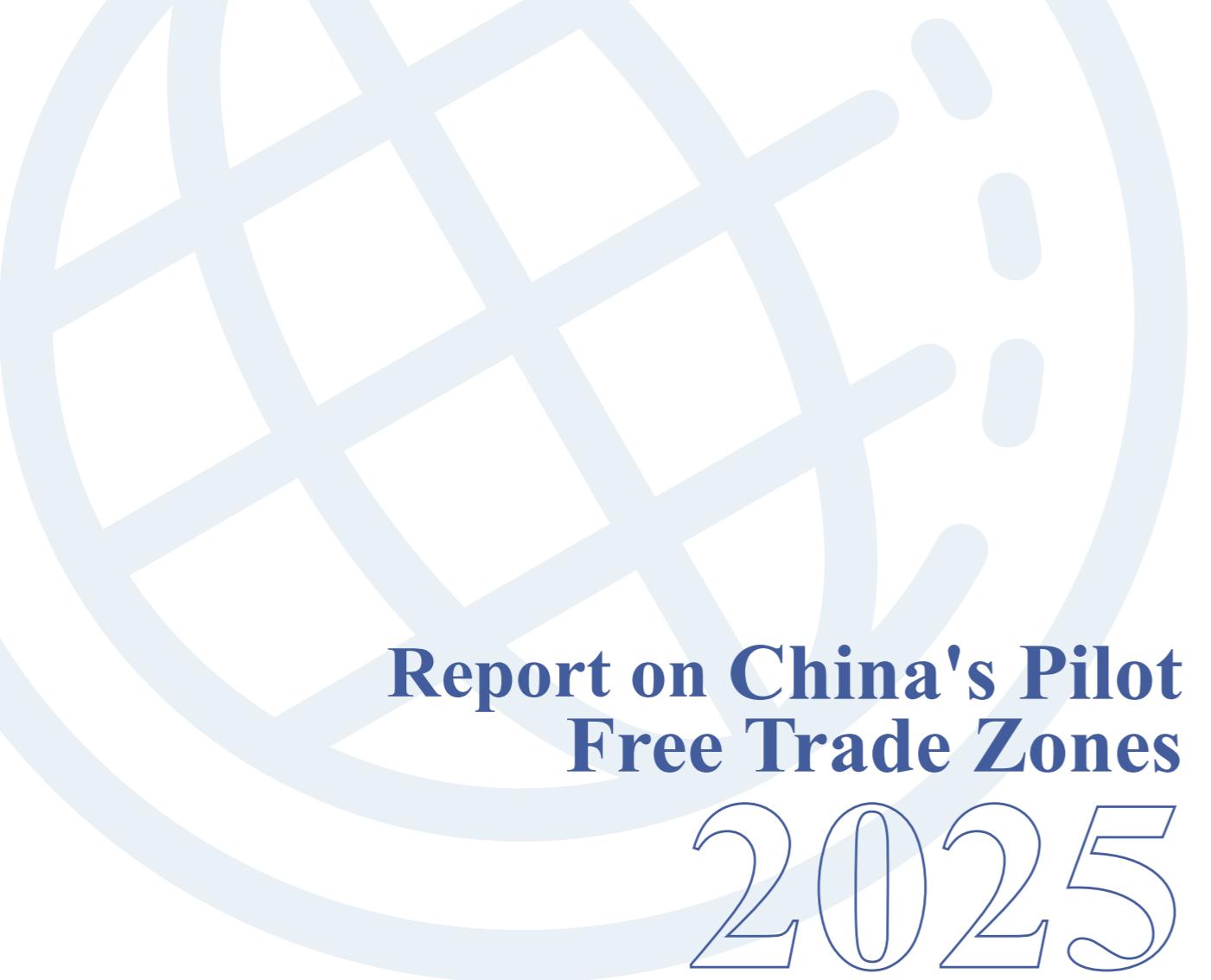


Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic
Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce of the People's
Republic of China



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Preparation Team



Principal

Cui Weijie

CAITEC Vice President, Research Fellow, Doctoral Supervisor

Director

Zhang Dan

Director and Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Ph.D.

Members

Yin Anqi

Assistant Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Master's Degree

Jia Shangyue

Assistant Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Ph.D.

Liu Weishan

Assistant Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Ph.D.

Han Xu

Assistant Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Master's Degree

Han Yuanyuan

Assistant Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Ph.D.

Ye Jiahao

Assistant Research Fellow of the Industry Institute, Master's Degree

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1. Comprehensive Development



In 2024, 22 Pilot Free Trade Zones (hereinafter referred to as PFTZs) thoroughly implemented the important decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council regarding the development of PFTZs. Work across various areas was effectively carried out, yielding positive progress in advancing high-standard opening-up, accelerating the development of a modern industrial system, supporting the implementation of major national strategies, promoting replication and scaling of institutional innovations, and enhancing the risk prevention and control system.

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1

Implementing the Decisions and Plans of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council

In 2024, relevant departments and local authorities thoroughly implemented General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping's important instructions on PFTZ development, acted on the plans of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, introduced a series of policy documents, and carried out solid and practical efforts to provide policy and institutional support for advancing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs. The 2024 Report on the Work of the Government called for further implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs and granting more autonomy to PFTZs and the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP).

(I) The CPC Central Committee and the State Council made new plans for PFTZ development

Since the 20th CPC National Congress proposed the implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, the meetings of the Central Commission for Further Reform, and the Central Economic Work Conference all set out new plans and requirements for PFTZ development. During his field inspections, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping also provided guidance on PFTZ construction, offering fundamental guidance for the development of PFTZs.

First, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee made

significant decisions and plans regarding PFTZ development. In July 2024, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee reviewed and adopted the "Resolution of CPC Central Committee on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization" (hereinafter referred to as the "Resolution"), which explicitly called for "implementing the strategy for upgrading pilot free trade zones and encouraging these zones to engage in pioneering and integrated exploration". The new plans set out in the Resolution chart the course and set the direction for the work on PFTZs on the new journey.

Second, the meetings of the Central Commission for Further Reform and the Central Economic Work Conference made specific and explicit requirements for PFTZ development. In August 2024, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping presided over the sixth meeting of the Central Commission for Further Reform. The meeting emphasized that "since the 18th CPC National Congress, the 22 PFTZs established under the instructions of the CPC Central Committee have introduced a large number of landmark and pioneering institutional innovations, effectively serving as comprehensive pilot platforms for reform and opening-up. Implementing the plans of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee and carrying out the strategy for upgrading PFTZs aim to carry out explorations in a wider range and at a deeper level, achieving comprehensive improvements in institutional opening-up, the effectiveness of systematic reform, and the quality of open economy within these zones. Efforts should be guided by high-standard opening-up, with institutional innovation at the core. Pilot and experimental trials should be encouraged to promote pioneering and integrated explorations, drive innovation across entire industrial chains, enhance the overall competitiveness of foreign trade, and advance investment liberalization and facilitation. The policy framework should be further improved, with a focus on trade, investment, capital flow, transportation, and free and convenient personnel exchanges,



alongside the secure and orderly flow of data. It is essential to balance development and security, steadily expand institutional opening-up in rules, regulations, management, and standards, and strengthen risk prevention and control capabilities". In December 2024, the Central Economic Work Conference proposed "improving the quality and efficiency of PFTZs and expanding their mandate for reform tasks". The meetings of the Central Commission for Further Reform and the Central Economic Work Conference have further clarified the specific requirements for the implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, providing a practical roadmap for its implementation.

Third, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping provided important guidance on PFTZ development during his inspections in local regions. In March 2024, during his inspection tour of Hunan Province, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping called for Hunan to strengthen systematic reforms, better participate in the development of a unified national market, fully integrate into the strategies for the rise of the central region and the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt, deeply integrate into Belt and Road cooperation, steadily expand institutional opening-up, develop PFTZs to high standards, and focus on creating a Pioneering Zone for In-depth China–Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation. In October 2024, during his inspection tour of Fujian Province, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized that Fujian should fully implement the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, proactively align with major regional development strategies, deeply integrate into the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, build itself into the core region on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and consolidate and expand the functions of key nodes and crucial channels for domestic and international circulation. General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping's important instructions demonstrate the great importance he attaches to and his care for PFTZ development, and provide fundamental guidance for their next phase of development.

(II) Government departments accelerated the improvement of the policy and institutional system

As the lead authority for PFTZ development, the Ministry of Commerce, in implementing the decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, has collaborated with relevant departments and local authorities to strengthen the overall planning for PFTZ development, introduce policy documents and supporting measures for the implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, and improve the policy and institutional system for PFTZ development.

First, efforts have been focused on the implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs by strengthening top-level design and driving innovative breakthroughs in key industries and sectors. The Ministry of Commerce, leveraging its leading and coordinating role, has worked with departments and local authorities to further refine the policy and institutional framework for implementing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs. **Efforts have been made to formulate policy documents advancing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs.** The sixth meeting of the Central Commission for Further Reform issued the "Opinions on Implementing the Strategy for Upgrading PFTZs" (hereinafter referred to as the "Opinions"), which put forward a series of measures covering trade, investment, capital flow, transportation, personnel exchanges, and data flow. The document introduces a series of reform measures, signaling the start of a new phase of systematic and integrated reforms in PFTZs. **The policy document focusing on the integrated innovation across the entire industry chain.** With the approval of the State Council, the Ministry of Commerce and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province

1 China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone, hereinafter referred to as Zhejiang PFTZ. For simplicity, this report uses abbreviations for all 22 pilot free trade zones in China.



issued the "Plan for Building a Hub for Bulk Commodity Resource Allocation in China (zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone¹" (S.Z.M.Fa [2024] No. 291). Focusing on key commodities such as oil and gas, ores, and grains, the plan sets out 15 priority tasks across five areas: bulk commodity storage, transportation, processing, trade, exchange, and maritime services. This Plan represents the first policy document following the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee that focuses on the integrated innovation across the entire bulk commodity industry chain in PFTZs, marking a major step in implementing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs. **Multiple measures have been introduced to advance openness in key areas.** China has leveraged the role of PFTZs as platforms for stress-testing opening-up, intensifying liberalization in areas such as cross-border trade in services, foreign investment, and cross-border data flows, while rolling out a series of targeted measures to further enhance openness. In cross-border trade in services, the Ministry of Commerce issued the "Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Cross-Border Trade in Services in PFTZs" (2024 Edition). The list introduces more than ten liberalization measures in areas such as professional qualifications for natural persons, professional services, finance, and culture. Together with the nationwide negative list and the Hainan free trade port (FTP) version, it establishes a tiered negative list management system for cross-border trade in services. In foreign investment, relevant departments have promoted the issuance of documents including the "Action Plan for Steadily Advancing High-Standard Opening-Up and Attracting and Utilizing Foreign Investment with Greater Efforts" (G.B.Fa. [2024] No. 9), the "Announcement by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Carrying out Pilot Work to Expand the Opening-Up of Value-Added Telecommunications Services" (G.X.B.T.X.H. [2024] No. 107), and "Notice by the Ministry of Commerce, National Health Commission, and National Medical Products Administration on Launching Pilot Programs to Further Open Up the Medical Sector" (S.Z.H. [2024] No. 568), covering pilot efforts in sectors such as telecommunications and

healthcare. In cross-border data flows, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) has issued the "Regulations on Promoting and Regulating Cross-Border Data Flows" (CAC Order No. 16), exploring the establishment of a negative list system for data exports in PFTZs. Relevant departments have also guided and supported the introduction of cross-border data flow negative lists in the Tianjin PFTZ and Beijing PFTZ, among others.

Table 1-1 National-level policy documents in 2024 related to strategy for upgrading PFTZs

No.	Title	Key Content
1	Notice by the Ministry of Commerce and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province on Issuing the "Plan for Building a Hub for Bulk Commodity Resource Allocation in Zhejiang PFTZ"	Establishing an international bulk commodity storage and transportation base; constructing an international bulk commodity processing base; building an international bulk commodity trade center; developing an international bulk commodity trading center; and strengthening the construction of an international maritime service base.
2	"Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Cross-Border Trade in Services" (2024 Edition) and "Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Cross-Border Trade in Services in PFTZs" (2024 Edition) issued by the Ministry of Commerce	The PFTZ negative list for cross-border trade in services uniformly sets out the special regulatory measures concerning national treatment, market access, local presence, and cross-border financial services. These measures apply to foreign service providers delivering services cross-border (via cross-border delivery, overseas consumption, or natural person mobility). Outside the scope of the PFTZ negative list for cross-border trade in services, the principle of equal treatment is applied to both domestic and foreign services and service providers within PFTZs. The PFTZ version of the negative list for cross-border trade in services contains a total of 68 measures.



No.	Title	Key Content	No.	Title	Key Content
3	"Announcement by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Carrying out Pilot Work to Expand the Opening-Up of Value-Added Telecommunications Services"	Launching pilot programs in areas such as the Beijing Comprehensive Demonstration Zone for Further Opening Up the Service Sector, Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ, and Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP); lifting foreign equity ratio restrictions in approved pilot regions for services such as Internet Data Centers (IDC), Content Delivery Networks (CDN), Internet Service Providers (ISP), online data processing and transaction processing, information service platforms and delivery (excluding Internet news, online publishing, online audiovisual, and Internet culture operations), and information protection and processing services.	5	Notice by the General Office of the State Council on Issuing the "Action Plan for Steadily Advancing High-Standard Opening-Up and Attracting and Utilizing Foreign Investment with Greater Efforts"	Authorizing PFTZs in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong to designate eligible foreign-invested enterprises for pilot programs in gene diagnosis and therapeutic technology development and application; supporting the implementation of opening-up measures in areas such as information services (limited to APP stores) within PFTZs; and encouraging eligible PFTZs and Hainan FTP to align with high-standard international economic and trade rules and to take the lead in implementing WTO outcomes in domestic regulation of trade in services, investment facilitation, and digital trade.
4	"Notice by the Ministry of Commerce, National Health Commission, and National Medical Products Administration on Launching Pilot Programs to Further Open Up the Medical Sector"	Permitting foreign-invested enterprises in Beijing PFTZ, Shanghai PFTZ, and Guangdong PFTZ, as well as Hainan FTP, to conduct research, development, and application of human stem cells, gene diagnosis, and therapeutic technologies for purposes of product registration and production; authorizing the nationwide use of products that have been duly approved and registered; and requiring foreign-invested enterprises participating in the pilots to comply with relevant Chinese laws and regulations on human genetic resource management, clinical trials (including international multi-center clinical trials), drug registration, production, and ethical review, and to complete the corresponding regulatory procedures.	6	"Regulations on Promoting and Regulating Cross-Border Data Flows" issued by the Cyberspace Administration of China	Allowing PFTZs, under the national framework for classified and graded data protection, to formulate their own negative lists of data requiring outbound security assessment, standard contracts for cross-border transfer of personal information, or certification of personal information protection, subject to approval by the provincial cybersecurity and informatization committee and filing with national authorities for cyberspace and data management; exempting data processors within PFTZs from conducting outbound security assessments, entering into standard contracts for cross-border transfer of personal information, or obtaining personal information protection certification when providing data not included in the negative lists to overseas entities.

Source: Compiled from publicly available information.



Second, the focus has been placed on aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules and accelerating pilot programs for institutional opening-up. Relevant authorities have implemented the State Council's "Measures for Pilot Alignment with International High Standards to Advance Institutional Opening-up in Eligible PFTZs and FTP" (G.Fa. [2023] No. 9, hereinafter referred to as "G.Fa. No. 9") and the "Overall Plan for Comprehensively Aligning with High-Standard International Economic and Trade Rules to Promote High-Level Institutional Opening-up in Shanghai PFTZ" (G.Fa. [2023] No. 23, hereinafter referred to as "G.Fa. No. 23"). A series of supporting policy documents have been issued to encourage eligible PFTZs to take the lead in piloting alignment with high-standard international economic and trade rules. **For example**, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) issued the "Announcement on Matters Regarding Extension of Customs Advance Rulings" (GAC Announcement No. 32 of 2024), clarifying that "provided that the category of customs matters, basic product information, and the subject of the advance ruling involved in the 'Advance Ruling Decision of the Customs of the People's Republic of China' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Advance Ruling Decision') remain unchanged, the original applicant may, between 30 and 90 days prior to the expiration date of the Advance Ruling Decision, submit an application for an extension of its validity to the customs authority that issued the decision." This aligns with the "advance ruling" provisions under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (hereinafter referred to as the "CPTPP"). **Similarly**, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, and the State Taxation Administration jointly issued the "Notice on Tax Policies for Temporary Inbound Repair Pilot Program in Shanghai PFTZ" (C.G.S. [2024] No. 18). This document clarifies that "goods temporarily permitted to enter the pilot zone from abroad for repair by enterprises will enjoy bonded treatment, and duties, import

VAT, and consumption taxes will be exempted when the goods are re-exported", thereby aligning with the CPTPP rules concerning "goods re-entering after repair or modification".²

Table 1-2 National-level policy documents in 2024 regarding aligning PFTZs with high-standard international economic and trade rules

No.	Title	Key Content
1	Announcement of the General Administration of Customs on Matters Regarding Extension of Customs Advance Rulings	Implementing measures for the extension of advance rulings upon application; piloting the application for advance rulings on commodity classification, price, and origin by overseas exporters or producers.
2	"Notice by the Department of Supervision and Comprehensive Department on Clarifying Matters Regarding the Time Limit Requirements for Clearance of Air Express Shipments and Articles" issued by the General Administration of Customs	Releasing air express shipments and articles within six hours after arrival under normal circumstances once necessary customs documents have been submitted.

² Article 2.6, Paragraph 2 of the CPTPP, "Re-entry of goods after repair or modification", states: "No Party shall impose a customs duty on any good, regardless of its origin, that is temporarily admitted into its territory from another Party's territory for the purpose of repair or modification."



No.	Title	Key Content	Key Content
3	"Notice by the General Office of the State Administration for Market Regulation on the Filing of Certification Services for Export Products Conducted by Overseas Certification Bodies in Hainan FTP"	Removing local presence requirements for overseas conformity assessment bodies; clarifying conditions and procedures for filing to conduct export product certification business in Hainan FTP.	Business and Financial Coordination to Provide Greater Support for High-Quality Development of Cross-Border Trade and Investment" (S.C.H. [2024] No. 321), jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce, the People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, proposing "a series of integrated and pioneering reform and innovation measures in trade, investment, and finance, based on PFTZs and other open platforms, to advance institutional opening-up". Similarly , the "Opinions of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Improving the Market Access System" proposes to "encourage eligible regions such as Hainan FTP and PFTZs to explore more secure, more convenient, and more efficient collaborative models for domestic and foreign investment access". These policies further enhance PFTZs' role as comprehensive pilot platforms for reform and opening-up, generating experience for innovation across various sectors.
4	"Notice by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, and the State Taxation Administration on Tax Policies for Temporary Inbound Repair Pilot Program in Shanghai PFTZ"	Granting bonded status to goods temporarily imported from abroad for repair within the special customs supervision areas of Shanghai PFTZ (including the Lin-gang Special Area) from the date of implementation of this Notice. If re-exported after repair, customs duties, import VAT, and consumption tax are exempted; if not re-exported and sold domestically, import procedures are required, and duties, import VAT, and consumption tax are levied based on the actual customs declaration status of the repaired goods.	

Source: Compiled from publicly available information.

Third, the pilot trials have been deepened to further leverage the role of PFTZs as comprehensive platforms for reform and opening-up. Relevant authorities have placed increased emphasis on leveraging the role of PFTZs. In the relevant policies and regulations issued, the pilot and experimental functions of PFTZs have been fully utilized to further advance their role in fostering high-quality cross-border trade and investment, improving market access systems, optimizing the business environment, enhancing integration between domestic and foreign trade, and building a unified and open transportation market. **For example**, the "Opinions on Strengthening

Table 1-3 National-level policy documents in 2024 regarding empowering reforms and innovations

No.	Title	Key Content
1	"Opinions on Strengthening Business and Financial Coordination to Provide Greater Support for High-Quality Development of Cross-Border Trade and Investment" issued by the Ministry of Commerce, the People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange	Providing guidance to local commerce authorities to thoroughly implement the strategy for upgrading PFTZs; proposing a series of integrated and pioneering reform and innovation measures in trade, investment, and finance, based on PFTZs and other opening-up platforms, to advance institutional opening-up.



No.	Title	Key Content	No.	Title	Key Content
2	"Opinions of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Improving the Market Access System"	Encouraging eligible regions such as Hainan FTP and PFTZs to explore more secure, more convenient, and more efficient collaborative models for domestic and foreign investment access.	6	"Opinions of the National Development and Reform Commission and Other Departments on Leveraging Domestic Trade Credit Insurance to Enhance Integration of Domestic and Foreign Trade"	Encouraging purchasing of domestic trade insurance by enterprises operating in foreign trade and economic cooperation hubs—such as PFTZs, FTPs, special customs supervision areas, and border economic cooperation zones—as well as in innovation-driven areas like high-tech industrial development zones and national independent innovation demonstration zones.
3	Notice by the State Administration for Market Regulation on Issuing the "Key Measures by Market Regulatory Departments to Improve the Business Environment (2024 Edition)"	Supporting eligible PFTZs and Hainan FTP in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and in exploring and introducing substantive measures in areas such as business registration management, inspection and testing in goods trade, certification and accreditation, consumer protection, and cross-border services, so as to further advance institutional opening-up and reforms in PFTZs.	7	"Opinions of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Accelerating the Construction of a Unified and Open Transportation Market"	Building an institutional system and regulatory model that are consistent with internationally prevailing rules, and steadily broadening institutional opening-up across rules, regulations, governance, and standards. Actively aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and promoting institutional innovation for opening up the transportation sector in eligible PFTZs and Hainan FTP.
4	"Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Promoting High-Quality Development of Trade in Services through High-Standard Opening-Up"	Expanding independent opening-up, further exploring both "top-down" and "bottom-up" approaches, fully utilizing the pioneering role and stress-testing function of PFTZs and Hainan FTP, and steadily promoting the phased opening of cross-border trade in services nationwide.	8	"Notice on Launching Pilot Programs in Relevant PFTZs and FTP to Address Abnormally Low-Priced Bids in Government Procurement" issued by the General Office of the Ministry of Finance	Launching pilot work in Beijing PFTZ, Tianjin PFTZ, Shanghai PFTZ, Fujian PFTZ, and Guangdong PFTZ, as well as Hainan FTP, to address abnormally low bids in government procurement, with specific measures proposed, including strengthening the management of government procurement requirements, enhancing the review of abnormally low bids, and reinforcing the responsibilities of evaluation experts.
5	Notice by the Ministry of Commerce on Issuing Several Policy Measures to Promote Stable Growth of Foreign Trade	Conducting research to release a new batch of catalogs for bonded maintenance products in comprehensive bonded zones, as well as the second batch of bonded maintenance products with overseas-sourced inputs and overseas-destined outputs in PFTZs; supporting a new round of pilot projects, including bonded maintenance projects in comprehensive bonded zones and PFTZs with overseas-sourced inputs and overseas-destined outputs, along with bonded remanufacturing pilot projects within comprehensive bonded zones.	9	Notice by the Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration on Piloting Preferential Stamp Tax Policies for Offshore Trade in Shanghai PFTZ and the Lin-gang Special Area	Exempting enterprises registered in Shanghai PFTZ and Lin-gang Special Area from paying stamp duty on executing sales contracts for offshore merchanting trade activities.

No.	Title	Key Content
10	"Measures to Support and Promote the Construction and Development of Xinjiang PFTZ" Issued by the General Administration of Customs	Proposing 21 supporting measures across five aspects, including promoting the coordinated development between border ports and inland areas, and leveraging the geographical advantages of Xinjiang PFTZ.
11	"Approval of the State Council on Continuing Provisional Adjustment to the Application of Relevant Administrative Regulations in Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ"	Temporarily adjusting the application of relevant provisions of the "Regulations of the People's Republic of China on International Ocean Shipping" and "Regulations on the Administration of Domestic Water Transport" in Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ.

Source: Compiled from publicly available information.

Fourth, in line with development positioning, PFTZs have further enhanced their role in supporting the implementation of major national strategies and advancing local growth. The State Council and relevant departments, taking into account the positioning and role of PFTZs in regional development, have explicitly set out in the relevant policy documents the measures through which PFTZs support the implementation of major national strategies and advance local growth. **For example**, the State Council issued the "Policy Measures to Further Support the High-Quality Development of Tianjin Binhai New Area", emphasizing accelerated reform and innovation, enhanced systemic integration of reforms, expanded high-standard opening-up, support for the integrated development of Tianjin PFTZ alongside Beijing PFTZ and Hebei PFTZ, and the establishment of a new framework for a high-standard open economy. **Another example** is the joint issuance of the "Notice on Measures

to Support Fujian in Exploring New Pathways for Promoting Integrated Development between the Two Sides of the Straits in the Economic and Trade Field" by the Ministry of Commerce, the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. The Notice proposes "supporting Fujian PFTZ in taking the lead in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, promoting institutional opening-up, and exploring the construction of institutional systems and regulatory models conducive to cross-Straits economic and trade integration", as well as "guiding and supporting Fujian PFTZ in leveraging its geographical advantages, concentrating on key reform areas such as cross-Straits goods trade and mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and continuously deepening pioneering and differentiated exploration". These measures further underscore Fujian PFTZ's role as a pioneer, enhancing Fujian's openness, strengthening cooperation with Taiwan, and advancing cross-Straits integrated development.



Table 1-4 National-level policy documents in 2024 related to PFTZs' role in supporting the implementation of major national strategies and advancing local growth

No.	Title	Key Content
1	"Notice on Measures to Support Fujian in Exploring New Pathways for Promoting Integrated Development between the Two Sides of the Straits in the Economic and Trade Field" by the Ministry of Commerce, the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology	Advancing Fujian PFTZ in taking the lead on pilot initiatives with Taiwan. Implementing the strategy for upgrading pilot free trade zones, supporting Fujian PFTZ in taking the lead in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, promoting institutional opening-up, and exploring the construction of institutional systems and regulatory models conducive to cross-Straits economic and trade integration. Guiding and supporting Fujian PFTZ in leveraging its geographical advantages, concentrating on key reform areas such as cross-Straits goods trade and mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and continuously deepening pioneering and differentiated exploration.
2	State Council's Approval of the "Overall Plan for Building a Pioneering Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation"	Leveraging Hunan PFTZ, the pioneering zone seeks to establish a new hub for economic and trade cooperation with Africa, accelerate the development of replicable and scalable cooperation models, and inspire regions across the country to deepen economic and trade engagement with Africa, thereby fostering China-Africa resource sharing, joint platform development, and industrial growth.

No.	Title	Key Content
3	Notice by the National Development and Reform Commission and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality on Printing and Distributing the "Implementation Plan for Building the Beijing Municipal Administrative Center into a National Green Development Demonstration Zone"	Vigorously developing high-quality, high-technology, and high-value-added green product trade based on the national comprehensive demonstration zone for expanding the opening-up of service industry and the International Business Service Area of Beijing PFTZ.
4	State Council's Approval of the "Overall Plan of Shanghai Eastern Hub International Business Cooperation Zone"	Enhancing Shanghai's advantages in opening-up, relying on its role as an international aviation hub, applying institutional innovations of Shanghai PFTZ, creating a highly convenient platform for international business exchange, balancing development and security, strengthening connectivity between domestic and international markets, optimizing the use of domestic and international resources, and contributing further to advancing high-standard opening-up.
5	"Implementation Plan for Building the Zhongguancun World-Leading Science and Technology Park (2024-2027)" issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality	Exploring the facilitation of cross-border flows of innovation factors. It promotes the coordinated development of the Zhongguancun demonstration zone with the national comprehensive demonstration zone for expanding the opening-up of service industry and Beijing PFTZ, with policies on cross-border facilitation of innovation factors applicable to the entire Zhongguancun area upon approval.



No.	Title	Key Content
6	"Policy Measures to Further Support the High-Quality Development of Tianjin Binhai New Area" issued by the State Council	Accelerating reform and innovation, and supporting the synergistic development of Tianjin PFTZ with Beijing PFTZ and Hebei PFTZ.
7	"Opinions on Financial Support for High-Quality Development in Tianjin" issued by the People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, and Tianjin Municipal People's Government	Proposing a series of measures for optimizing PFTZs and cross-border financial services and promoting the opening-up of the financial sector; strengthening risk assessment, prevention, and control for various financial activities by enhancing risk management in PFTZs and cross-border finance, intensifying the monitoring, analysis, and early warning of cross-border capital flows, and preventing risks associated with cross-border capital movements under open conditions.

Source: Compiled from publicly available information.

(III) Local authorities have been steadily advancing various initiatives

PFTZs have implemented the decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council. Centered on advancing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, they have strengthened planning and design, reinforced legal safeguards, and accelerated the establishment of coordinated innovation zones, ensuring that all initiatives have been advanced in a solid manner.

First, local authorities have strengthened planning and design in line with the strategy for upgrading PFTZs. Multiple PFTZs, including those in Guangdong, Tianjin, Henan, and Shaanxi, have introduced action plans for implementing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, taking into account their respective foundations and resource endowments, and have made concrete arrangements to promote upgrading and

development. **For example**, Guangdong PFTZ has identified six key areas of focus, including aligning with high-standard international rules and regulations, shipping, finance, manufacturing, comprehensive cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR, and coordinated regional development. **Similarly**, Henan PFTZ has proposed nine upgrading actions covering trade, investment, opening-up channels, modern industries, data, finance, technology, talent, and post-border management systems. The action plans introduced by PFTZs have outlined specific pathways and measures for their next phase of development.

Table 1-5 Relevant documents issued by PFTZs in 2024 to advance the strategy for upgrading PFTZs

No.	PFTZ	Title	Main Contents
1	Guangdong PFTZ	"Action Plan for the Strategy of Upgrading Guangdong PFTZ"	Proposing six major tasks, including: aligning with high-standard international rules to enhance institutional opening-up; strengthening the functions of shipping and trade hubs to boost new advantages in international trade competition; facilitating investment and trade to elevate the level of financial opening-up and innovation; focusing on manufacturing leadership to modernize industrial chains; deepening comprehensive cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong SAR, and Macao SAR to enhance the international competitiveness of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; and strengthening regional coordinated development to improve radiation and driving capabilities.



No.	PFTZ	Title	Main Contents
2	Tianjin PFTZ	"Action Plan for Upgrading Tianjin PFTZ"	Proposing seven upgrading initiatives, including: enhancing capacity to support the implementation of major national strategies; strengthening functions of opening-up platforms; advancing alignment with high-standard international economic and trade rules; improving quality and efficiency of institutional innovation; fostering innovative development of industrial chains; optimizing market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized business environment; and reinforcing effectiveness of risk prevention and control.
3	Shaanxi PFTZ	"Action Plan for the Strategy of Upgrading Shaanxi PFTZ (2024–2027)"	Proposing six upgrading actions, including: enhancing institutional opening-up, improving opening-up channel construction, advancing key industries' opening-up and development, optimizing business environment, integrating into Belt and Road Cooperation, and strengthening risk prevention and control system construction.

Source: Compiled from publicly available information from PFTZs.

Second, local authorities have refined and improved PFTZ policy and institutional systems. PFTZs have advanced the formulation of supporting policies and specific measures in key areas tailored to their differentiated characteristics and industrial development priorities, thereby strengthening efforts in pilot explorations. **For example**, Zhejiang Province introduced the "Opinions on Advancing Institutional Opening-up in Zhejiang PFTZ" (ZH.SH.W.L.F.[2021] No. 7), setting out 30 measures across five areas: promoting innovation in goods trade, supporting paperless trade, accelerating opening-up in the digital economy and digital trade, exploring cross-

border data flows, and optimizing the business environment—aimed at accelerating the pace of institutional opening-up in Zhejiang PFTZ. **Another example** is Municipality, which issued the "Pilot Reform Plan for Facilitating the Edible-Medicinal Products in Chongqing PFTZ (Trial)" (Y.S.W.Fa. [2024] No. 46), specifying measures to facilitate imports of edible-medicinal products while establishing a whole-process regulatory system to ensure imported food-use commodities are not used in pharmaceutical manufacturing. **Similarly**, Shanghai Municipality issued the "Policies for Further Agglomeration and Development of New Computing Power to Empower New Quality Productive Forces in the Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ" (H.Z.M.L.G.W. [2024] No. 56). The Policies strengthen support across multiple areas, including the development of an intelligent computing system, enhancement of computing resource allocation, efficient scheduling of computing resources, improvement of green and intelligent computing efficiency, development of independently controllable computing elements, facilitation of large-scale model R&D, and promotion of collaborative technological innovation, thereby advancing the establishment of a globally influential computing hub.

Third, local authorities have further strengthened the legal support for PFTZ development. By the end of 2024, all PFTZs had either enacted their respective regulations or initiated public consultations on draft versions, providing legal support for their reform and innovation. In 2024, the remaining PFTZs accelerated the formulation and revision of regulations and advanced the official issuance or solicitation of opinions to provide legal support for their reform and innovation. In April 2024, Heilongjiang PFTZ advanced the enactment of "Heilongjiang PFTZ Regulations", with 49 provisions covering management systems and mechanisms, trade and investment facilitation, industrial cluster development, cross-border financial services, opening-up and cooperation with the North, integration into Belt and Road Cooperation, and support



measures, providing legal support for the construction of the PFTZ. In July 2024, Xinjiang PFTZ³ accelerated its regulatory development by releasing "Xinjiang PFTZ Regulations (Draft for Comments)", with 57 provisions regarding management systems and mechanisms, construction of an open special industrial system, development of a hub connecting Europe and Asia, opening-up on China's west, investment liberalization and trade facilitation, financial services, business environment and legal support, to advance and safeguard the construction of Xinjiang PFTZ. In December 2024, Yunnan PFTZ⁴ continued to advance its legislative process by issuing "Yunnan PFTZ Regulations (Draft for Comments)", with 55 specific provisions focusing on management systems, investment liberalization and trade facilitation, financial innovation, border opening-up and cooperation, and business environment of the PFTZ.

Fourth, local authorities have accelerated the development of coordinated innovation zones. Relevant local authorities have supported PFTZs in strengthening integrated development with coordinated innovation zones, achieving new progress and promoting the wider dissemination of reform and opening-up dividends from PFTZs. **For example**, Shanghai PFTZ issued the "Notice on the Issuance of Construction Plans for the First Batch of Coordinated Innovation Zones in Shanghai PFTZ" (H.Z.M.Z. [2024] No. 2), designating the first batch of "6+1" coordinated innovation zones in key

areas of six districts—Huangpu, Xuhui, Hongkou, Yangpu, Baoshan, and Minhang—as well as six comprehensive bonded zones including Songjiang, Caohejing, Fengxian, Jinqiao, Qingpu, and Jiading. For each coordinated innovation zone, Shanghai Municipality has formulated a tailored plan ("one zone, one plan"), setting out over 110 tasks to replicate and roll out institutional innovations, strengthen cooperation with the PFTZ in areas such as high-level innovation platforms, cross-border data flows, and technology transfer, and support differentiated exploration in science and technology innovation, import trade, digital economy, green and low-carbon development, sci-tech finance, and legal services, thereby enhancing the PFTZ's spillover effects.

³ The "Xinjiang PFTZ Regulations" was adopted in May 2025 and entered into force on July 1, 2025.

⁴ The "Yunnan PFTZ Regulations" was adopted in July 2025 and will enter into force on September 1, 2025.



2

Advancing High-Standard Opening-up

In 2024, PFTZs steadily expanded institutional opening-up, continuously improved the quality of open economic development, and further elevated the level of opening-up.

(I) Steady expansion of institutional opening-up

PFTZs have proactively aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules, advancing the implementation of over 110 pilot measures in two batches. These include the "Measures for Pilot Alignment with International High Standards to Advance Institutional Opening-up in Eligible PFTZs and FTP" (G.Fa. [2023] No. 9) and the "Overall Plan for Comprehensively Aligning with High-Standard International Economic and Trade Rules to Promote High-Level Institutional Opening-up in Shanghai PFTZ" (G.Fa. [2023] No. 23). These efforts have explored new pathways and accumulated fresh experience for China's steady expansion of institutional opening-up.

1. Promoting the comprehensive implementation of G.Fa. No. 9

Five PFTZs in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, Fujian, and Beijing, as well as Hainan FTP (hereinafter referred to as the "Pilot Regions") have continued to implement the pilot measures outlined in G.Fa. No. 9. After a year of reform and exploration, all measures have been fully implemented, resulting in a series of pioneering and innovative institutional achievements. These efforts have provided a testing ground for China joining high-standard economic and trade agreements and offered practical support for the steady expansion of institutional opening-up.

First, a number of "first-of-their-kind" institutional innovations have been introduced. The Pilot Regions took the lead in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules by optimizing the management of specific imported goods, enhancing customs facilitation, and further eliminating technical trade barriers, resulting in a number of first-of-their-kind institutional innovations. For example, the Pilot Regions are permitted to implement import trials for remanufactured products in key industries, enhancing the management framework for such imports. In collaboration with relevant departments, the Ministry of Commerce approved the import of 62 types of remanufactured products, including reciprocating piston engines and automotive transmissions, adhering to the principle that "such imported products must comply with all national technical requirements for equivalent new products and relevant regulations on remanufactured goods". The first such transaction nationwide was completed in Shanghai PFTZ, reducing costs for enterprises by 40%. The Pilot Regions have also taken the lead in implementing the system of applying for extension of advance rulings, further refining the customs advance ruling mechanism. The General Administration of Customs issued the "Announcement on Matters Regarding Extension of Customs Advance Rulings" (Announcement No. 32 of 2024), specifying that before the expiration of the "Advance Ruling Decision of the Customs of the People's Republic of China", applications for the extension of advance rulings on commodity classification, valuation, and origin may be submitted to customs. This announcement clarifies the specific institutional arrangements for the extension of advance rulings upon application, effectively enhancing trade predictability. Tianjin PFTZ has processed the nation's first application for an extension of an advance ruling on classification, handling the extension for a batch of imported goods such as permanent magnet synchronous motors. This has significantly reduced clearance costs for enterprises and improved customs clearance efficiency. Another example is that the Pilot



Regions have pioneered breakthroughs in the compulsory certification method for information technology equipment, permitting the use of self-declaration as proof of compliance with electromagnetic compatibility standards for imported products. The first mandatory product certification adopting the self-declaration evaluation method for electromagnetic compatibility in China was issued and came into effect for an enterprise in Shanghai PFTZ. This reduced certification testing costs by one-third for imported printer products, accumulating regulatory experience for improving the mandatory product certification system for imported information technology equipment.

Second, a series of opening-up measures on "market connectivity" have been introduced. The Pilot Regions have continued to advance opening-up measures such as new financial services pilots and cross-border purchases of overseas financial services, promoting the interconnection between international and domestic markets. **For example**, adhering to the principle of equal treatment for domestic and foreign institutions, the Pilot Regions have actively encouraged foreign-invested financial institutions to offer a wider variety of new financial services. Shanghai PFTZ has accomplished the first secondary transfer of a syndicated loan by a foreign bank registered domestically in China, while the first approved wholly foreign-owned securities company has officially commenced operations in Beijing PFTZ. These developments have accumulated valuable experience for permitting foreign financial institutions to conduct more diverse new financial services within China. **Similarly**, the Pilot Regions have expanded the types of cross-border purchases of overseas financial services. The People's Bank of China Guangdong Branch and other departments jointly issued the newly revised "Rules for the Implementation of the Cross-Boundary Financial Management Connect Pilot Program in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", which promotes the expansion of the pilot program, optimizes investor eligibility requirements, increases individual investment quotas, and broadens

the scope of the pilot. These measures facilitate the interconnectivity of financial markets in the Greater Bay Area and improve relevant institutional arrangements. The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) is promoting the expansion of the Shanghai-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) scope by the exchanges in Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong SAR. It has approved and released the "Implementation Measures for the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Program of the Shanghai Stock Exchange (2024 Revision)" and the "Implementation Rules for the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Program of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (2024 Revision)". The revisions lower the scale thresholds for ETF eligibility and ease the index weight, thereby broadening the range of ETFs available under the Shanghai-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program and further diversifying the types of cross-border financial services available for overseas investment.

Third, a set of enterprise-friendly policies have been implemented to lower operational costs and enhance efficiency. The Pilot Regions pioneered policies including tariff exemptions for goods re-entering the country after outbound repairs and the clarification of customs clearance deadlines, effectively reducing costs and improving efficiency for business operators. **For example**, the Pilot Regions have exempted tariffs on aircraft and vessels returning to Hainan FTP after temporary outbound repairs. Hainan FTP implemented the nation's first duty exemption for goods re-imported after temporary outbound repairs, involving aircraft maintenance parts such as generator control units and cabin air compressors. By August 2024, 92 shipments of repaired goods had received tariff exemptions totaling over RMB 4 million. **Similarly**, the Pilot Regions have implemented the CPTPP's "express consignments" provisions, enabling eligible imported air express shipments to clear customs within six hours. The General Administration of Customs issued a work notice, specifying that air express cargo for which the necessary customs documents have been submitted should, under



normal circumstances, be cleared within six hours of arrival.

Fourth, a number of "efficient and transparent" management practices have been established. PFTZs have carried out in-depth reform and innovation in areas such as intellectual property protection and labor rights protection, continuously improving work efficiency and transparency, while exploring and developing a number of pioneering management practices. **For example**, the Pilot Regions have handled intellectual property provisional measures cases in accordance with the law, taking swift action on relevant relief requests without hearing the opposing party in advance. Shanghai PFTZ has handled the nation's first pre-litigation provisional measures case concerning trade secret infringement involving the unpublished character design of a video game. The measures were promptly granted in accordance with the law without hearing the opposing party in advance, thereby ensuring timely protection of the rights holder's legitimate interests. This case marks a pioneering step in exploring pre-litigation provisional measures rulings in the field of intellectual property nationwide. **Moreover**, the Pilot Regions have actively promoted the pilot program of publicizing arbitration award documents, providing and disclosing labor and personnel dispute arbitration awards to the parties involved in a timely manner. Beijing PFTZ has vigorously advanced the online publication of labor and personnel dispute arbitration awards. By November 2024, over 2,000 effective arbitration rulings had been made publicly available online, further enhancing the transparency and credibility of labor and personnel dispute arbitration.

2. Advancing the implementation of G.Fa. No. 23

Shanghai PFTZ has proactively aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules to launch pilot initiatives, promoting the implementation of 80 pilot measures under G.Fa. No. 23. Through a series of pioneering and landmark institutional innovations, it generated exemplary cases and valuable experience, further paving the

way for China's steady expansion of institutional opening-up.

First, a number of pioneering reform achievements have been realized.

Shanghai PFTZ has carried out innovative explorations in areas such as expanding financial services opening-up and high-standard digital trade rules, marking a number of pioneering efforts. **For example**, it has introduced cross-border applications for digital RMB, facilitating the nation's first digital RMB cross-border payment for reinsurance in aviation trade, as well as the first cross-border crude oil transaction settled with digital RMB, exploring efficient, secure, convenient, and intelligent models for cross-border payment and settlement. **Similarly**, Shanghai PFTZ has completed the nation's first such transaction. This initiative has supported a zone-based asset management company in the cross-border transfer of asset-backed securities issued by a new energy enterprise to an overseas financial institution, thereby expanding the scope of entities and types of transactions involved in cross-border asset transfers.

Another example is Shanghai PFTZ's innovative development of data trading services. It facilitated the establishment of the nation's first data trading alliance chain by the Shanghai Data Exchange, released the Shanghai Data Exchange Trading Rules System (2024), advanced the construction of an international board for data trading, and fostered the development of a globally trusted system for cross-border data flow. In 2024, the transaction volume at the Shanghai Data Exchange exceeded RMB 4 billion, quadruple that of 2023, with over 4,500 data products listed—more than double the number in 2023.

Second, efforts have been made to continuously deepen institutional innovations in "behind-the-border" regulatory systems. Shanghai PFTZ has undertaken in-depth reform and innovation in areas such as government procurement and environmental protection, exploring pathways to advance the reform of domestic "behind-the-border" regulatory systems. **For example**, Shanghai PFTZ has promoted



reforms in the field of government procurement, facilitating the Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau's issuance of the "Guiding Opinions on Aligning with High-Standard International Economic and Trade Rules to Promote Government Procurement Reforms in Pilot Regions" (H.C.C. [2024] No. 12). This document introduces a series of alignment measures in areas such as procurement budgeting, procurement requirements, competitive scope, procurement procedures, information disclosure, electronic procurement, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, and dispute resolution. The Shanghai Government Procurement Cloud Platform launched a "Special Window for Alignment Reforms". Procurement projects had been supported in accordance with high-standard rules. This accelerates the development of a standardized, transparent, scientific, and rigorous government procurement management system. Shanghai PFTZ has also enabled qualified certification bodies to conduct green product certification services, creating a one-stop "certification + customs clearance" service platform. By March 2025, nearly 50 enterprises had obtained green product certification, effectively promoting green production and consumption.

Third, the level of opening-up has been further raised. Shanghai PFTZ advanced the construction of the "Single Window" data exchange system for international trade in Shanghai, promoted mutual recognition of import inspection and quarantine measures, and enhanced the application of electronic documents, among other initiatives, to further elevate the level of openness. **For example**, Shanghai PFTZ has upgraded the "Single Window" data exchange system for international trade in Shanghai. In collaboration with Singapore and Malaysia, it has piloted a "one-time entry, simultaneous declaration" customs clearance model, achieving intelligent conversion and sharing of enterprise declaration data. The data conversion rate for customs clearance between China and Singapore has increased to over 95%. **In another example**, Shanghai PFTZ has promoted mutual recognition of import inspection and

quarantine measures. It took the lead in launching a pilot program for mutual recognition of cold treatment temperature probe calibration data for Chilean cherries. Shanghai Customs and Chile's Agriculture and Livestock Service have established a bilateral data mutual recognition model, wherein Chile sends cold treatment temperature probe insertion and calibration information for fruit exported to China before shipment, which China recognizes. This approach effectively reduces customs clearance time for enterprises while ensuring food safety, leading to a significant increase in import volume. In 2024, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Port Customs supervised a total of 1,271 tons of imported fruit from Chile, nearly four times the amount from the year 2023. **Similarly**, Shanghai PFTZ has accelerated the application of electronic bills of lading by leveraging the Global Shipping Business Network (GSBN). It has streamlined the process of "blockchain electronic bill of lading + blockchain paperless release of goods", achieving a fully paperless import cargo release system. Additionally, it has promoted the formulation of the "Shanghai Municipal Provisions on Promoting the Application of Blockchain Technology for Electronic Documents in Pudong New Area". The eBL solutions have been applied across multiple trade routes, including West Africa, Australia, and Central America, as well as for various cargo types such as minerals and cement, significantly enhancing trade facilitation.

Fourth, measures have been implemented to reduce costs and improve efficiency for business operators. Shanghai PFTZ has supported enterprises in conducting bonded blending and mixing services for high- and low-sulfur fuel oil, reducing the sulfur content of high-sulfur fuel oil to below 0.48% m/m. This meets the International Maritime Organization's requirement that the sulfur content of fuel oil used for bunkering international vessels must be below 0.5% m/m. It has also contributed to a reduction in low-sulfur fuel oil costs by USD 8 - 12 per ton, significantly enhancing the competitiveness of bonded bunker fuel supply for international vessels and contributing



to the rapid growth of bonded marine fuel supply volumes at the Port of Shanghai.

(II) Enhancing the quality of an open economy

In 2024, PFTZs have played a significant role in stabilizing foreign trade and investment for the country, actively engaged in outbound investment cooperation, and further enhanced the quality of the open economy.

1. Sustained role in stabilizing foreign trade

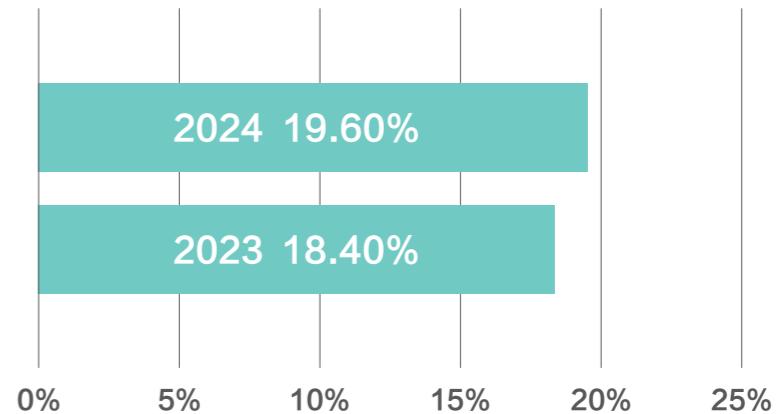
PFTZs have accelerated the development of new forms and models of foreign trade, innovated mechanisms for the development of trade in services, cultivated new growth drivers such as green trade and digital trade, and promoted the integration of domestic and foreign trade, serving as a crucial engine for China's foreign trade growth.

First, PFTZs have promoted stable growth of foreign trade nationwide. In 2024, the total import and export volume of the 22 PFTZs reached RMB 8.59 trillion, with a year-on-year growth rate of 11.9%, which was 6.9 percentage points higher than the national growth rate. These zones contributed 19.6% of the nation's total import and export volume, an increase of 1.2 percentage points compared to 2023. Specifically, the total export value amounted to RMB 4,001.99 billion, a year-on-year increase of 18.8%, surpassing the national export growth rate by 11.7 percentage points. Meanwhile, the total import value reached RMB 4,590.38 billion, growing by 6.5% year-on-year, which was 4.2 percentage points higher than the national import growth rate.

Figure 1-1

Proportion of import and export scale in PFTZs relative to the national total

Source: Calculated based on materials provided by the Ministry of Commerce and publicly available data.



Second, PFTZs have effectively spurred the rapid growth of foreign trade in their respective areas. Each PFTZ has demonstrated strong momentum in foreign trade development, serving as a crucial driver for boosting import and export growth in their respective regions. **For example**, Hubei PFTZ recorded a total import and export value of RMB 225.85 billion in 2024, a year-on-year increase of 50.4%, surpassing the provincial growth rate by 40.8 percentage points. This propelled Hubei Province's total import and export value to exceed RMB 700 billion, making Hubei the province with the highest import and export growth rate in central China. **Similarly**, since its establishment one year ago, Xinjiang PFTZ has significantly boosted foreign trade. In 2024, its import and export trade volume reached RMB 132.45 billion, accounting for over 30% of the region's total foreign trade value despite covering only about 0.01% of Xinjiang's land area. This has driven Xinjiang's total foreign trade import and export value to exceed RMB 400 billion for the first time, with a year-on-year growth of 21.8%, ranking third in growth rate nationwide.

Third, PFTZs have steadily advanced the development of new forms and models of foreign trade. PFTZs have accelerated the development of new forms and models such as offshore trade and bonded maintenance, taking the lead in piloting



preferential policies for stamp duty on offshore trade, optimizing the construction of offshore trade platforms, and expanding the scope of bonded maintenance businesses, thereby further driving innovation in foreign trade. **For example**, Shanghai PFTZ took the lead in piloting the exemption of stamp duty on contracts for offshore resale business. It has continued to optimize its offshore trade service platform by integrating the "Offshore Connect" with the "Cross-Border Financial Services Platform", establishing a new application scenario for background verification of offshore international trade businesses on the cross-border financial services platform. This has enabled intelligent verification of cross-border settlements, reducing the offline paper-based review process from 1–2 working days to within 30 minutes, thereby driving further development of offshore trade. In 2024, the scale of offshore trade in Shanghai reached approximately USD 90 billion, up by 75%, with cumulative stamp duty exemptions exceeding RMB 100 million. This has lowered operational costs for offshore trade enterprises and significantly boosted the growth of offshore trade. Fujian PFTZ and Anhui PFTZ have explored broadening the scope of bonded maintenance services. Fujian PFTZ facilitated the launch of the country's first "Global Bonded Maintenance for Medical Devices" initiative, establishing a cross-departmental joint management mechanism involving commerce, customs, and environmental protection authorities. Together, they have developed regulatory schemes and implemented fully networked government-enterprise oversight, enabling the project to transition from maintaining domestically produced devices to servicing devices globally. This initiative supports domestic enterprises in integrating into the global high-end medical device industry and supply chain, with two B-ultrasound detectors and accessories successfully imported into Fujian PFTZ for maintenance. Meanwhile, Anhui PFTZ pioneered the nation's first bonded maintenance project for automobile transmissions and the Yangtze River Delta's first bonded maintenance project for projectors,

further expanding the development potential of bonded maintenance services. **Similarly**, Chongqing PFTZ has created a full-process supervision model for bonded remanufacturing. It has guided enterprises to establish real-time connectivity with customs supervision platforms, enabling comprehensive monitoring of key processes including disassembly of used components, replacement of core parts, and finished product testing. It has implemented closed-loop supervision for scrap materials and replacement parts generated during remanufacturing, adopted "one code per machine" management for imported used components. This has created full traceability across import, warehousing, production and export, making Chongqing the first in China to operationalize bonded remanufacturing of key automotive components.

Fourth, PFTZs have actively cultivated digital trade and green trade. PFTZs have actively embraced the shift toward digital and green trade by promoting the application of cross-border electronic invoicing and establishing platforms for green trade development, thereby fostering new growth areas such as digital trade and green trade. **In digital trade**, Shanghai PFTZ has promoted the application of cross-border electronic invoices and developed a cross-border electronic invoice interoperability platform. It has completed pilot tests with enterprises in Singapore and Japan in areas such as trade in goods and services, achieving the first transaction in China of receiving cross-border electronic invoices and making payments accordingly. This has enhanced the efficiency of cross-border settlements, facilitated trade settlement convenience, and advanced the digitalization of trade methods. **In green trade**, Jiangsu PFTZ has established a public service platform for enterprises to "go green globally". This platform integrates a range of services covering the entire lifecycle of products, from raw material procurement to production processes, including carbon emission accounting, carbon footprint management, carbon data collection, carbon tariff data reporting, and international carbon neutrality certification, thereby establishing a green



trade certification system. The platform has already served over 200 enterprises across 15 provinces (municipalities) and 27 cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, helping enterprises accelerate their "green" transformation.

Fifth, PFTZs have innovated the management system for the negative list of cross-border trade in services. Taking into account development realities and opening-up demands, China has released both a national version and a PFTZ version of the negative list for cross-border trade in services. The PFTZ version contains 68 special administrative measures, three fewer than the national version, with further opening-up arrangements in areas such as professional qualifications for natural persons, professional services, finance, and culture. **In professional qualifications for natural persons**, PFTZs have relaxed restrictions on professional qualification examinations and implemented more open talent policies. They have lifted restrictions on overseas individuals taking six types of professional qualification examinations, such as the registered urban and rural planner exam. This is conducive to encouraging and attracting more foreign professionals to work and start businesses in China, participate in PFTZ development. **In finance**, PFTZs allow eligible overseas individuals to apply for opening securities and futures accounts in accordance with the law, and permit overseas individuals to engage in securities investment consulting and futures trading consulting businesses. This helps promote greater diversification among investors and service providers in China's capital markets. **In professional services**, PFTZs have lifted restrictions on entities established outside China and overseas individuals engaging in customs declaration businesses. Overseas service providers can now offer customs declaration services cross-border without establishing a legal entity in China, facilitating enterprises' access to overseas services more conveniently. **In culture**, PFTZs have relaxed the requirement for the proportion of Chinese personnel in the key creative roles of Sino-foreign co-produced television dramas from no less than

one-third to no less than one-fourth, further promoting international exchanges and cooperation in the radio and television industry.

Table 1-6 Comparison between the national and PFTZ versions of the negative list for cross-border trade in services

No.	Category	National version	PFTZ version	Further opening-up arrangements for PFTZs
1	Wholesale and retail	Overseas individuals are not eligible to apply for the Auctioneer Qualification Examination.	No special administrative measures apply.	Restrictions on overseas individuals participating in professional qualification examinations have been relaxed



No.	Category	National version	PFTZ version	Further opening-up arrangements for PFTZs	No.	Category	National version	PFTZ version	Further opening-up arrangements for PFTZs
2	Finance	Institutions engaged in securities business that are not established or approved in accordance with Chinese law, as well as other institutions engaged in consulting services, are prohibited from conducting securities investment consulting business. Unless otherwise provided, securities investment consulting practitioners without Chinese nationality shall not engage in securities investment consulting business.	Institutions engaged in securities business that are not established or approved in accordance with Chinese law, as well as other institutions engaged in consulting services, are prohibited from conducting securities investment consulting business.	Overseas individuals are permitted to apply for securities investment consulting business	3	Finance	Futures companies and other futures operating institutions not established in accordance with Chinese law shall not engage in futures trading consulting business. Unless otherwise provided, futures trading consulting practitioners without Chinese nationality shall not engage in futures trading consulting business.	Futures companies and other futures operating institutions not established in accordance with Chinese law shall not engage in futures trading consulting business.	Overseas individuals are permitted to apply for futures trading consulting business
4	Finance	Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as general members of stock exchanges. Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as members of futures exchanges. Unless otherwise stipulated by the Chinese government, foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from applying for securities or futures accounts.	Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as general members of stock exchanges. Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as members of futures exchanges. Except for overseas individuals employed in PFTZs or as otherwise stipulated by the state, foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from applying for securities or futures accounts.	Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as general members of stock exchanges. Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as members of futures exchanges. Except for overseas individuals employed in PFTZs or as otherwise stipulated by the state, foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from applying for securities or futures accounts.	4	Finance	Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as general members of stock exchanges. Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as members of futures exchanges. Unless otherwise stipulated by the Chinese government, foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from applying for securities or futures accounts.	Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as general members of stock exchanges. Foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from serving as members of futures exchanges. Except for overseas individuals employed in PFTZs or as otherwise stipulated by the state, foreign enterprises or individuals are prohibited from applying for securities or futures accounts.	Eligible overseas individuals are permitted to apply for securities and futures accounts in accordance with the law



No.	Category	National version	PFTZ version	Further opening-up arrangements for PFTZs	No.	Category	National version	PFTZ version	Further opening-up arrangements for PFTZs
5	Leasing and business services	Operating entities established outside China and overseas individuals are prohibited from engaging in customs declaration business.	No special administrative measures apply.	Restrictions on customs declaration business operated by entities established outside China and by overseas individuals have been abolished	7	Health and social work	Overseas individuals are prohibited from applying for the qualification examination, registration, or filing for the practice of veterinary medicine.	No special administrative measures apply.	Restrictions on overseas individuals participating in professional qualification examinations have been relaxed
6	Scientific research and technical services	Overseas individuals are prohibited from applying for the following qualification examinations: (1) Asset Appraiser Qualification Examination; (2) Real Estate Appraiser Professional Qualification Examination; (3) Mining Right Appraiser Qualification Examination; (4) Registered Surveyor Qualification Examination; (5) Registered Urban and Rural Planner Professional Qualification Examination; (6) Exploration and Design Registered Engineer Qualification Examination; (7) Registered Supervision Engineer Examination.	Overseas individuals are prohibited from applying for the following qualification examinations: (1) Asset Appraiser Qualification Examination; (2) Mining Right Appraiser Qualification Examination; (3) Registered Surveyor Qualification Examination.	Restrictions on overseas individuals participating in professional qualification examinations have been relaxed	8	Culture, sports and entertainment	(Excerpt) In Sino-foreign co-produced television dramas, Chinese personnel must account for no less than one-third of the key creative roles (including screenwriters, producers, directors, and lead actors).	(Excerpt) In Sino-foreign co-produced television dramas, Chinese personnel must account for no less than 25% of the key creative roles (including screenwriters, producers, directors, and lead actors).	The restriction on the proportion of Chinese personnel in key creative roles for Sino-foreign co-produced television dramas has been reduced

Source: Compiled from publicly available information.

Sixth, PFTZs have promoted the integrated development of domestic and international trade. PFTZs explored mechanisms to improve the alignment of standards and certification, promoted the convergence of domestic standards and certification with international ones, addressed barriers to the integrated development of domestic and foreign trade, and effectively advanced this integration. **For example,** Hunan PFTZ collaborated with enterprises within the zone to promote the "Health



Purification Rating, Requirements, and Testing Methods Standard for Household and Similar Refrigeration Equipment" as Malaysia's national execution standard for the refrigerator industry, enhancing the international recognition of Chinese standards. It also partnered with the Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) to provide one-stop services for product exports to Malaysia, including "certification, inspection, and expedited customs clearance", significantly advancing the alignment of standards and certification for domestic and foreign trade.

2. Enhanced role in stabilizing foreign investment

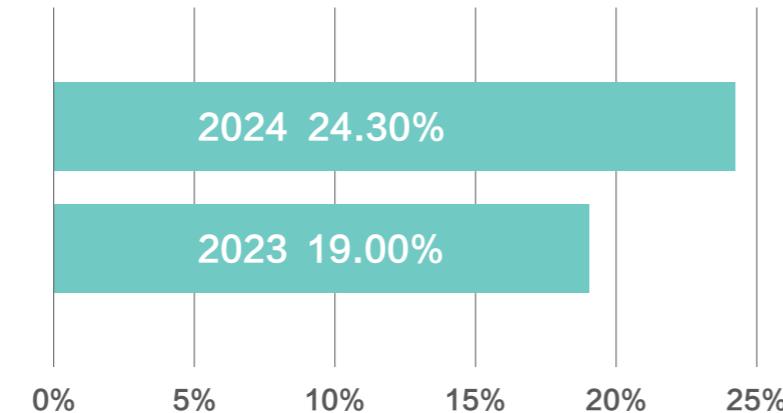
PFTZs have further deepened reforms in the foreign investment management system, relaxed foreign investment access in key sectors, expanded channels for attracting foreign capital, and established highlands for attracting foreign investment.

First, PFTZs have played a crucial role in attracting foreign investment nationwide. In 2024, the actual foreign direct investment utilized in these zones reached USD 200.83 billion, accounting for 24.3% of the national total—an increase of 5.3 percentage points compared to 2023, demonstrating a notable driving effect on foreign capital inflow. Among them, Liaoning PFTZ saw a year-on-year growth of 44.3% in foreign investment attraction, Jiangsu PFTZ recorded a 53.1% increase, and Hunan PFTZ achieved a 26.7% rise, making them crucial engines for local foreign capital inflows.

Figure 1-2

Share of actual utilized foreign investment in PFTZs relative to the national total

Source: Calculated based on materials provided by the Ministry of Commerce and publicly available data.



Second, PFTZs have developed more diversified channels for attracting foreign investment. In 2024, newly established foreign-invested enterprises in PFTZs reached 7,582, accounting for 12.8% of the national total and representing a year-on-year increase of 13.1%, 3.2 percentage points higher than the national growth rate. This demonstrates that foreign investors hold a strong recognition of the investment environment in PFTZs.

Third, PFTZs have expanded channels for attracting foreign investment. In 2024, PFTZs advanced the implementation of the Qualified Foreign Limited Partner (QFLP) domestic investment pilot program, with several zones completing their first QFLP pilot transactions, further broadening the channels for foreign investment. **For example**, Shaanxi PFTZ established the province's first QFLP pilot fund, with a total size of USD 20 million, primarily targeting equity of enterprises engaged in intelligent automation equipment. This initiative has helped further expand the scale of foreign investment utilization. **Similarly**, Hunan PFTZ facilitated the signing of Hunan's first QFLP pilot project, introducing no less than RMB 1 billion equivalent in foreign capital. The funds are directed toward high-tech industries such as new energy, new materials, energy-saving technologies, biomedicine, and semiconductor materials, fostering the aggregation of international capital and sci-tech innovation projects within Hunan PFTZ.

Fourth, PFTZs have relaxed market access for foreign investment in key sectors. PFTZs took the lead in launching pilot initiatives to open up the telecommunications and healthcare sectors. By lifting restrictions on foreign investment access in certain fields, PFTZs have attracted foreign investment across an expanding range of sectors. **In the telecommunications sector**, pilot programs for expanding the opening-up of value-added telecommunications services have been launched in select regions, including the Beijing Comprehensive Demonstration Zone for Further Opening Up the Service Sector, Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ, and



Hainan FTP,. These pilots have removed foreign equity limits on certain value-added telecommunications services, including Internet access and information services. Foreign-invested enterprises in the Pilot Regions have actively applied for participation in these programs. In early 2025, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology granted approvals for value-added telecommunications business pilot operations to 13 foreign-invested enterprises in Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan, and Shenzhen. For instance, four foreign companies in emerging fields such as digital healthcare, fintech, and innovative human resources services within Shanghai PFTZ received approvals, further boosting foreign investors' confidence in China's telecommunications market.

In the healthcare sector, China has permitted foreign-invested enterprises in Beijing PFTZ, Shanghai PFTZ, and Guangdong PFTZ, as well as Hainan FTP, to engage in the development and application of human stem cell, gene diagnostics and treatment technologies. In October 2024, Beijing PFTZ welcomed the establishment of the nation's first foreign-invested enterprise specializing in human genetic diagnosis and treatment technologies. By the end of 2024, several foreign-invested enterprises in Shanghai PFTZ had received approval to develop and apply human stem cell, genetic diagnosis, and treatment technologies.

3. Continuous enhancement of support services for outbound investment

PFTZs have further optimized outbound investment management services, integrating resources and services to meet the needs of enterprises going global and supporting their international expansion initiatives. **For example**, Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ launched a comprehensive service platform for "going global", which integrates a physical public service center, a series of online professional service platforms, a cluster of professional service industries, and a dedicated service team. This has resulted in the establishment of a "going global" public service hall, featuring ten specialized counters for cross-border finance, foreign-related insurance,

international legal affairs, overseas taxation, human resources, and consultation on outbound investment filing, providing efficient and convenient advisory services for enterprises nationwide seeking to expand abroad. In 2024, Lin-gang Special Area recorded 876 registered non-financial outbound investment projects, with a registered Chinese investment amount of USD 7.666 billion, representing a year-on-year increase of 10.65%. **Another example is** the establishment of the North China (TEDA) One-Stop Overseas Service Base in Tianjin PFTZ, which integrates regional enterprises' overseas resources, aggregates export projects for overseas engineering, and provides over 100 cross-border services—including investment, products, talent, and culture—to support enterprises in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in achieving global expansion. Additionally, Tianjin PFTZ has established strategic cooperation mechanisms with international free trade zones such as Jebel Ali and Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE, continuously deepening practical collaboration in areas including automotive trade, cross-border e-commerce, energy, biomedicine, and port clearance.



3

Accelerating the Construction of a Modern Industrial System

In 2024, PFTZs harnessed the agglomeration function of institutional innovation for resource allocation to empower industrial development, and facilitated the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, the continuous growth and expansion of emerging industries, and the accelerated layout of future industries, thereby providing effective support for constructing a modern industrial system.

(I) Transformation and upgrading of traditional industries

PFTZs have explored new models for the development of full industrial chains, promoted the emergence of new business forms and scenarios derived from traditional industries, and created new pathways for the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, thereby injecting new vitality into these sectors.

1. Exploring new models for whole-industry-chain development in traditional industries

PFTZs have applied the whole-industry-chain development model to traditional industries, extending industrial development chains into broader and higher-end segments. This has enhanced the integrated innovation capacity of traditional industries across the entire industrial chain and promoted their innovative development. **For example**, Zhejiang PFTZ has expanded the experience of building a complete oil and gas industry chain to more bulk commodity sectors such as natural gas, iron ore, grain,

high-end protein, coal, and non-ferrous metals. It has further advanced into higher-end segments including storage, transportation, trading, and maritime services, driving the construction of a bulk commodity resource allocation hub. **Focusing on storage and transportation**, the capacity for handling bulk commodities such as iron ore and grain has been continuously enhanced. Ningbo-Zhoushan Port has become the world's first port capable of simultaneously berthing and unloading two 400,000-ton vessels, the largest ore carriers globally. Two 400,000-ton ore carriers from Brazil were simultaneously berthed and unloaded at the same single wharf, marking a milestone in global port and shipping history. Zhejiang's iron ore throughput ranks the first in China. In 2024, Zhoushan handled 29.3 million tons of imported grain transit logistics, accounting for 18% of the national total, making it a critical hub for grain imports in China. **Focusing on trading**, innovative models for bulk commodity trading have been explored and implemented. These include the launch of China's first import bonded soybean spot warehouse receipt pledge business and the first successful unloading and warehousing of a full shipload of soybeans through offshore spot trading. These initiatives have helped overcome the "last mile" challenges in domestic spot trading of imported soybeans. **Focusing on maritime services**, the bonded marine fuel bunkering business was further expanded. Ningbo-Zhoushan Port maintained its position as China's largest and the world's fourth-largest bonded marine fuel bunkering port, with bunkering volume reaching 7.26 million tons in 2024.

2. Promoting the expansion of new business models and scenarios in traditional industries

PFTZs have closely integrated institutional innovation with the unique advantages of local traditional industries, actively fostering the development of new business models and scenarios in these sectors. **For example**, Shandong PFTZ has continuously expanded the scenarios for bonded blending of mineral products, successively launching

businesses such as bonded blending of iron, oil, and copper. It has actively promoted the physical blending of gold-bearing ores under different tariff codes through bonded logistics, enabling more categories of mineral products to "shift forward" their industrial chains into the domestic market via bonded blending. This has reduced procurement and logistics costs for related industries. Among these efforts, Yantai Port achieved the highest volume of bonded iron blending for transshipment to Japan and South Korea in 2024, while its volumes of crude oil blending and bonded copper blending ranked first and second nationwide, respectively. **Similarly**, Xinjiang PFTZ, leveraging the International Textile and Apparel Trade Center, has attracted a diverse range of businesses, including apparel design, e-commerce livestreaming, small and micro enterprise incubation, cultural and creative exhibitions, talent and technology exchanges, and cultural expos. It has established a comprehensive textile and apparel industrial chain. A dedicated international textile and apparel trade service window has been set up to provide policy consultations, business license processing, and other services for resident enterprises, while also creating a resource integration platform for upstream and downstream supply chain companies. This supports businesses in expanding their operations. Furthermore, Xinjiang PFTZ has facilitated the establishment of a national-level cotton and cotton yarn trading center. It is exploring traceability systems for cotton cultivation and apparel production, as well as quality and brand certification systems for cotton and cotton yarn, empowering high-quality development in traditional industries such as cotton and textile apparel.

3. Exploring new pathways for the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries

PFTZs have carried out institutional innovations to address the transformation and upgrading needs of traditional industries, actively exploring pathways such as industrial digital transformation and green, low-carbon development. These efforts

have effectively enhanced the quality and efficiency of traditional industries, injecting new momentum into their development. **For example**, Yunnan PFTZ and Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ have jointly promoted the empowerment of the livestock industry's digital transformation through data factors. Yunnan PFTZ fully leveraged the data value of Yunnan Province's beef cattle industry by transforming key breeding data into tradable digital assets. Capitalizing on the collaborative advantages of the Shanghai–Yunnan Lin-gang Sci-Tech City platform for east-west cooperation, it facilitated the registration of the "Beef Cattle Physiological Data Factor Product" on Shanghai's intellectual property management platform for data products. This achievement marked the nation's first certification of a livestock data product. The product was listed for trading on the Shanghai Data Exchange, realizing a model where data rights are verified in Yunnan, registered in Shanghai, and circulated nationwide. Furthermore, it successfully implemented the country's first intellectual property pledge financing business for a livestock data product, enabling enterprises to navigate the pathway from "data rights confirmation—asset inclusion in balance sheets—intellectual property registration—pledge financing", thereby driving value-added growth in the traditional livestock industry. **For another example**, Chongqing PFTZ explored a cleaner production audit model by launching pilot audits in the automotive manufacturing sector. It has established a dedicated platform to address challenges such as multiple procedural steps, low efficiency, and high costs associated with cleaner production audits. This initiative has promoted green transformation in automotive manufacturing and resulted in a standardized, replicable, and scalable industry-specific cleaner production audit model. This approach is gradually enabling standardized and efficient cleaner production activities across other industries.



(II) Expansion of emerging industries

Seizing the opportunities presented by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, PFTZs have explored and improved the regulatory system for emerging industries, actively developed sectors such as biomedicine, new energy vehicles, electronic information, and marine economy, and fostered new drivers for the growth of emerging industries.

1. Addressing bottlenecks and challenges in the development of emerging industries

PFTZs have focused on carrying out institutional innovations to tackle various difficulties and bottlenecks in the development of emerging industries. They have accelerated the establishment of service and regulatory models suited to the growth of emerging industries, effectively breaking down institutional barriers that hinder industrial expansion, and fully unleashing the vitality of emerging industries. **For example**, Jiangsu PFTZ, in response to challenges in customs clearance for items used in biomedical research and development, explored a pilot "whitelist" system for the import of such items. Enterprises on the whitelist are exempt from providing the "Drug Import Customs Clearance" when declaring the import of relevant items. Ten enterprises and 28 types of R&D items have been included in the pilot, reducing the overall customs clearance time for imported drugs by 50%. In 2024, Jiangsu's biomedical revenue exceeded RMB 450 billion, accounting for 15% of the national total and ranking first in China. Nearly half of this output value was contributed by Jiangsu PFTZ. **Similarly**, Beijing PFTZ has addressed the challenges of importing urgently needed medical devices and supplying drugs for rare diseases by establishing a green channel for the approval of urgently needed imported medical devices and creating a pioneering zone for rare disease drug supply. It has released the first "whitelist" of 10 medical institutions and 4 drug import enterprises in the pioneering zone, approved

the temporary import of 21 urgently needed drugs, transforming the previous situation of "patients waiting for drugs" into "drugs waiting for patients". Additionally, it has piloted optimized clinical trial reviews and approvals for innovative drugs, with the fastest approval for clinical trials taking 18 working days and the fastest initiation of clinical trials taking 3 weeks. The zone has also provided 24-hour integrated services for customs clearance and sampling of imported drugs, saving enterprises at least 15 days in time costs, significantly improving the efficiency of customs clearance and sampling for imported drugs, and smoothing the supply chain for the development of the biomedical industry. **Another example** is Sichuan PFTZ, which tackled the issue of power lithium batteries being classified as dangerous goods and thus unable to be transported by rail. It has explored a safe railway transportation model for these batteries, completing the first nationwide trial shipment of power lithium batteries by rail. This breakthrough has resolved the longstanding logistics bottleneck of high costs and long durations associated with road and Yangtze River waterway transport from inland regions, effectively boosting lithium battery exports.

2. Filling institutional gaps for emerging industries

PFTZs have explored and developed regulatory practices in key sectors and critical stages of emerging industry development that are at the forefront nationally and globally. These efforts have addressed gaps in industrial standards and management systems across multiple sectors, effectively promoting industrial growth.

For example, Beijing PFTZ has supported research institutions in leading the development of the world's first international standard for stem cell data management, ISO 8472-1:2024, which provides norms and guidance for global stem cell research and application. This initiative enhances the efficiency of sharing and utilizing massive data in the biotechnology field and accelerates the rapid development of stem cell research and application in China. **Similarly**, Chongqing PFTZ issued



the "Specifications for the Appraisal and Evaluation of Used New Energy Vehicles", which define the conditions and management requirements for conducting appraisal and evaluation businesses, the appraisal and evaluation procedures, assessment methods, and related requirements. This further improves the regulatory framework for the circulation system of new energy vehicles. **Another example** is Sichuan PFTZ, which promoted the introduction of the local standard "Technical Specifications for Product Carbon Footprint Evaluation—Battery-Grade Lithium Carbonate and Lithium Hydroxide" for carbon footprint evaluation. This initiative helps accelerate the establishment of carbon footprint accounting standards for power battery products in China, and fosters the development of low-carbon brands for battery-grade lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide through measures such as carbon labeling, thereby enhancing the green development capacity of the power battery industry.

3. Enhancing systematic service capacity for the development of emerging industries

PFTZs have targeted industrial development needs by integrating resources, establishing platforms, and increasing support to provide more systematic and integrated supporting services for the growth of emerging industries. **For example**, Hubei PFTZ established the "Chip–Optics Chain" online trading platform, a public service platform for the optoelectronic information supply chain. It integrates high-quality resources across the upstream and downstream of the optoelectronic industry chain, offering one-stop services including electronic component procurement, trading, and distribution. This provides comprehensive and efficient services for optoelectronic enterprises in the Optics Valley and nationwide, with registered users exceeding 8,000 and over 200 enterprises served across the supply chain. By the end of 2024, Hubei PFTZ had gathered more than 16,000 optoelectronic information enterprises, forming a complete industrial chain encompassing optical communication,

optoelectronic display, lasers, integrated circuits, optoelectronic devices, and photoelectric sensing—collectively known as the "Optics–Chip–Screen–Device–Network" ecosystem. The annual revenue surpassed RMB 500 billion, establishing the zone as the largest R&D and production base in China's optical communication sector. To promote the innovative development of the integrated circuit industrial cluster, Shanghai PFTZ has formulated supportive measures to foster the agglomeration of the integrated circuit industry. These measures comprehensively enhance support in areas such as breaking through core technologies in the industrial chain, consolidating its distinctive advantages, strengthening industrial chain security and resilience, and optimizing the ecosystem for industrial cultivation.

4. Promoting high-level technological self-reliance and strength in emerging industries

PFTZs have focused on strengthening technological innovation in key areas of emerging industries, driving pioneering breakthroughs in these areas. **For example**, Shandong PFTZ has focused on areas such as marine organism genome sequencing. It has enabled the use of spatiotemporal omics technology by universities and research institutions, combined with single-cell transcriptome sequencing, to complete the world's first spatial single-cell atlas of marine organisms. It released the first-year results of the "Thousand Marine Species Genome Sequencing Project", leading the sequencing of over 310 marine species and establishing a substantial marine microbial database. Additionally, it has achieved a series of groundbreaking accomplishments, including the development of the latest gene-editing tools and the discovery of novel antimicrobial peptides and plastic-degrading enzymes, continuously advancing the marine economy.



(III) Accelerated layout of future industries

PFTZs have focused on cutting-edge technologies and industrial transformation fields such as intelligent robotics, quantum technology, and artificial intelligence. By conducting forward-looking planning, establishing platform carriers, and promoting collaborative research, they strengthened investment and support efforts to accelerate the layout and development of future industries.

1. Strengthening forward-looking planning for future industries

Multiple PFTZs, leveraging their unique resource advantages, have proactively laid out new tracks for future industries. They are accelerating the arrangement and planning of sectors such as intelligent robotics and quantum technology to seize opportunities in the development of future industries. **For example**, Heilongjiang PFTZ has deeply explored and integrated the technological potential and commercially viable projects in robotics from universities in Heilongjiang Province. It aims to establish a first-class demonstration zone for the application and transformation of intelligent robotics achievements in China and a world-leading cluster for intelligent robotics industry development, with an estimated industry scale reaching RMB 10 billion. Zhejiang PFTZ has deepened the government-industry-university-research-application linkage mechanism in the field of quantum technology. In collaboration with academician teams, it has invested in building a quantum technology park.

2. Improving platforms and carriers for future industrial development

PFTZs have promoted the construction of various specialized platforms and carriers required for future industrial development, providing stronger support for the growth of these industries. **For example**, Beijing PFTZ has established an AI data training base, a regulatory sandbox for the AI sector, and Beijing's largest public computing power platform. These initiatives facilitate large-scale model training and industrial applications, open up high-quality application scenarios in fields such as autonomous

driving, embodied intelligence, pharmaceutical health, and industrial manufacturing, and provide publicly accessible and inclusive computing power to AI enterprises through the issuance of computing vouchers and model vouchers. This helps reduce the computing costs for large model enterprises and empowers the development of the AI industry. Shanghai PFTZ has built an "intelligent computing cluster to empower the autonomous algorithm platform of the University of Hong Kong" for research in areas such as 3D generation and AI-based drug design, further enhancing the infrastructure of the AI industry. It has established the nation's first AI safety governance research institution, the "Shanghai AI Safety Governance Laboratory", to conduct fundamental theoretical research and common technology R&D in AI safety governance. Additionally, it has promoted the creation of the country's first intelligent robot pilot verification platform, exploring a scenario-driven new paradigm for standard testing of intelligent robots. **Similarly**, Guangxi PFTZ has actively collaborated with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in the field of artificial intelligence. Leveraging the Nanning International Communication Service Import and Export Bureau, it has promoted cross-border digital infrastructure connectivity and accelerated the improvement of computing facilities such as Wuxiang Cloud Valley and the China-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence Computing Center. By jointly building an AI computing cluster with ASEAN, it effectively meets the data processing demands of ASEAN nations in the AI sector. Furthermore, it is expediting the establishment of the China-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence Collaborative Innovation Center and working with relevant stakeholders in ASEAN countries to develop vertical AI application scenarios in agriculture, healthcare, tourism, education, finance, logistics, and other fields, aiming to build a new highland for AI cooperation oriented toward ASEAN.

3. Promoting joint research and development in future industries

PFTZs have vigorously supported enterprises, research institutions, and



other entities within their jurisdictions to collaborate on future industry initiatives. These efforts have accelerated the R&D process for cutting-edge technologies such as quantum computing, leading to a series of advancements in technological breakthroughs, application expansion, and industrial clustering. **For example**, Anhui PFTZ has facilitated collaboration between leading enterprises in quantum computing and relevant research institutions in Anhui Province to tackle key challenges. This effort has driven breakthrough progress in the independent development and application of China's homegrown superconducting quantum computers. In terms of R&D, China's third-generation superconducting quantum computer, "Origin Wukong", has been independently developed, which is equipped with the 72-qubit autonomous superconducting quantum chip "Wukong Core" and achieves internationally advanced levels in key metrics such as the number of quantum bits and coherence time, realizing full-chain independent controllability from hardware to software. This progress signifies that China has established an integrated superconducting quantum computer manufacturing chain encompassing R&D, design, production, and testing, with the capability to deliver complete superconducting quantum computer systems. In terms of application, "Origin Wukong" has pioneered the global provision of autonomous Chinese quantum computing services, completing 298,000 quantum computing tasks for users across 137 countries/regions by the end of 2024. Anhui PFTZ has gathered over 70 enterprises in the quantum technology industrial chain and leads the country in the number of authorized quantum patents.

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4

Supporting the implementation of major national strategies

In 2024, PFTZs, leveraging their respective strategic positioning and locational advantages, undertook in-depth and differentiated explorations to proactively support the implementation of major national strategies. They have played an active role in advancing innovation-driven development, promoting coordinated regional development, deepening cross-Straits economic cooperation, and fostering high-quality BRI cooperation.

(I) Advancing the implementation of the innovation-driven development strategy

PFTZs have continuously improved the construction of various innovation platforms, explored new models for transforming scientific and technological achievements, and promoted the interconnected development of open platforms and innovation platforms, effectively enhancing the efficiency of scientific and technological innovation.

1. Promoting the construction of science and technology innovation platforms

PFTZs have facilitated the establishment of high-level scientific and technological innovation platforms, expanding into more new fields and applications. For example, Anhui PFTZ has established the country's first quantum computing and data medicine research institute, exploring the application of quantum computing power in the

medical field. By further integrating and applying proprietary quantum computing power with China's vast medical data, it better ensures the security of medical data and accelerates the progress of medical research. Application research has already been initiated in areas such as improving the efficiency of mammography and accelerating the development of small-molecule drugs. Efforts are also underway to promote quantum medical algorithm verification on real quantum computers, deepen collaboration between quantum computing and medical research, advance the training of professionals in data medicine, and outline a development path for quantum computing power to empower digital healthcare, all aimed at accelerating quantum medical research and the transformation of its outcomes.

2. Innovating the transformation model of scientific and technological achievements

PFTZs have focused on facilitating the application of scientific and technological achievements into real productive forces and enhancing the level of research outcome conversion. For example, Shaanxi PFTZ has explored a "use before payment" model for scientific and technological achievements. This approach supports small, medium, and micro enterprises in adopting methods such as "installment payments", "deferred payments", "conditional payments", and "royalty-based payments" to cover the costs of technology transfers with universities and research institutions. By breaking away from the traditional "one-time buyout" model for application of scientific and technological achievements and introducing an insurance mechanism as a safeguard, the initiative has significantly increased the transformation ratio of scientific and technological achievements, reducing the average transformation cycle from 18 months to approximately 4 months. Multiple enterprises and universities in fields such as biotechnology, technical equipment, and healthcare have participated in the first batch of pilot projects. This has effectively lowered the trial-and-error



costs for businesses, stimulated their innovation vitality, provided broader application opportunities for the transformation of research outcomes from universities and scientific institutions, and fostered a more vibrant innovation ecosystem. **For example**, Jiangsu PFTZ has facilitated the establishment and inauguration of innovative platforms such as the country's first university-regional technology transfer and transformation subcenter for biomedicine. This initiative promotes the deep integration of leading universities and regional advantageous industries, with the successful transformation of the first batch of 12 achievement projects, accelerating the conversion of more university scientific and technological outcomes into real productive forces. Of the 13 innovative drugs approved in Jiangsu Province in 2024, 8 originated from the PFTZ.

3. Advancing synergy between open platforms and innovation platforms

PFTZs have integrated various platforms in the fields of opening-up and technological innovation, leveraging their combined effects to jointly explore and improve the ecosystem for technological innovation. **For example**, Anhui PFTZ and Hefei - Wuhu - Bengbu National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zone have explored the Linkage Mechanism, focusing on the application of scientific and technological achievements to drive industrial development. This has resulted in a reform model for the ownership of job-related technological achievements, based on the principle of "empowerment + transfer + agreed returns". Through the issuance of the "Implementation Plan for the Pilot Reform of Empowering Job-Related Scientific and Technological Achievements in Anhui Province" by Anhui Provincial Department of Science and Technology, this model has been replicated and scaled up across the province, effectively generating a spillover effect. Beijing PFTZ facilitated the launch and operation of Zhongguancun Comprehensive Bonded Zone, the first of its kind in China focused on R&D and innovation. This bonded zone primarily functions

as a "bonded R&D" hub, concentrating on strategic and emerging industries such as integrated circuits, pharmaceutical health, artificial intelligence, and technology services, as well as future industries. It expands bonded service formats, including headquarters economy, cross-border e-commerce, and financial leasing. Through a series of measures, such as exemptions, bonded treatment, tax refunds, and waiver of permits for R&D equipment, overseas samples, and R&D raw materials, it has enhanced customs clearance efficiency, accelerated product R&D and market promotion for R&D enterprises, and provided robust support for enterprises engaged in R&D innovation and international cooperation.

(II) Further implementation of the regional coordinated development strategy

PFTZs have pioneered innovative pathways for regional coordinated development. They have actively explored cross-regional cooperation mechanisms, service sharing, standard alignment, institutional innovation, and industrial collaboration. By fully leveraging their spillover effects, they have created exemplary models for regional coordinated development and contributed to the establishment of a more integrated framework for regional coordination.

1. Deepening cross-regional cooperation mechanisms

PFTZs have established the Joint Conference Mechanism for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei PFTZs, the Yangtze River Delta PFTZ Alliance, and the Yellow River Basin PFTZ Alliance. These mechanisms serve as key drivers for regional coordinated development. In 2024, leveraging these cross-regional cooperation mechanisms, relevant PFTZs further consolidated development synergies. **For example, in advancing the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region**, PFTZs of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei convened the Third Joint Conference on the



Coordinated Development of Beijing PFTZs, Tianjin PFTZ and Hebei PFTZ. During the conference, the "Action Plan for Deepening the Coordinated Development of Beijing PFTZs, Tianjin PFTZ and Hebei PFTZ (2025)" was signed. This plan outlines five key tasks—promoting high-level institutional opening-up, advancing trade and investment facilitation, upgrading industrial development capabilities, enhancing integrated development levels, and amplifying the comprehensive effects of reforms—supported by 15 specific measures, aimed at driving qualitative and efficiency improvements in the three PFTZs. **In terms of the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta**, PFTZs in Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Anhui, through the Yangtze River Delta PFTZ Alliance, jointly issued the "Initiative on Cooperative Development of PFTZs in the Three Provinces and One Municipality of the Yangtze River Delta". This initiative aims to coordinate the unique advantages of each region, with a focus on strengthening cooperation in areas such as bulk commodities, digital trade, shipping and logistics, technological innovation, and industrial synergy, thereby promoting collaborative openness, integrated reforms, and the flow of production factors. **In terms of the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt**, nine PFTZs along the Yangtze River—Shanghai, Zhejiang, Hubei, Chongqing, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Yunnan, Hunan, and Anhui—jointly issued the "Initiative on Coordinated Development of PFTZs in the Yangtze Economic Belt" at the 7th Hongqiao International Economic Forum. The initiative focuses on six key areas: actively integrating into and supporting the implementation of major national strategies, collaboratively advancing high-standard opening-up, strengthening coordinated experimentation with institutional innovation at its core, further promoting cross-regional sharing of production factors and resources, enhancing industrial synergy by leveraging unique advantages, and improving the level of coordination and collaboration among PFTZs. This aims to foster coordinated development among PFTZs in provinces and cities along the Yangtze River and jointly

drive high-quality development of the Yangtze Economic Belt.

2. Promoting cross-regional service sharing

PFTZs have further expanded the scope of cross-regional government service coordination and resource platform sharing, facilitating cooperation and sharing of high-quality services across regions. **For example, in the context of the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region**, PFTZs in Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei have continuously broadened the range of interoperable government services. They jointly launched the sixth batch of "same standards for same matters" initiatives for government services in the three PFTZs, adding 27 new items, bringing the cumulative total to 230. These initiatives span 14 departments, including public security, taxation, market supervision, transportation, human resources and social security, commerce, drug administration, healthcare insurance, intellectual property, agriculture and rural affairs, economy and information technology, housing and urban-rural development, health, and culture and tourism. They cover five types of matters: administrative licensing, administrative confirmation, public services, administrative levies, and others. This ensures "uniform acceptance and standardized processing" within the three PFTZs, further driving the coordinated development of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei. **In terms of ecological conservation and high-quality development in the Yellow River Basin**, the nine provinces and autonomous regions along the Yellow River have leveraged the Yellow River Basin PFTZ Alliance to fully utilize inter-provincial policies and public service platforms. They have steadily promoted the cross-regional sharing of high-quality services such as platforms, resources, and technologies within the alliance. A total of 44 initiatives to support enterprise development have been launched, covering areas such as trade facilitation, cross-border e-commerce, cross-border RMB settlement, transportation services, technical services, and intellectual property protection. These measures



have effectively facilitated the interconnected development of regions within the Yellow River Basin.

3. Advancing cross-regional standards alignment

PFTZs have taken the lead in exploring cross-regional standards alignment, facilitating coordination and unification of standards across regions. **For example, in the development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area**, Guangdong PFTZ leveraged its proximity to Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR, relying on the construction of the Demonstration Zone for In-depth Cooperation Among Guangdong, Hong Kong SAR, and Macao SAR to advance standards alignment with Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR and enhance the level of market integration. Guangdong PFTZ has promoted the establishment of a hospital accreditation standard system aligned with international norms, introducing the "International Hospital Accreditation Standards (China)", which integrate the "Tier 3 Grade A" standards with international benchmarks. The first Hong Kong SAR hospital has been certified under these standards, marking their implementation and facilitating smoother professional exchanges between domestic and international medical institutions.

4. Jointly fostering cross-regional institutional innovation

PFTZs have carried out cross-regional collaborative institutional innovation, exploring and forming a series of beneficial experience in regional coordinated development. **For example, in the context of integrated development in the Yangtze River Delta**, the Yangtze River Delta PFTZ Alliance has jointly promoted institutional innovations, and released a third batch of 12 institutional innovations, such as establishing a "list-based" cross-border data management model, facilitating open sharing of scientific instruments to boost industrial innovation, benchmarking international index compilation practices to explore a Chinese-characterized price formation mechanism, combining "specialized windows + applications" to deepen

and solidify integrated government services in the Yangtze River Delta, introducing a new model for cross-regional import logistics hubs, and creating a new collaborative model for cloud-based legal services. These initiatives span multiple reform areas, including alignment with international economic and trade rules, industrial innovation and development in the Yangtze River Delta, and integrated development of shipping and trade in the region. They have effectively promoted resource sharing and collaborative development within the alliance, injecting momentum into high-quality integrated development in the Yangtze River Delta. **In the development of the Chengdu–Chongqing economic circle**, Sichuan and Chongqing PFTZs have taken the construction of Collaborative Opening-up Demonstration Zone of Sichuan PFTZ and Chongqing PFTZ as a key initiative to promote collaborative innovation between the two regions. They have released 10 collaborative innovations, launched the "one license per industry" reform for cross-regional processing in Sichuan and Chongqing, explored integrated power supply service reforms in cross-provincial adjacent areas, established a "five-end" collaborative mechanism for the Chengdu–Chongqing automotive industry, built a collaborative mechanism for cross-border road transport between Chengdu and Chongqing, explored full-chain service system reforms for sci-fi film production, jointly developed a globally influential lemon specialty industrial cluster, explored new models of strong-village cooperation, pioneered joint development, protection, and enforcement of intellectual property rights between Sichuan and Chongqing, piloted new models for green and low-carbon development of inland river ports, and established the "Wanzhou – Dazhou – Kaizhou" mechanism for coordinated technological innovation. These efforts fully demonstrate the achievements of Collaborative Opening-up Demonstration Zone of Sichuan PFTZ and Chongqing PFTZ.

5. Facilitating cross-regional industrial coordination and cooperation

Leveraging their unique geographical advantages and resource endowments,



PFTZs have driven cross-regional industrial coordination and cooperation, thereby enhancing regional development vitality. **For example, in advancing development in the western region and comprehensive revitalization of the northeast**, PFTZs in Guangxi, Yunnan, Heilongjiang, and other regions have accelerated opening-up and development in border areas, conducting border-specific innovative explorations. By leveraging foreign trade and cross-border cooperation, these efforts have contributed to shaping a new pattern for the development in the western region and achieving new breakthroughs in the comprehensive revitalization of the northeast. Guangxi PFTZ has deepened cooperation with ASEAN, actively establishing cross-border industrial and supply chains focusing on competitive industries such as automobiles, electronic information, high-end metal new materials, and chemical new materials, supplemented by specialized industries including machinery and food. Among these, the output value of the electronic information industry has approached the ten-billion-yuan scale, initially forming an emerging industrial cluster centered on chip processing, semiconductors, LEDs, circuit boards, and mobile phone and accessory manufacturing. The industrial and supply chains for the "new three" products, such as lithium batteries, have developed steadily, with the export value of these products through Youyiguan Port increasing by over 20% in 2024. Yunnan PFTZ has launched a pilot program for cross-border labor cooperation with Vietnam, exploring a new service and management model of "group entry and exit" for cross-border workers to facilitate Sino-Vietnamese labor collaboration. It has established a "Foreign Personnel Entry Work Registration Management System" to achieve paperless, fully online processing for cross-border labor registration. The zone also set up work permit acceptance points for foreign personnel in Hekou County, along with the Hekou County Foreign Personnel Management Service Center and the Hekou County Foreign Personnel Employment Service Center, providing better services for foreign

workers. The processing time for related administrative approvals for cross-border labor has been reduced from one day to 30 minutes, offering significant support for the development of labor-intensive industries in border regions. Heilongjiang PFTZ has worked to expand the categories of processed goods under the border residents' mutual trade. The variety of imported medicinal herbs at the port has increased to 15 types. Achievements include the clearance of the first batch of low-risk innovative trial medicinal herbs imported from Russia nationwide and the first mutual trade processing enterprise in the country obtaining GMP certification for traditional Chinese medicinal materials. These efforts have further enriched the variety and quality of processed products, promoting prosperity in border areas.

(III) Advancing cross-Straits economic cooperation

Leveraging its geographical proximity to the Taiwan Region, Fujian PFTZ has continuously deepened cross-Straits economic cooperation, taken the lead in expanding opening-up to Taiwan, and accelerated the construction of a demonstration zone for cross-Straits integrated development.

1. Promoting deeper economic and trade cooperation between Fujian and Taiwan

Fujian PFTZ has cultivated new forms and models, such as cross-Straits e-commerce, continuously optimized regulatory models, and facilitated the development of cross-Straits e-commerce. **For example**, Fujian PFTZ has launched the nation's first "cross-Straits direct return" service for e-commerce exports to Taiwan, deploying Fujian Province's first bonded warehouse for cross-Straits e-commerce retail export returns. It has processed the first batch of returned goods under the cross-Straits e-commerce retail export framework, continuously optimizing the export-return mechanism for cross-Straits e-commerce, reducing enterprises'



return and shipping costs, and ensuring that cross-Straits e-commerce goods can be efficiently shipped out and returned. These measures improve customer service experience and further enhance the competitiveness of cross-Straits e-commerce goods.

2. Improving cross-Straits financial market development

Fujian PFTZ has promoted the innovative upgrading of the "Taiwan-invested Enterprises Board" on the Haixia Equity Exchange and established the cross-Straits industrial integrated development fund to serve the economic development needs of both sides. **For example**, Fujian PFTZ is advancing the development of regional equity markets to further serve Taiwan-invested enterprises. The Haixia Equity Exchange has continuously enhanced the innovative service capabilities of the "Taiwan-invested Enterprises Board" and launched the "Cross-Straits Integration Service", expanding from the original 24 services—such as business registration, training, and consulting—to 48 comprehensive services, including application of scientific and technological achievements, industrial resource matching, qualification certification, and green financial services. As of the end of 2024, the "Taiwan-invested Enterprises Board" has showcased and listed 4,853 Taiwan-invested enterprises, facilitating financing of RMB 2.414 billion for these businesses. Fujian PFTZ has also actively engaged in industrial fund cooperation, promoting the establishment of multiple Taiwan business funds with investment coverage spanning pharmaceuticals, new materials, energy storage, and other sectors. The Want Want CICC Industrial Win-Win Fund was jointly established with participation from Industrial Guidance Fund and the Taiwan-invested enterprise. Its first phase reached a scale of over RMB 1 billion, aiming to identify and invest in high-quality projects in the food, beverage, and related industries. This initiative contributes to cross-Straits consumption and industrial upgrading while deepening financial cooperation between Fujian and

Taiwan.

3. Ensuring smooth cross-Straits logistics channels

Fujian PFTZ has promoted the launch of more convenient maritime routes to Taiwan, achieving full coverage of passenger and cargo routes to major ports in Taiwan, making it a golden channel for cross-Straits connectivity. **For example**, Fujian PFTZ launched a direct maritime freight route from Mawei to Matsu, providing a more efficient logistics channel for cross-border e-commerce goods. The direct route eliminates the need for transshipment through Taiwan's main island, addressing previous issues such as long transit times, high costs, and high damage rates. Goods can now reach Matsu within three hours and can be further transported to Taiwan's main island from Matsu, benefiting more Taiwanese compatriots and enterprises. **Another example** is the successful inauguration of a direct cross-Straits maritime route for e-commerce goods from Haicang Port in Fujian PFTZ. This initiative provides new support for e-commerce and manufacturing enterprises in Xiamen and surrounding areas to ensure their production and supply, significantly reducing the transportation time for cross-border e-commerce goods. Xiamen Port has launched its first "Three Major Links" direct shipping route combined with "sea-air intermodal transport" for cross-border e-commerce express lines. Goods are shipped directly to Taipei Port in China and, via Taoyuan International Airport in the Taiwan region, are dispatched to Europe and the U.S. through sea-air intermodal transport. The overall transit time for sea-air intermodal transport is comparable to that of direct air freight, while the cost is significantly lower than air freight rates. This provides cross-border e-commerce export enterprises with a more cost-effective channel for global expansion.

4. Continuously deepening cross-Straits standards harmonization

Fujian PFTZ has strengthened standards cooperation through the Cross-Straits



Standard Common Service Platform, the Cross-Straits Standard Common Service Platform has provided significant convenience for industry-academia-research institutions and enterprises across the Straits, offering comprehensive standardized technical solutions for products and services entering both markets. It has initiated 39 common standards pilot projects across 31 sectors, including machinery manufacturing, modern services, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. To date, 285 common standards have been published, covering areas such as food safety, cold-chain logistics, construction engineering, agricultural cultivation, and services. Among these, the implementation of five series of standards for "Taiwan-style Oolong Tea" has driven tea production in Zhangping City, Fujian Province, to reach 3,300 tons, with an output value of RMB 1.6 billion, representing growth rates of 115% and 112%, respectively. The pilot project for common standards in new textile materials has established a cross-Straits standardized testing and mutual recognition model with Tier 1 OEMs in Taiwan, further breaking down technical standard barriers to economic and trade cooperation between Fujian and Taiwan.

5. Facilitating Taiwan compatriots' work and life in Fujian

Fujian PFTZ has implemented further measures to facilitate Taiwan compatriots' work and life in Fujian, advancing the development of the mainland's first "home base" for Taiwan compatriots. **For example**, Fujian PFTZ has optimized and upgraded cross-Straits mutual recognition services for professional qualifications. The Integrated Service Center for Taiwan Compatriots' Professional Qualifications has innovated the "doorstep certification delivery" service, upgrading the "one stop service" model to "services delivered directly to residents", thereby enhancing the experience for Taiwan compatriots. Fujian PFTZ has also continued to conduct comparative analysis and mutual recognition of cross-Straits professional qualification standards, with 183 Taiwan professional qualifications currently

recognized. As of 2024, over 4,700 professional qualification recognition certificates have been issued. **Another example** is Fujian PFTZ's implementation of a "subsidy without application" policy for the differential subsidy on individual income tax burdens for Taiwan compatriots. Taiwan compatriots working in the Pingtan area can use the "Tax Subsidy Without Application Authorization for Taiwan Residents" module in the Fujian government service App to have approved subsidies directly deposited into their personal accounts after verification. **Similarly**, Fujian PFTZ pioneers the use of facial recognition for online financial services for Taiwan compatriots. Through facial verification, Taiwan compatriots can perform large-sum transfers and update bank card and ID validity. It fills the gap in online financial services using facial recognition for Taiwan compatriots in the mainland, making their lives even more convenient.

(IV) Achieving notable results in the high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

PFTZs have further deepened partnership with BRI countries and regions in economic and trade collaboration, emerging sectors, and the development of opening-up channels, establishing themselves as key platforms driving high-quality BRI development.

1. Further advancing economic and trade cooperation

PFTZs have promoted practical cooperation in economic and trade fields with BRI countries and regions. **For example**, Shanghai PFTZ has advanced the construction of a pioneering zone for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation. It formulated and issued the "Notice on Issuing the 'Work Plan for Promoting the Construction of the Core Functional Area of the Pioneering Zone for Silk Road E-commerce Cooperation in the Bonded Zone'" (Z. (H.) Z.M.B.G. [2024] No. 3), strengthening the synergy between the PFTZ and special customs supervision areas. This initiative aims to create a



hub integrating online and offline product displays, transactions, and other activities, while introducing a series of measures in functional model innovation, business entity cultivation, infrastructure development, service management optimization, and expanded exchanges and cooperation. These efforts are designed to broaden the scope of international cooperation in product trade, digital services, and two-way investment. In 2024, the total value of goods trade between Shanghai and BRI countries and regions reached RMB 1.67 trillion, a year-on-year increase of 6.4%. Xinjiang PFTZ has expanded market access for high-quality products from neighboring countries. It has newly granted access to six categories of premium products, including chickpeas, stone fruits, and saffron from Uzbekistan; stone fruits from Kyrgyzstan; persimmons from Tajikistan; and licorice from Afghanistan. Additionally, it has resumed imports of poultry and related products from Kazakhstan, as well as cloven-hoofed animals and related products from nine regions, including Almaty Oblast.

2. Expanding exchanges and cooperation in emerging sectors

Leveraging their strengths in opening up, PFTZs have actively promoted exchanges and cooperation between China and BRI countries and regions across more sectors, including technological innovation, education, professional services, and the digital economy. **In scientific and technological innovation**, Xinjiang PFTZ has fully utilized the role of the China-Uzbekistan new drug joint laboratory under the BRI, comprehensively advancing whole-chain collaboration in new drug research and development, the application of scientific and technological achievements, and the cultivation of high-level talent. It has also established platforms in Uzbekistan for pharmaceutical research and development cooperation and achievement transformation, including the China-Uzbekistan Joint Laboratory of Microbial Resources and Technology, the Traditional Chinese Medicine Treatment Technology

and Training Center, and the China-Uzbekistan Medicine and Technology City. These efforts have led to the approval of three drugs with China's independent intellectual property rights for production in Uzbekistan. Additionally, six cooperative laboratories have been established in countries such as Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, accelerating the transfer and transformation of China's advanced pharmaceutical achievements in the BRI countries. These initiatives have advanced the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan. **In educational cooperation**, Shaanxi PFTZ has focused on integrating industry and education. It has issued the "China - Five Central Asian Countries Education Cooperation Work Plan with the Participation of Shaanxi", promoted the construction of the "Silk Road E-Commerce Talent Training Base", and built the "Qinling Workshop" brand. These initiatives encourage vocational institutions and enterprises both domestically and internationally to engage in cooperation in the vocational education sector, addressing local industrial needs and cultivating skilled professionals for BRI countries. Seven "Qinling Workshops" have been established, achieving international cooperation in fields such as information technology and tourism management. **In professional services**, Shanghai PFTZ has established the South America Sub-Center of the Belt and Road Initiative Technical Exchange International Cooperation Center. This initiative facilitates better alignment of technical standards and regulations between China and Latin America, while providing an efficient service platform for enterprises exporting to Latin America in areas such as certification systems, standard measurement, and inspection and testing. Currently, Shanghai-based law firms engaged in foreign-related legal services have established nearly one hundred overseas branches and offices. The scope of foreign-related notarization services now covers most BRI countries, further improving the foreign-related legal service system. **In digital economy**, PFTZ launched China's first



overseas cloud node in the meteorological field—the "ASEAN Data Service Node for the Early Warning Business Platform". It also established a cross-border credit information service platform targeting ASEAN countries. The application of "data going global" has been extended to areas such as agricultural monitoring and information development in ASEAN nations, advancing the construction of the "Digital Silk Road".

3. Enhancing the development of opening-up channels

PFTZs have accelerated the development of opening-up channels and the formulation of transport standards for land, maritime, and air routes, thereby enhancing connectivity with BRI countries and regions. **For example**, Xinjiang PFTZ has established a comprehensive logistics hub connecting Europe and Asia. It has launched the nation's first scheduled fixed-route international multimodal transport train for commercial vehicles to Central Asia, the first China–Europe express Transport International Router (TIR) transport vehicle crossing the Caspian Sea, and successfully dispatched the first pilot shipment using the "soft-tarpaulin sealing model" for international road transport vehicles, continuously opening new pathways for westward opening-up. **Another example** is Fujian PFTZ, which focuses on the Maritime Silk Road. It has proactively developed the "Maritime Silk Road" shipping platform, inaugurating the Nanchang–Xiamen–Saudi Arabia route under this initiative. This breakthrough established the first multimodal transport corridor to Gulf Cooperation Council countries via the "Maritime Silk Road", reducing overall costs by approximately 25% and cutting transit time by about 7 days compared to traditional routes, thereby consistently expanding the Southeast logistics channel. The zone has opened international passenger routes to Paris, Hanoi, Penang, and cross-border full-freighter routes to Mexico City, New York, Manila, among others. The China–Europe (Xiamen) Railway Express has achieved sea–rail intermodal transport with Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan (China), and Southeast Asian countries, seamlessly

connecting the "Maritime Silk Road" with the "Land Silk Road". This network extends to over 30 cities in 13 Belt and Road Cooperation countries, and creates an international logistics corridor for goods from Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asia to access the hinterlands of Europe and Asia. **Similarly**, Henan PFTZ has advanced the "one-bill" system for air–land intermodal transport as part of its transportation power pilot initiative. Efforts have been intensified in standard development for air–land intermodal transport, with the "Technical Requirements for Air–Land Intermodal Container Transport Semi–Trailers" and "Calculation Methods for Multimodal Transport Freight Volume" becoming the first national standards approved, further enhancing the standardization of multimodal transport. Additionally, continuous progress has been made in the Zhengzhou–Luxembourg "Air Silk Road" initiative. Zhengzhou Customs and Hungary Airport Customs have signed a cooperation plan, launching pilot projects for cross–border customs collaboration in areas such as inspection and intellectual property protection, thereby building an "air bridge" for connectivity between China and Europe.



5

Enhancing the quality and efficiency of replication and scaling efforts

In 2024, relevant departments and PFTZs placed significant emphasis on replication and scaling efforts, promptly summarizing and promoting innovative achievements that are well-tested, viable and with controllable risks, thereby facilitating the nationwide replication and scaling of more institutional innovations. Localities have actively engaged in replication and scaling activities, learning from relevant experience to ensure that the dividends of reform and innovative outcomes are shared more broadly.

(I) Releasing 77 institutional innovations in three batches at the national level

The State Council issued a directive to replicate and scale up the first batch of 30 pilot measures aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules nationwide. The Ministry of Commerce released the fifth batch of 23 "best practices" and the third batch of 24 successful reform experience promoted by various departments, further unleashing the institutional innovation dividends of PFTZs. By the end of 2024, PFTZs had cumulatively replicated and scaled up 379 institutional innovations nationwide, creating a favorable situation where reform dividends are broadly shared and the benefits of openness are widely accessible.

1. Replicating and scaling up 30 pilot measures in alignment with international high standards to advance institutional opening-up

Proactively aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules and steadily expanding institutional opening-up are major steps to improve the mechanisms for high-standard opening-up. In June 2023, the State Council issued the "Measures for Pilot Alignment with International High Standards to Advance Institutional Opening-up in Eligible PFTZs and FTP" (G.Fa. [2023] No. 9), launching pilot programs first in PFTZs of Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, Fujian, and Beijing, as well as Hainan FTP. In October 2024, the "Notice of the State Council on Task Assignment for Replicating and Scaling Pilot Measures on Aligning with High-Standard International Rules to Advance Institutional Opening-up in PFTZs" (G.H. [2024] No. 156) was released, which extended the replication and scaling of 30 pilot measures in alignment with international high standards to advance institutional opening-up across a broader scope, covering six areas, including trade in goods, trade in services, personnel entry, digital trade, business environment, and risk prevention and control. Among them, 17 measures are replicated and scaled up across all PFTZs, including conducting pilot imports of remanufactured products in key industries, implementing supplier self-declaration for imported information technology equipment products that meet relevant standards, allowing foreign financial institutions to offer new financial services similar to those of domestic financial institutions, establishing and improving evaluation procedures for the competence of foreign professionals, permitting accompanying spouses and family members of intra-corporate transferees to enjoy the same duration of stay as the experts, and improving the content of public announcements for single-source procurement results. Meanwhile, 13 measures are to be replicated and scaled up nationwide, including granting preferential tariff treatment despite minor errors in certificates of



origin, expediting decisions on extension applications before the expiry of advance rulings, allowing the import of wine labeled with specific adjectives, among others.

2. Compilation of the fifth batch of 23 best practices

In January 2024, the Ministry of Commerce released a compilation of the fifth batch of 23 "best practices" from PFTZs, covering four key areas: trade facilitation, government function transformation, ensured supply and servicing of factor resources, and high-quality industrial development. In terms of trade facilitation, cases include the new "one-stop" supervision model for cross-border e-commerce export returns and the new "immediate entry upon arrival" model for first-line inbound goods to comprehensive bonded zones. In terms of government function transformation, cases include the new "smart form" model for business registration and the "seamless renewal" of enterprise permits. In terms of ensured supply and servicing of factor resources, cases include the whole-life cycle management model of "land supermarkets" and integrated innovation in cross-border trade and investment facilitation. In terms of high-quality industrial development, cases include the large enterprise open innovation center plan and the new "five forces" model for technological innovation. These cases feature strong institutional innovation, positive feedback from market entities, and certain systematic integration characteristics, providing valuable references for deepening reform and expanding opening-up in related fields across regions.

3. Development of the third batch of 24 successful reform experience promoted by various departments

In January 2024, the Ministry of Commerce centrally released the third batch of 24 successful reform experience promoted by various departments, primarily focusing on five key areas: foreign investment access, scientific and technological innovation, environmental protection, transportation, and finance. In terms of foreign

investment access, experience include relaxing equity ratio requirements for Chinese parties in wheat variety selection and seed production, as well as steadily advancing the reduction of the negative list for foreign investment. In terms of scientific and technological innovation, experience include promoting the establishment of world-class new research and development institutions, and developing cross-regional industrial innovation parks through collaboration between northern and southern regions. In terms of environmental protection, experience include exploring the establishment of comprehensive carbon asset monitoring and management models, as well as innovating experience such as positive environmental protection lists. In terms of transportation, experience include implementing the "on-site audit" for ship safety management systems and promoting integrated innovation in international ship registration and classification management. In terms of finance, experience include appropriately streamlining market access for banking and insurance industries, permitting non-investment foreign enterprises to engage in domestic investments, and advancing the facilitation of capital account income payments. These examples represent significant institutional innovations developed in recent years by various PFTZs to address institutional barriers and meet demands of industrial development and market entities. They are conducive to stabilizing foreign trade and investment and promoting high-quality industrial development.

(II) Active replication and scaling at the provincial level

PFTZs in Fujian, Liaoning, Zhejiang, Sichuan, and other localities have actively promoted the replication and scaling of a new batch of provincial-level successful reform experience, best practices, and other institutional innovations across their respective provinces, unleashing the dividends of institutional innovation. **For example**, Shandong PFTZ released a new batch of 38 institutional innovations,



covering areas such as investment and trade facilitation, high-quality industrial development, financial opening-up and innovation, digital economy, government management innovation, and post-border regulatory liberalization. By the end of 2024, a total of five batches of institutional innovations had been established, with 221 innovations replicated and scaled up across the province. The new batch of 38 institutional innovations demonstrates characteristics such as aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, focusing on key industrial development, and facilitating the implementation of major strategies. Among them, the "new model for carbon footprint assessment and management of export products" addresses issues such as inconsistent carbon footprint evaluation methods and systems across countries and the lack of reliable data for carbon footprint assessments, enabling enterprises to effectively tackle international green trade barriers. The "new regulatory model for the aircraft maintenance industry" enables access to bonded policies without the need for physical entry or exit from special customs supervision zones, saving direct aircraft repositioning costs by RMB 300,000 per aircraft and reducing the repositioning cycle by 14 days, thereby supporting the high-quality development of the aircraft maintenance industry. Innovations such as "Shandong–Henan cross–customs district clearance reform" and the "new model for cross–border financial leasing of domestic medical device going global" actively support the implementation of major national strategies like ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin, as well as the Belt and Road Initiative. **Another example is that** since its establishment one year ago, Xinjiang PFTZ has produced two batches of 35 institutional innovations, which have been replicated and scaled up across the entire region. Specifically, trade facilitation measures such as "cross–port mutual recognition for foreign vehicles", "innovative centralized review model for southern Xinjiang operations", "cross–border coordinated

customs clearance for large equipment", and the "new '5034' model for cross–border retail of complete vehicles" have contributed to a 21.8% year-on-year growth in Xinjiang's total foreign trade import and export volume in 2024, 16.8 percentage points higher than the national average. In terms of facilitating flow of people, the "innovative policy for streamlined customs clearance for foreign drivers" has extended the validity of entry–exit documents for foreign drivers from one month to 40 months. Focusing on new platforms, industries, business forms, and models, innovations like the "new trigger–based regulatory model for market entities", "diversified resolution platform for international commercial disputes", and "multilingual cross–border livestreaming model" have been promoted. Notably, sales generated through the "multilingual cross–border livestreaming model" applied in the China–Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center account for over 70% of total overseas market sales, fully demonstrating the spillover effects of Xinjiang PFTZ.



Table 1-7 Replication and scaling at the provincial level in certain PFTZs

No.	PFTZ	Batch of replication and scaling	Quantity of institutional innovation	Main Contents	No.	PFTZ	Batch of replication and scaling	Quantity of institutional innovation	Main Contents
1	Fujian PFTZ	10th	28	This batch spans areas such as investment facilitation, trade facilitation, financial opening-up and innovation, opening-up channel development, scientific and technological innovation, and talent aggregation. Among them, 25 measures—including cross-border recognition of professional titles for Taiwan compatriots and one-stop online procedures for the transition of individual businesses to enterprises—are being replicated and scaled up across the province. Three measures, such as the rapid and intelligent customs transfer model for cross-border e-commerce goods, are being replicated and scaled up in specific regions within the province.	3	Zhejiang PFTZ	2 batches in 2024	Totaling 43, with 17 in the first batch and 26 in the second batch	The first batch covers areas such as liberalization and facilitation of trade, investment and capital, flow of people and transport, as well as business environment optimization, including 17 institutional innovation cases such as the "new model for precise regulation throughout the lifecycle of oil and gas trading enterprises". The second batch involves fields like liberalization and facilitation of trade, investment and capital, flow of people and transport, comprising 26 institutional innovation cases, including the "new model of one-stop maritime and commercial legal services".
2	Liaoning PFTZ	7th and 8th	Totaling 56, with 28 in the 7th batch and 28 in the 8th batch	The 7th batch covers areas such as the government function transformation, trade facilitation, tax system reform, industrial transformation and upgrading, and participation in the formulation of international (domestic) standards. It includes 28 institutional innovations, such as "digital transformation of project planning and construction management" and "bonded warehouse 'internet of things + categorized supervision'". The 8th batch involves 28 institutional innovations in fields including government function transformation, trade facilitation, industrial transformation and upgrading, opening-up expansion, and participation in the formulation of international standards, such as "innovation in enterprise full-lifecycle services" and "customs tax intelligent analysis via 'digital intelligence screening'".	4	Sichuan PFTZ	7th	32	Covering areas such as investment and trade facilitation, government management innovation, high-quality industrial development, regional coordinated development, enterprise-friendly service platform construction, financial opening-up, and green and low-carbon initiatives, this batch involves 16 successful reform experience like "innovating the full-schedule 'Sichuan-Europe Express' freight train model" for replication and scaling across the province, along with 15 best practices such as "pioneering cross-customs joint risk assessment model for high-risk special items" for local reference and learning.



No.	PFTZ	Batch of replication and scaling	Quantity of institutional innovation	Main Contents
5	Henan PFTZ	6th	24	Covering areas such as transportation and logistics, customs supervision, digital economy, financial opening-up, legal services, and government affairs, 23 best practices—including "end-to-end safety control for sensitive goods in cross-border e-commerce air transport"—have been disseminated province-wide, while one best practice case, "one-stop service window for food, drugs, and medical devices", has been disseminated in eligible areas within the province.
6	Hubei PFTZ	9th	32	Covering areas such as investment and trade facilitation, financial opening-up and innovation, whole-process supervision, industrial opening-up and development, and ensured supply and servicing of factor resources, this batch involves 32 achievements, such as the "new mechanism for intelligent and informatized cross-border e-commerce" and the "procuratorial support mechanism for intellectual property litigation by the People's Procuratorate of the High-Tech Zone".

No.	PFTZ	Batch of replication and scaling	Quantity of institutional innovation	Main Contents
7	Shaanxi PFTZ	4th	23	Covering areas such as whole-chain innovation, comprehensive reform, and full-scale opening-up, this batch spans areas such as government services, investment management, trade supervision, financial innovation, industrial development, and legal system enhancement. It includes 19 institutional innovations replicated and scaled up province-wide, such as the "trinity integrated tax service system", and 4 outcomes replicated and scaled up in designated areas within the province, such as the "single-vehicle certification supervision model for imported motorcycles".
8	Shandong PFTZ	5th	38	Covering areas such as investment and trade facilitation, high-quality industrial development, financial opening-up and innovation, digital economy, government management innovation, post-border rule liberalization, China-Japan-ROK cooperation, collaborative development of the Yellow River Basin, and green and low-carbon initiatives, this batch involves nine successful reform experience—such as "facilitating complete vehicle exports"—being replicated and scaled up across the province, along with 29 best practices, including "facilitating customs clearance for imports of medicinal and edible homologous products", for reference and adoption.



No.	PFTZ	Batch of replication and scaling	Quantity of institutional innovation	Main Contents
9	Jiangsu PFTZ	5th	15	Covering areas such as industrial transformation and upgrading, development of the entire biomedical industry chain, business environment optimization, green and low-carbon transition, financial services for the real economy, and multimodal transport, this batch involves 15 cases such as "professional title evaluation system for biomedical technical personnel" and "digital carbon asset management system facilitating corporate low-carbon transition".
10	Guangxi PFTZ	5th	35	Covering areas such as government function transformation, investment, trade transformation and upgrading, customs clearance reform and innovation, financial opening-up and innovation, and modern service industry innovation, this batch involves 15 successful reform experience including "innovating the business model of international commercial mediation through online dispute resolution (ODR)" and 20 best practices such as "a new mechanism for economic foreign affairs through 'integration of six external dimensions to promote opening-up'".
11	Hebei PFTZ	6th	29	Covering areas such as trade facilitation, financial innovation, government function transformation, coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and green and low-carbon initiatives, this batch involves 29 cases, including the "new model of 'scheduled customs clearance + green channel' for liquefied natural gas" and the "new model of 5G-enabled smart energy operation and management".

No.	PFTZ	Batch of replication and scaling	Quantity of institutional innovation	Main Contents
12	Heilongjiang PFTZ	9th	26	Covering areas such as "dual-buy dual-sell" mechanisms, customs clearance facilitation, cross-border cooperation, financial innovation, coordinated linkages, approval and supervision, and enterprise services, this batch involves 26 cases, including the "Suiyigou" Russian Commodity Display and Trading Platform" and the "digital fixed schedule ferry model at the Sino-Russian Heihe water transport passenger inspection port".
13	Anhui PFTZ	4th	44	Covering areas such as trade facilitation, investment facilitation, transportation, industrial transformation and upgrading, and financial opening-up and innovation, this batch includes 44 cases, such as the "new barter trade model" and the "single-application, multiple-approval" model for the transfer of registry of Yangtze River inland vessels".
14	Xinjiang PFTZ	1st, 2nd	Totaling 35, with 11 in the first batch and 24 in the second batch	The first batch covers areas such as trade facilitation, streamlined flow of people, government management innovation, in-process and ex-post regulation, and high-quality industrial development. It includes four successful reform experience, such as "innovative policies for facilitating customs clearance for foreign drivers", and seven provincial-level exemplary cases, including "establishing a new platform for diversified resolution of international commercial disputes". The second batch involves areas such as trade facilitation, government management innovation, high-quality industrial development, financial opening-up and innovation, and streamlined flow of people. It includes 4 successful reform experience like the "new model for simultaneous handling of food business licenses and permits", and 20 provincial-level exemplary cases such as "Xinjiang-specific applications of the international trade 'Single Window'".

Source: Compiled from publicly available information from PFTZs.



(III) Significant achievements in replication and scaling

The provinces that have not established PFTZs and coordinated innovation zones in PFTZs across the country have continued to learn from and adopt the institutional innovations of PFTZs. This has extended the benefits of PFTZ reforms to a broader scope, delivering tangible results in replication and scaling efforts.

First, the level of trade facilitation has been advanced. Localities have actively scaled up institutional innovations in trade, thereby promoting improvements in the overall level of trade facilitation. **For example**, Jiaxing coordinated innovation zone of Zhejiang PFTZ replicated and scaled up the 5th batch of best practices titled "new model for ship supervision and declaration". This initiative targeted ships navigating across multiple port areas, including Zhipu, Dushan, and Haiyan, in Jiaxing Port. By implementing a single-voyage declaration system for vessels engaged in intra-port operations, the frequency of ship reporting has been significantly reduced by approximately 65%. This has led to annual economic benefits exceeding RMB 10 million, resulting from increased operational capacity and reduced fuel costs.

Second, government service capabilities have been continuously strengthened. Localities have replicated and scaled up the institutional innovations of PFTZs, driving the optimization of government services. **For example**, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region replicated and scaled up the "one-stop platform for comprehensive services for exit-entry personnel" from the 6th batch of pilot reform experience. This initiative has improved the efficiency of exit-entry service platforms by introducing a new operational model for the Ningxia Public Security Exit-Entry 12367 Service Platform. The model shifted from a "Headquarters + Five Cities" call-answering approach to a centralized system managed by the Exit-Entry Administration Corps of the Ningxia Public Security Department, with the five cities handling work orders. This ensures efficient and continuous provision of high-quality

services, including policy inquiries, certification consultation, appointment applications, and complaint handling for residents across the region. In 2024, the platform recorded the third-highest nationwide call connection rate and ranked first in user satisfaction across the country.

Third, high-quality industrial development has been effectively promoted.

Localities, drawing on their own industrial characteristics and circumstances, have replicated and scaled up experience from PFTZs in the field of industrial development, thereby empowering the advancement of industries toward higher quality. **For example**, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region has replicated and scaled up the "conversion and application of big data in healthcare" from the 6th batch of successful reform experience to advance the development of its "Internet + Healthcare" demonstration zone. By leveraging platforms such as the National Institute of Health Data Science of China, Ningxia has capitalized on its advantages in abundant green electricity, high-speed networks, and robust computing infrastructure. This has facilitated the deep integration of big data in healthcare with the economy. The region has released a series of cutting-edge achievements in the field of healthcare large models, covering applications such as customized knowledge base solutions, medical Q&A systems, medical literature analysis, intelligent assistants for healthcare professionals, and general practitioner support models. Efforts have been made to continuously build and refine the ecosystem of large models in the healthcare industry, driving high-quality development through technological innovation.

Fourth, capacity of financial services serving the real economy has continued to strengthen. Localities have actively replicated and scaled up successful reform experience in the field of financial opening-up and innovation to better serve the real economy. **For example**, Shanxi Province has replicated and scaled up the "cross-border RMB full electronic tax payment" from the 7th batch



of successful reform experience. By leveraging the horizontal networking system for fiscal, tax, treasury, and banking operations alongside the RMB cross-border payment mechanism, it has facilitated direct use of RMB for cross-border tax payments for overseas non-resident taxpayers. Datong City in Shanxi Province took the lead in the province by initiating cross-border electronic tax payment and treasury deposit operations. It facilitated the successful online payment of RMB 1.3796 million in cross-border taxes from four electronic tax transactions involving three overseas non-resident enterprises, marking the province's first fully electronic cross-border tax payment. **Another example** is the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region's replication and scaling of the "innovation in intellectual property pledge financing models" from the 7th batch of successful reform experience. The Ulanqab Supervision Branch of the National Financial Regulatory Administration and the Ulanqab Market Supervision Administration jointly organized government–bank–enterprise matchmaking events, such as meetings on intellectual property pledge financing, to establish a regular platform for such interactions. Ten banking institutions were paired with 26 sci-tech innovation enterprises for face-to-face exchanges, addressing development bottlenecks and financing challenges. Credit facilities totaling RMB 15 million were extended to four enterprises. Meanwhile, financial institutions were guided to diversify financing channels by introducing credit products like "Sci-Tech Easy Loan" and "IP Benefit Loan", effectively alleviating financing constraints for sci-tech innovation enterprises. A "whitelist" of 354 enterprises eligible for intellectual property pledge financing was established in Ulanqab in 2024, with intellectual property pledge financing achieving full coverage across all 11 banners, counties, and districts without any gaps. The total volume of intellectual property pledge financing reached RMB 1.1 billion, a year-on-year increase of 301.5%, significantly broadening financing avenues for sci-tech innovation enterprises.

Fifth, effectiveness of intellectual property protection has been further enhanced. Localities have learned from PFTZs' experience in intellectual property protection and continuously improved the level of intellectual property protection. **For example**, Shanxi Province replicated and scaled up the "adjudication model of 'preliminary dismissal with separate request' for patent infringement disputes" from the 7th batch of successful reform experience. It applied this model to a patent infringement case involving "rail strips composed of formed slide rails", where the adjudication request was promptly dismissed after the involved patent was declared entirely invalid, while preserving the right holder's recourse options upon restoration of the patent rights. This model avoids providing undue protection for invalid patents through "preliminary dismissal", thereby conserving administrative resources. Moreover, through the "separate request" mechanism, it safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of the accused infringer while retaining subsequent recourse options for the patent holder. This approach effectively shortens the adjudication cycle for administrative rulings in patent infringement disputes, accelerates the resolution of intellectual property disputes, addresses the long-standing issues of "multiple procedures and prolonged timelines" in handling patent disputes, and enhances the overall level of intellectual property protection.

Sixth, alignment with high-standard international trade and economic rules has been improved. Localities have actively replicated and scaled up the pilot measures aimed at advancing institutional opening-up through alignment with high-standard international rules, achieving positive outcomes in areas such as trade in goods and digital trade. **For example**, Jiangsu PFTZ has implemented measures to facilitate goods trade, including a six-hour customs clearance for express deliveries and perishable goods upon arrival, and a 48-hour clearance for general goods. It has also established an FTA benefit-oriented "One-Click Access" smart platform,



enabling one-click queries for tariff preferences, one-click determinations of rules of origin, and one-click applications for certificates of origin. In digital trade, efforts have been made to strengthen alignment with digital trade rules and expand digital cooperation scenarios between China and Singapore. By connecting with Singapore standards through a trusted trade collaboration network, the online circulation of digital bills of lading has been realized, promoting the safe and orderly cross-border flow of data. The first nationwide compliant cross-border data case in the e-commerce sector has been implemented.

6

Enhancing risk prevention and control system

In 2024, PFTZs balanced development and security by enhancing the level of opening-up while improving risk prevention and control systems and strengthening risk management capabilities to effectively guard against various types of risks.

(I) Risk prevention and control system further enhanced

PFTZs have prioritized the development of a risk prevention and control system, strengthening institutional arrangements for risk management, clarifying regulatory plans for specific sectors, and providing institutional safeguards to mitigate and address potential risks. **For example**, Tianjin PFTZ issued the "Action Plan for Upgrading Tianjin PFTZ", which outlined specific tasks to improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and control. These include enhancing mechanisms for risk analysis, assessment, prevention, mitigation, and security evaluation, as well as implementing various management measures such as security reviews for foreign investment, export controls, cybersecurity reviews, content scrutiny for imported cultural products, and anti-monopoly reviews. **Similarly**, Shanghai PFTZ formulated the "Regulatory Plan for Conducting Temporary Inbound Repair Pilot Programs in Shanghai PFTZ" to standardize and orderly advance temporary inbound repair pilot initiatives. The plan clarifies departmental responsibilities, implementation requirements, application procedures, regulatory demands, standards for handling violations, exit procedures, and safeguard measures, thereby effectively mitigating risks. **Another example** is the



"Hunan Province Measures to Accelerate the Innovative Development of Integrated Domestic and Foreign Trade", which proposes "leveraging the Intellectual Property Service Center of Hunan PFTZ to enhance risk early warning analysis for overseas intellectual property and provide one-stop services for overseas intellectual property retrieval." This has promoted the reform of risk early warning experience in the intellectual property field within Hunan PFTZ.

(II) More robust risk prevention and control

PFTZs have further enhanced risk prevention and control regulatory mechanisms, explored the application of new risk supervision tools, and continuously strengthened risk management. **For example**, Tianjin PFTZ has explored digital and intelligent off-site regulatory models to address financial security risks under open conditions. **Another example** is the Cross-Border Financial Services Platform launched by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. By introducing the "corporate exchange rate risk management service" application scenario and integrating digital technologies with data on foreign exchange settlement and sales as well as receipts and payments, the platform enables banks to efficiently review and assess customer derivative transactions. In Fujian PFTZ, this scenario has been utilized to successfully process the first corporate exchange rate risk management service for a local trading company, thereby helping businesses avoid risks associated with exchange rate fluctuations.

Report on China's Pilot Free Trade Zones

2025

2.

Institutional Innovation



Since 2024, PFTZs, in line with the upgrading strategy, have deepened reforms and exploration in investment, trade, finance, whole-process supervision, industrial opening-up and development, ensured supply and servicing of factor resources, as well as cross-regional cooperation. These initiatives have continuously tackled deep-rooted contradictions and structural challenges, yielding a wealth of institutional innovations that have been replicated and scaled up at both the national and provincial levels, and driving new breakthroughs in reform and opening-up. This report compiles and presents some representative institutional innovations, categorized by their respective fields for detailed introduction.

Report on China's Pilot
Free Trade Zones

2025

1

Institutional Innovation in Investment

(I) Streamlined business procedures

Some PFTZs have expanded the scope of the "one license per industry" reform to convergent business, simplified the registration process for changes in business scope, and further enhanced the ease and efficiency of business procedures.

1. Extending the "one license per industry" reform to convergent business

Shanghai PFTZ's "integrated license for convergent business" allows enterprises to combine approvals for convergent business into one license. Prior to the reform, each industry involved in convergent business required "one license per industry". Following the reform, enterprises can now consolidate approval procedures for multiple businesses according to their needs. By meeting a unified set of access requirements, submitting a single application form, preparing one set of supporting materials, and visiting a single service window, they automatically receive a customized compliance document covering all applicable access requirements. This has streamlined process results in a single integrated license for the convergent business.

2. Streamlining business scope change registration

Under the "business scope registration reform" in Shanghai PFTZ, enterprises are only required to register changes to licensed business activities and core business activities with the registration authority. Prior to the reform, whenever an enterprise adjusted its business scope, the shareholders needed to pass a resolution on the changes and update the articles of association. The enterprise would then have to bring the original business license to the registration authority

to complete the change registration. Following the reform, enterprises only need to apply to the registration authority for changes to licensed business activities and core business activities. For changes to other non-core business activities that do not involve licensing, enterprises may voluntarily update their information on the "Government Online-Offline Shanghai" platform or the "Shanghai Online Business Registration" platform. No registration with the authority is required.

(II) Continuous deepening of government service reform

Some PFTZs have been exploring ways to further streamline government services by expanding "full-process online" or "one-stop" service channels, continuously deepening the reform of public government services.

1. Expanding the "full-process online" service for second-hand housing registration transactions

Fujian PFTZ's "full-chain intelligent online processing for second-hand housing transactions" extends previous "full-process online" registration procedures to include utility transfers (water, electricity, gas, and cable) and housing provident fund withdrawal. This establishes a model with more cross-departmental procedures and longer service chains. Once the buyer and seller reach a transaction agreement, they can independently or via a real estate agency complete property listing, verification, online contract signing, real estate registration, tax payment, and issuance of electronic property certificates. Information is then automatically transmitted to nine departments including those for water, electricity, gas, cable TV, and housing provident fund, covering 13 administrative items, achieving fully integrated online processing.

2. One-stop processing for simple bankruptcy cases

Fujian PFTZ's "judicial-administrative collaboration reform for bankrupt

enterprises" establishes a data-sharing and collaborative handling mechanism among courts, tax authorities, and market supervision departments, enabling one-stop processing of simple bankruptcy cases. Previously, when handling simple bankruptcy cases, enterprises needed to first submit relevant materials to the court for case acceptance and adjudication, then proceed to the tax department for tax clearance, and finally go to the market regulatory department for business deregistration. The handling of bankruptcy cases has been slow, due to the need to liaise with multiple departments and repeatedly submit the same documents. Following the reform, departments involved in enterprise bankruptcy—such as courts, tax authorities, and market regulatory agencies—have set up a data exchange and sharing platform for bankruptcy case documents. For straightforward bankruptcy cases, including those of zombie enterprises or small and micro enterprises with no assets to liquidate, the court now centrally collects the necessary materials for tax clearance and business deregistration. Through the platform, administrative approval documents are shared among the three departments, allowing any documents required by one department from another to be exchanged directly, without requiring enterprises or bankruptcy administrators to submit materials repeatedly. This facilitates "one-stop" handling of simple bankruptcy cases.

3. Integrated "single-window acceptance" system for production safety permits of hazardous chemicals and industrial product manufacturing licenses

Guangxi PFTZ's "joint approval reform for safe production permits of hazardous chemicals and industrial product manufacturing" creates a "comprehensive window for joint approval of hazardous chemicals", allowing emergency management and market supervision departments to process both licenses through a single channel. Previously, enterprises had to repeatedly submit the same materials and apply for approval separately to the emergency management

and market supervision departments for these two permits. Following the reform, for enterprises engaged in hazardous chemical production applying simultaneously for renewal, company name changes, and registered address changes, a "one-window acceptance" system has been implemented. Through standardizing and unifying the lists of items and required application materials for the two permits, clarifying form-filling requirements, and streamlining and consolidating approval documents, a "comprehensive window for joint approval of hazardous chemicals" has been created. This window allows for the unified acceptance and issuance of documents, while joint approval is carried out in the background by the emergency management and market supervision departments.

4. New "zero-visit smart inspection" digital governance model

Henan PFTZ's "new 'zero-visit smart inspection' digital governance model" targets seven categories of operational permits requiring on-site inspections, including food operations, pharmaceutical operations, medical device operations, publication retail, human resources services, labor dispatch operations, and auction activities. A "zero-visit smart inspection" module has been added to the zone's government service platform, integrating inspection checklists and review criteria into the system. Inspectors conduct online verification of enterprises based on system prompts. Using VR technology, model layouts for different types of business premises have been created. Enterprises can access the "VR Model Layout" section through the zone's official website or government service platform, compare their own site arrangements with the model requirements, complete their on-site preparations, and upload store design drawings or layout videos for preliminary inspection review.

(III) Further facilitation of tax-related procedures

Some PFTZs have further enhanced the efficiency and convenience of tax-

related services by optimizing the ex-post on-site verification for invoice issuance quota adjustments and by deferring the VAT calculation and payment process to a later stage in real estate transfer registrations.

1. Introducing ex-post on-site verification for invoice issuance quota adjustments

Shandong PFTZ's "credit-based 'prior adjustment, subsequent verification' tax payment and invoicing model for bulk commodity traders" implements a "prior adjustment, subsequent verification" approach for invoice quota adjustments submitted by high-credit taxpayers. Prior to the reform, enterprises submitting online applications for invoice quota adjustments were required to upload supporting materials and wait for approval from the competent authorities before any adjustment could be made. Following the reform, for A-level credit taxpayers and certain high-credit enterprises represented by TSC5-level tax service agencies (the highest credit level for tax-related professional service providers), applications for monthly invoice quota adjustments exceeding RMB 20 million only require online submission without supporting materials. Tax authorities can first adjust the invoice quota online and then conduct subsequent on-site verification, streamlining the process for high-credit enterprises.

2. Deferring the VAT calculation and payment process to a later stage in real estate transfer registrations

Anhui PFTZ introduced the "credit + risk" management mechanism for real estate registration and tax payment". For high-credit enterprises, the VAT calculation and payment, previously required before real estate transfer registration, can now be completed after registration. Prior to the reform, under the "tax-first, certificate-later" principle, both parties in a transaction were required to pay deed tax, stamp duty, and VAT (including land value-added tax) before completing the property

transfer. This process was time-consuming and required extensive documentation, which hindered the efficiency of real estate registration. Following the reform, for real estate transfer registration between A- and B-level credit enterprises, the transferee can proceed directly with real estate registration after paying the deed tax, while the transferor may declare and pay the VAT after the transfer.

2

Institutional Innovation in Trade

(I) Continuous enhancement of the international trade "Single Window" functions

Some PFTZs have further improved the functions of the international trade "Single Window" by incorporating features such as yacht entry and exit declaration and electronic processing of guarantee documents.

1. Addition of yacht entry and exit declaration function to enable paperless processing

Guangdong PFTZ has implemented the "ultra-concise application procedures for Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR yacht entry". By launching the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Navigation Vessel Integrated Service Platform" within the standard transport (vessel) declaration module of the Guangdong international trade "Single Window", a dedicated yacht declaration channel has been established. This enables yachts participating in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao individual yacht travel scheme to complete port inspection procedures for entry and exit directly through the "Single Window". Meanwhile, entry and exit application procedures for yachts have been simplified by adopting a "tolerance for missing documents" approach, achieving paperless and zero-wait-time processing for yacht entry and exit declarations.

2. Addition of electronic handling for deposit documents to achieve full online processing

Hubei PFTZ's "electronic handling for deposit documents" enables the

full-process online handling of deposit-related transactions. Prior to the reform, enterprises had to frequently shuttle between the comprehensive bonded zone, customs, and banks to submit paper-based documents for deposit payment and verification, resulting in time-consuming and complex procedures. Following the reform, Hubei's international trade "Single Window" introduced an "Electronic Deposit Documentation" module, integrating and interconnecting data from customs, banks, and the "Single Window". Enterprises can now complete the entire deposit process online by logging into the "Single Window", eliminating the need for frequent physical document transfers between customs and banks.

(II) Continuous improvement in the customs clearance facilitation

Some PFTZs have further enhanced customs clearance facilitation by optimizing regulatory procedures, innovating regulatory models, and relaxing regulatory restrictions.

1. Optimizing customs clearance supervision procedures

First, front-loading the railway security inspection stage for cross-border e-commerce exports. Guangxi PFTZ's "parallel operation model for customs supervision and railway security inspection of cross-border e-commerce exports" front-loads the railway security inspection process for cross-border e-commerce exports, achieving parallel operations between customs supervision and railway security inspection. Prior to the reform, cross-border e-commerce goods exported via the Nanning Comprehensive Bonded Zone had to undergo customs supervision at the e-commerce regulatory facility within the comprehensive bonded zone before proceeding to the Nanning International Railway Port for consolidated cargo security inspection. Following the reform, the security inspection process originally conducted at the railway port has been front-loaded to the comprehensive

bonded zone. Customs and railway authorities now perform their respective inspections on the same batch of goods simultaneously within the same facility, achieving "parallel on-site operations and coordinated outcomes" for customs supervision and railway security checks.

Second, transforming customs inspection and pre-registration testing of imported automobiles from a sequential to a parallel process. Tianjin PFTZ has introduced the reform initiative of "pre-registration testing of imported automobiles under the 'inspection upon unloading' model", enabling customs inspection and vehicle testing to be carried out in parallel. Prior to the reform, procedures such as enterprise declaration, customs inspection, enterprise inventory checks, and pre-registration testing for imported automobiles had to be conducted sequentially. Only after customs inspection and release could testing institutions register vehicles for inspection based on the declaration and released automobile lists. Following the reform, automobile testing can now proceed concurrently with customs inspections. Testing institutions register automobiles using shipping manifest Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) data and may commence inspections immediately upon verifying consistency with manifest information. Test results are subsequently matched with customs data after enterprise declarations and customs inspections are completed, culminating in the issuance of a formal inspection report.

Third, optimizing customs sampling inspection and testing methods. Guangdong PFTZ's "triple linkage and triple synchronization" regulatory model for Macau-bound chilled aquatic products has shifted the supervision focus from the "declaration batch" to the "production batch", enabling fast inspection & release of aquatic products destined for Macau. Prior to the reform, each batch of ice-fresh aquatic products exported to Macao SAR required separate customs declaration. After the reform, products manufactured by the same enterprise, using the same batch of

raw materials and the same production line are treated as a single regulatory unit, reducing the number of inspections and tests. By integrating multiple factors such as enterprise verification and risk monitoring, fast inspection & release are achieved under comprehensive assessment. **Tianjin PFTZ's "one sample per model" mechanism for customs declarations of imported China-homologated automobiles** shifts the sampling unit from individual automobiles to vehicle models. Prior to the reform, imported automobiles had to be declared separately by product name and specification, with each automobile treated as a separate regulatory unit. Following the reform, the sampling model for imported China-homologated automobiles was optimized. By comprehensively considering factors such as the importer's credit rating, quality assurance capabilities, and the quality and safety status of imported automobiles, automobiles of the same model under the same CCC certificate within the "one sample per vehicle" customs declaration are now consolidated into a single sampling unit. This has reduced the number of sampling inspections, while non-sampled automobiles can be directly transported to the company's storage facility. **Hebei PFTZ's "differentiated inspection model for imported iron ore based on risk levels"** implements a one-time inspection and one-time release for medium- and low-risk imported iron ore. Prior to the reform, according to China's inspection and supervision methods for imported iron ore, customs authorities conducted on-site sampling and laboratory testing after on-site inspection and quarantine clearance, requiring at least two rounds of inspection and testing. Following the reform, a risk management approach has been innovatively integrated into customs inspections of imported iron ore. For imports assessed as medium- to low-risk, a "one-inspection, one-release" model is implemented, allowing direct pickup by commercial vehicles after a single satisfactory on-site inspection during unloading.

Fourth, optimizing the declaration and release process for imported LCL



cargo. Fujian PFTZ's "new regulatory model for imported LCL cargo" has shifted from the previous practice of releasing all cargo only after full declaration at the port to a bill-by-bill release approach. Prior to the reform, imported LCL cargo followed a "declare and release first, then unpack and warehouse" procedure. Unpacking and warehousing could only proceed after all LCL cargo had been declared and released. This often led to delays when some goods in the container remained undeclared or unreleased, severely impacting the timeliness of retrieving already cleared goods. Following the reform, enterprises are permitted to unpack containers at designated areas within the port zone for container operations before declaring, releasing, and retrieving each shipment individually. This effectively mitigates the risk of entire containers being held up at the port due to delayed declarations or random inspections of certain consignments.

Fifth, enhancing the mechanism for cross-border transport vehicles to select entry and exit ports. Xinjiang PFTZ's "mutual recognition and multi-port access for foreign cross-border vehicles" enables enterprises to flexibly select vehicle entry and exit ports within the International Road Transport Management and Service Information System. Prior to the reform, foreign trade enterprises lacked a flexible port selection mechanism. When declaring international road transport, they were required to designate vehicle entry and exit ports in advance. Once confirmed, making changes mid-process was cumbersome, which not only hindered the full utilization of different ports' operating hours but also impacted transport efficiency. Following the reform, the management and service information system for international road transport was innovatively optimized, allowing enterprises to flexibly select vehicle entry and exit ports within the system. Concurrently, an efficient coordinated regulatory mechanism was established among ports, enabling real-time sharing of declaration information for foreign cross-border vehicles entering from

any port. This facilitates collaborative review and timely notification of problematic vehicles, effectively enhancing the safety and efficiency of foreign cross-border transport vehicles.

2. Innovating customs supervision models

Shandong PFTZ's "reform of customs clearance model for enterprise-owned tank containers" implements classified supervision according to the actual cargo status (empty or loaded) of enterprise-owned tank containers, eliminating the need for enterprises to submit separate customs declaration forms. Prior to the reform, enterprise-owned tank containers were not integrated into shipping companies' container dispatch systems. For inbound and outbound enterprise-owned tank containers, enterprises had to follow the "temporarily imported/exported goods" regulatory approach, complete temporary import/export filing and customs clearance procedures, submit separate customs declaration forms, and pay a certain amount of deposit. After the reform, an innovative customs clearance model for companies' inbound and outbound enterprise-owned tank containers was introduced. For empty containers entering or exiting the country, empty container manifests are transmitted, and a request for fast inspection & release of empty containers is submitted to the customs manifest management system. The customs manifest system automatically triggers the verification and release of empty container manifests. For tank containers carrying goods, only cargo manifests are transmitted. Companies only need to declare the goods inside the containers, with no requirement to declare the tank containers themselves or pay any deposit.

3. Easing customs supervision restrictions on freight vehicles

First, relaxing the requirement for fully enclosed metal vehicles in cross-border transport. Xinjiang PFTZ's "new 'soft-tarpaulin sealing' model for international road transport" has established China's first group (technical)



standard for soft-tarpaulin vehicles, permitting non-container trucks meeting customs supervision requirements to operate as customs-regulated vehicles in cross-border transport. Prior to the reform, China's customs regulations required that customs-regulated vehicles engaged in international road freight transport must be operated by domestically registered transport enterprises using fully enclosed metal cargo compartments compliant with Chinese customs supervision standards. Such vehicle bodies were characterized by heavy self-weight and limited cargo capacity, resulting in high unit logistics costs for transport enterprises. Additionally, loading and unloading operations could only be conducted through the rear door of the cargo compartment, leading to constrained working space and prolonged operational time. Some overseas roads cannot accommodate the load-bearing capacity of such heavy-duty vehicles. After the reform, adhering to the principle of the TIR Convention that "the structure of the loading compartment must ensure that its interior cannot be accessed after customs seals are applied, and any tampering is clearly visible", China developed its first group standard for soft-tarpaulin vehicles, titled "Technical Specifications for International Road Transportation of Freight Box with Soft Tarpaulin". This enables soft-tarpaulin vehicles meeting China's customs supervision requirements to engage in international road freight transport.

Second, easing route restrictions for international road transport of hazardous goods. Heilongjiang PFTZ's new "one license for two routes" model for international road transport of dangerous goods innovates by allowing one special vehicle license for international road transport of dangerous goods to correspond to two transport routes. Prior to the reform, vehicles engaged in international road transport of dangerous goods in China, after entering through border ports and obtaining the "Special International Road Transport License" issued by provincial-level transport authorities, were restricted to a single designated

domestic route and specified transshipment stations for loading/unloading operations. When multiple vehicles entered simultaneously, limited transshipment capacity at single stations often caused congestion of vehicles and personnel, posing potential safety risks. Following the reform, leveraging the proximity of two dangerous goods stations within the zone, an additional transport route was introduced alongside the original route—following risk assessments and avoidance of restricted zones for dangerous goods vehicles. The "Special International Road Transport Permit" now includes two designated domestic routes, enabling vehicles to flexibly choose between transfer stations upon entry.

Third, relaxing restrictions on cargo vehicles changing transport modes after arriving at foreign ports. Yunnan PFTZ has pioneered a "China - Vietnam cross-border road transport reform", introducing an innovative "loaded-in, loaded-out" model for freight vehicles from both sides. Prior to the reform, Chinese and Vietnamese cargo trucks arriving at each other's ports were required to switch to vehicles registered in the destination country. Cross-border transport was limited to "loaded-out, empty-in" or "loaded-in, empty-out" operations, meaning that Chinese trucks carrying goods to Vietnamese ports had to return empty after unloading. This resulted in inefficient use of transport capacity and higher logistics costs. Following the reform, the Honghe Area of Yunnan PFTZ and the Management Committee of Vietnam's Lao Cai Economic Zone jointly launched a pilot program enabling direct two-way loaded transport between the Beishan International Freight Yard in Hekou, China and the Kim Thanh Border Gate Freight Yard in Vietnam.

4. Innovating inspection model for import and export electromechanical products

The "new auxiliary inspection model of 'one-code pass' for import and export electromechanical products" in Liaoning PFTZ, utilizing the "auxiliary law



enforcement system for commodity inspection and supervision", achieves efficient supervision of risks associated with import and export electromechanical goods. Prior to the reform, for the inspection of import and export electromechanical products, inspectors needed to access four systems—"Quality and Safety Risk Management System," "Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Consumer Products in China–Europe Trade", "Export Return Management System", and "Used Electromechanical Equipment Management System"—to review relevant risk information separately. This process involved cumbersome identification steps and delays in risk determination. During the inspection process, manual queries were required for relevant product regulations, operational guidelines, and product standards. Following the reform, by developing the "Commodity Inspection Supervision Auxiliary Law Enforcement System", the product-related data from the four management systems were integrated, and a data model for auxiliary law enforcement in import and export commodity inspection supervision was established. This enables automatic retrieval of key product risk factors—such as non-compliance information, overseas notifications, return shipment details, and pre-shipment inspection data for used electromechanical equipment—based on the product's HS code. During inspections, law enforcement personnel can automatically match inspection specifications with relevant regulations and standards using the HS code. By referencing operational guidelines and typical case studies for corresponding product categories, the system provides precise risk assessment results and enforcement recommendations for various electromechanical products, offering a scientific basis for law enforcement.

(III) Tackling challenges of new business forms and models in trade

Some PFTZs have tackled issues such as the return of imports through cross-border retail e-commerce. They have improved the full-chain management system

for new offshore trade, and implemented a grading and classification management system for market procurement trade entities. These efforts promote the continuous development of new trade formats and models.

1. Addressing challenges in cross-border e-commerce development

First, addressing the challenge of return of imports through cross-border retail e-commerce. Zhejiang PFTZ's "innovation in trade facilitation for imports through cross-border retail e-commerce" allows cross-border e-commerce bonded retail imports to be returned across customs zones. Prior to the reform, cross-border e-commerce bonded imports purchased by domestic consumers were typically shipped from special customs supervision areas, such as comprehensive bonded zones and bonded logistics centers in various regions. Upon receiving return requests from consumers, e-commerce platforms were required to transport the returned goods back to the original shipping special customs supervision areas within a specified timeframe. To ensure a satisfactory shopping experience for consumers, enterprises had to establish return warehouses in various "shipping locations", which increased the operational costs for cross-border e-commerce enterprises. Following the reform, the requirement that returned goods must be sent back to their original customs supervision sites has been eliminated. Now, cross-border retail e-commerce shipped from anywhere in China can be uniformly returned to the return warehouse in the Hangzhou Cross-Border E-Commerce Comprehensive Pilot Zone.

Second, addressing the challenge of transporting bonded and non-bonded goods "in the same vehicle and package" for cross-border e-commerce enterprises. Jiangsu PFTZ's initiative, "smart customs facilitating the integrated development of cross-border e-commerce in comprehensive bonded zones for both domestic and international trade", enables co-warehousing, unified declaration for single packages, and consolidated shipment dispatch in the same



vehicle of cross-border e-commerce bonded imports and non-bonded domestic goods. Prior to the reform, when consumers placed orders containing both cross-border e-commerce bonded imports and domestic goods (or complimentary items), enterprises often had to arrange shipments from separate locations—the comprehensive bonded zone and domestic warehouses. This not only increased time and logistics costs for cross-border e-commerce enterprises but also resulted in a suboptimal shopping experience for consumers. Following the reform, the classified supervision functions of comprehensive bonded zones were expanded. Enterprises established connections between their Warehouse Management System (WMS) and the Customs' auxiliary information management system for special customs supervision areas, creating compliant location identifiers and international barcode identifiers for goods. This enabled the classified management of bonded imports and domestic goods within the same warehouse. Enterprises consolidated bonded imports and domestic goods into a single package, declaring them separately through the cross-border system and the classified supervision ledger, thereby achieving unified package declaration. During vehicle pickup, enterprises separately declared shipping documents and linked them to the same vehicle, enabling consolidated shipment of both types of goods out of the zone.

Third, addressing the challenge of low efficiency of full-vehicle inspection in the customs clearance of cross-border e-commerce exports. Guangxi PFTZ's "innovative implementation of split-document inspection mode for cross-border e-commerce exports" has optimized the customs inspection process for cross-border e-commerce exports by shifting from full-vehicle inspection to split-document inspection. Prior to the reform, the customs clearance process for cross-border e-commerce exports required that all goods in a shipment flagged for examination undergo full-vehicle inspection before the entire order could be declared

for export, posing the risk of a single problematic item leading to the detention of the entire order. Following the reform, a supervision framework has been implemented where control measures, inspection, release, and customs clearance are conducted based on the "Customs Declaration Form for Cross-Border E-Commerce Retail Exports" as the unit. All small cross-border e-commerce export parcels pass through sorting lines, with those flagged by control instructions automatically diverted to the inspection area for customs examination, while unflagged parcels are directly released.

2. Improving the full-chain management system for new offshore trade, addressing the separation of cargo flow, capital flow, and document flow

Guangdong PFTZ's "innovative development of new-type offshore trade, pioneering the 'Easy Offshore' service platform", compared to offshore trade management service platforms established in other regions, "Easy Offshore" achieves full-chain management of new-type offshore trade, covering cargo flow, capital flow, and document flow. The "Easy Offshore" platform has established a trinity cross-border digital trade infrastructure comprising "digital trade, financial services, and bank-enterprise collaboration", built an offshore trade risk monitoring system and a statistical framework reflecting the genuine economic contribution of offshore trade. It enables end-to-end digital management of the separated goods flow, capital flow, and document flow, effectively addressing the pain points in the development of new-type offshore trade businesses.

3. Implementing a grading and classification management system for market procurement trade entities, resolving issues of low regulatory efficiency

Zhejiang PFTZ's "innovative classified and hierarchical management system for market procurement export enterprises" establishes a management framework centered on "real-name authentication—classification and grading—differentiated



management", addressing the challenge of low regulatory efficiency caused by insufficient oversight tools and empowerment criteria in market procurement trade. First, implementing real-name authentication to enable classification management. It is stipulated that export enterprises must complete real-name authentication on the connected platform, including company type, actual controller, and business premises, before declaring market procurement business. A verification mechanism is established through system checks, random inspections, and binding with actual controlling enterprises to enable trade traceability. Export declarations are categorized into three types—foreign trade companies, freight forwarding companies, and customs brokers—to achieve full-chain digitalization. Second, conducting graded evaluation to standardize export operations. After completing real-name authentication, enterprises engaged in market procurement trade are assigned A, B, C, or D credit ratings and the "Measures for the Evaluation of Grade A Market Procurement Export Enterprises (Interim)" have been formulated. Grade A enterprises must meet criteria including an annual export volume and foreign exchange settlement amount exceeding US\$3 million. Third, applying differentiated facilitation based on classification and grading. Grade A enterprises are included in the pilot program for trade facilitation, providing efficient and convenient loans, and granting access to an upgraded export credit insurance coverage.

(IV) Further improvement of trade-related government service systems

Some PFTZs have further enhanced trade-related government service systems by innovating approval and certification processing models, optimizing customs tax and fee collection mechanisms, establishing pre-risk assessment systems for imported goods, increasing the digitalization level of customs clearance procedures,

promoting digital transformation in trade, and implementing coordinated cultivation mechanisms for AEO enterprises between customs and tax authorities.

1. Innovating approval and documentation procedures for inbound plant propagation materials and imported vehicles

First, lowering the threshold of enterprise application requirements for special customs approvals of inbound plant propagation materials. The "new model for special approval of inbound plant propagation materials" in Hainan PFTZ allows the scientific research project certification issued by the Sanya Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City Administration to serve as a key requirement for enterprises applying to introduce inbound plant propagation materials. Prior to the reform, the General Administration of Customs implemented a special approval system for the introduction of certain plant genetic materials from areas affected by plant epidemics for scientific research purposes. Applicants were required to obtain approval documents or scientific research project reports issued by provincial- and ministerial- level or higher authorities to proceed with the application. Following the reform, enterprises can submit project applications to the Sanya Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City Administration. Upon passing the assessment, the Administration issues a scientific research project certification, which is recognized by customs as a key requirement for special approval. This has significantly lowered the threshold for enterprises to complete the application process.

Second, integrating two certificates for motor vehicle import procedures. Shanghai PFTZ's "integration of two certificates for motor vehicle import procedures" combines the "Certificate of Cargo Import" and the "Accompanying Inspection Certificate for Imported Motor Vehicles" into a single document. Prior to the reform, imported motor vehicles were required to obtain both the "Certificate of Cargo Import" and the "Accompanying Inspection Certificate for Imported Motor Vehicles"

before being released to the market. The former is a certification document issued by customs upon the consignee's request after completing import clearance procedures for automobiles and motorcycles, while the latter represents customs' conformity assessment conclusion for imported vehicles meeting national mandatory standards. Following the reform, enterprises need to apply only once, and customs can issue a single certificate based on integrated regulatory and inspection conclusions for subsequent vehicle registration procedures with public security authorities, eliminating the need to separately issue the "Certificate of Cargo Import" and the "Accompanying Inspection Certificate for Imported Motor Vehicles".

2. Optimizing the customs tax and fee collection model

First, optimize the administration of export tax rebates for research and development (R&D) and technical service contracts. Shandong PFTZ's "new model for export tax rebates on R&D and technical services" enables the declaration of export tax rebates immediately upon the completion of each R&D project unit. Prior to the reform, export tax rebates for R&D and technical service contracts could only be declared after the contract period had ended. Following the reform, enterprises are permitted to break down contract implementation into multiple project units. Upon completion of each specific R&D project unit, they may promptly submit relevant contract agreements, R&D project lists, project completion delivery reports, and foreign exchange receipt lists to claim export tax rebates on a per-project basis. Competent authorities then conduct audits and process rebates by cross-referencing detailed R&D project cost summaries. This approach not only enhances rebate efficiency but also helps enterprises revitalize their funds.

Second, eliminating pre-clearance contract filing for formula-priced goods. Shandong PFTZ's "customs reform for bulk commodities: 'filing removal and consolidated valuation'" enables formula-priced goods to undergo customs

clearance without pre-filing contracts, with release secured through guarantees during clearance, followed by consolidated price assessment post-clearance. Formula pricing refers to a pricing method in contracts for the sale of goods into China where the buyer and seller do not specify a fixed price but determine the settlement price based on an agreed-upon pricing formula. Prior to the reform, formula-priced goods required cumbersome contract filings before customs declaration. Each customs declaration had to undergo a price review process on a case-by-case basis, leading to prolonged clearance times and a higher risk of vessel demurrage. Following the reform, enterprises with high credit ratings, strong taxpayer management scores, and substantial business volumes were selected. This allows pilot enterprises to bypass traditional contract filing procedures before importing goods. Instead, they can directly process declaration amendments, deposit refunds/transfers, and other formalities based on settlement documents for formula-priced goods, with consolidated valuation procedures conducted post-settlement.

3. Establishing a risk pre-assessment system for imports

Conducting risk pre-assessment for African agricultural and food products that have not yet obtained market access approval in China. Hunan PFTZ's "pre-assessment mechanism for African food exports to China" establishes a pre-assessment mechanism for high-yield, high-quality agricultural and food products from African countries (regions), and based on the evaluation results, proposes simplified access evaluation procedures to the General Administration of Customs. By incorporating the characteristics of African countries' food safety management systems, differentiated assessment plans are developed to comprehensively analyze whether a specific country or category of products meets China's import requirements, resulting in the formulation of a pre-assessment report. Concurrently, based on pre-assessment outcomes, targeted key components for questionnaire evaluations



were identified, streamlining documentation requirements and optimizing access evaluation procedures—including questionnaire-based assessment systems, on-site inspections, and consultations on quarantine conditions. This approach not only provided technical support for the General Administration of Customs to formally initiate market access for African agricultural and food products but also established a "green channel" for products with favorable evaluation results, accelerating the market access process for African food products.

4. Enhancing the intelligence level of customs clearance, weighing, and inspection processes for goods and containers

First, enhancing the intelligent weighing of bulk cargo. Tianjin PFTZ's "new model for intelligent draft survey weighing of bulk cargo" optimizes the weighing methods for bulk cargo and improves the intelligence and informatization of customs weight appraisal operations. Prior to the reform, weight appraisal required customs officers to collect and record over 20 types of data, including the vessel's six-sided draft depth, seawater density, and basic vessel information, followed by complex calculations using formulas. This process was plagued by issues such as heavy reliance on manual computation, low informatization, and difficulties in tracing results. Following the reform, by integrating various computational systems, officers only need to input the collected basic data into the system. Leveraging built-in integrated algorithms, weight assessment results can be generated with a single click. This innovation significantly enhances the accuracy of weight determination.

Second, advancing the intelligent inspection of container bottom checks, high-tier seal verification, and toxic and hazardous gas monitoring on China-Europe railway express. Liaoning PFTZ's "new intelligent inspection and supervision model for China-Europe railway express" has established innovative supervision approaches known as "Smart Eye" inspection and "Smart Breath"

detection for **China-Europe railway** express containers. This is achieved through the use of inspection endoscopes for container bottom checks and high-tier seal verification, along with Smart Breath detection equipment for precise monitoring of toxic and hazardous gases. Prior to the reform, for container bottom checks, certain goods were secured inside containers with wooden or metal frames to prevent collision damage. If such shipments were selected for customs inspection orders, the original structures had to be dismantled for on-site forklift unpacking. This process not only made unpacking and bottom gap checks challenging but also prevented the refixing of frames after repacking, leading to significant safety risks during transit. For high-tier seal verification, due to the small size of container seals, long-distance verification was impossible. When inspecting seals on containers stacked two or more layers high, yard operators had to use cranes to lower high-tier containers to the ground for manual checks. Concerning toxic and hazardous gas monitoring, containerized cargo may contain flammable, explosive, or poisonous substances. This exposes operational personnel to prolonged high-concentration hazardous gas environments, creating on-site enforcement risks. Following the reform, the "Smart Eye" inspection endoscope is utilized to conduct container bottom checks and high-tier seal verification. Industrial endoscopes equipped with wireless transmission technology enable inspections of concealed items in narrow container areas and cavities beneath large mechanical equipment, as well as high-tier seal verification. The footage is transmitted in real time to mobile terminals and recorded. The "Smart Breath" detection system monitors hazardous gases using six gas sensors for targeted detection of flammable and explosive substances. When gas concentration exceeds preset thresholds, an audible alarm activates while field data transmits simultaneously to cloud platforms, enabling remote risk assessment and command decision-making.



5. Promoting digital transformation in trade

Hubei PFTZ's "International Trade Digital Platform" facilitates the digital transformation and upgrading of trade by establishing an international trade digital platform. The Hubei International Trade Digital Platform adopts a "1+4" platform design architecture, constructing one foundational data hub—the international trade big data center—and establishing four core supporting systems: "digital application market, diversified service ecosystem, digital supply chain, and AI algorithm models". This digital approach helps enterprises accurately identify overseas markets and enhance operational efficiency.

6. Establishing coordinated cultivation mechanism for AEO enterprises by customs and tax authorities

Shandong PFTZ's "Tax-Customs Credit Connect: a new model for AEO shared empowerment" innovates the joint cultivation mechanism for AEO enterprises by customs and tax authorities, enabling mutual recognition and sharing of facilitation measures for relevant enterprises. Customs provides "one-on-one" targeted credit cultivation services for enterprises classified as Category I for export tax rebates by tax authorities, prioritizes AEO certification for mature enterprises, and includes Category II export tax rebate enterprises identified by tax authorities as key targets for credit cultivation. Tax authorities apply streamlined Category I export tax rebate facilitation measures to AEO enterprises certified by customs, compressing the tax rebate processing timeline to within three working days. Selected key AEO enterprises benefit from "immediate reporting, approval, refund, and real-time fund transfer" facilitation measures for export tax rebates, while enterprises under customs' key credit cultivation program are managed under Category II export tax rebate procedures.

(V) Innovating shipping service management models

Some PFTZs have optimized maritime administrative service models, innovated supply mechanisms for medicines and medical equipment on international voyages, improved relevant standards in the shipping sector, and promoted continuous optimization of shipping service management models.

1. Optimizing government service models for shipping

First, implementing parallel handling for ship registry transfer, ship inspection certificates, and ship operation permits. Fujian PFTZ's "on-voyage certification model for ship registry transfer" breaks cross-departmental barriers among maritime, ship inspection, and port authorities, advancing the processing of ship inspection certificates and operation permits to coincide with ship registry transfer. Prior to the reform, the "in-operation certification" for ship registry transfer allowed shipowners to apply for registry transfer procedures simultaneously to both the new and old port state control authorities while the vessel remained operational. The maritime authorities conducted synchronized approvals and issued ship ownership certificates concurrently. However, ship inspection certificates and operation permits still had to be processed after the completion of the ship registry transfer. Following the reform, barriers between maritime, ship inspection, and port authorities were eliminated. The three departments implemented mechanisms for information sharing, parallel approval, and mutual recognition of results, enabling parallel handling of ship inspection certificates, ship operating permits, and ship registry transfers.

Second, maritime, transport, ship inspection, and financial insurance departments have implemented parallel processing of documents required for vessel operation. Zhejiang PFTZ's "integrated innovation in cross-departmental port and shipping services for international voyage vessels with



"non-stop navigation + anchorage inspection + punctual operation" achieves cross-departmental parallel processing of certificates required by maritime affairs, transportation, ship inspection, financial insurance, and other departments before vessels enter into operation. Prior to the reform, over 30 certificates across 7 categories—including ownership, nationality, ship inspection, insurance, and operation permits—required before ships could operate involved interdependent approvals from maritime affairs, transportation, ship inspection, and financial insurance departments. Shipowners often had to repeatedly shuttle between departments, resulting in time-consuming and complex procedures. Following the reform, a "one-stop, multi-certificate processing" mechanism was established. Applicants now only need to submit a single application form to the maritime affairs department, using the department's issued receipt as a prerequisite document for other agencies. The four departments share data on vessel registration, operation, inspection, and insurance through an official platform, enabling parallel processing of related certificates.

Third, carrying out the reform of integrating multiple certificates required by ships and seafarers into one. Jiangsu PFTZ's "implementation of electronic certificate reform of integrating multiple certificates required for ships and seafarers into one" consolidates multiple certificates required for ships and seafarers, enabling "one certificate for ship passage" and "one certificate for seafarer employment". It integrates six types of ship certificates, such as the nationality certificate for inland waterway vessels, and three types of competency certificates for inland waterway vessel seafarers, along with 13 types of training qualification certificates for inland waterway vessel seafarers, into the "Inland Waterway Vessel Navigation Qualification Certificate" and the "Inland Waterway Vessel Seafarer Qualification Certificate". Additionally, electronic certificates are issued simultaneously during the application process.

Fourth, innovating the maritime grain transportation service mechanism. The **"new regulatory service mechanism for maritime grain transport"** in **Liaoning PFTZ** ensures the safety and smooth flow of maritime grain transport channels by establishing a "vessel selection assistant" mechanism, creating green channels, and implementing proactive maritime services. First, to address the pre-reform issue where many enterprises blindly signed contracts with shipping companies that did not meet grain transport conditions, leading to vessel defaults and economic losses, the "vessel selection assistant" mechanism was established. Under this mechanism, carriers voluntarily submit applications, and maritime authorities evaluate them based on ten criteria including vessel certificates, crew allocation, management company performance, and maritime accidents. The final evaluation results are provided to enterprises as reference recommendations, allowing them to independently select transport vessels and assume the risks of vessel leasing. Second, to resolve pre-reform challenges where some carrier vessels lacked comprehensive understanding of destination ports' meteorological and hydrological conditions, port schedules, customs clearance procedures, and documentation processes—often leading to high transport costs during berthing, cargo handling, and import/export formalities that drove up transport costs—the maritime authorities established a green channel. Leveraging the "Single Window" and "Maritime One-Stop Service" platforms, this initiative enables fully online and immediate processing of all approval procedures for vessel entry, operations, and departure. Third, prior to the reform, maritime authorities needed to verify numerous transportation qualification documents and inspect vessel safety conditions, which often caused prolonged port stays for vessels. To resolve this, an information coordination platform involving relevant parties such as maritime authorities, port authorities, shipping companies, vessels, and their agents was established. Before a vessel's arrival, the ship operator or agent submits specific



documents for grain transport vessels, such as the "Certificate of Seaworthiness", "Loading Manual", and "Stability Calculation Data", online for preliminary review by the maritime authorities. Other entities, including terminals and shipping companies, can simultaneously access the relevant materials on the platform. For vessels requiring on-site inspections upon arrival, the focus is solely on key aspects such as the operational condition of vessel equipment and life-saving appliances.

2. Introducing innovative models for supplying pharmaceuticals and medical devices to international vessels

Shanghai PFTZ has pioneered the "supply model of pharmaceuticals and medical device for international vessels" through the issuance of the "Provisions on the Supply Guarantee of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device for International Voyage Vessels in Pudong New Area", an innovative regulatory system for the supply of pharmaceuticals and medical device on international cargo ships. Prior to the reform, due to constraints preventing Chinese ship supply service enterprises from standardizing the provision of pharmaceutical and medical device replenishment services to international voyage ships in port, part of the replenishment market was lost to foreign ports such as Singapore and Busan, South Korea. With the reform, the "Provisions" introduces innovative models for supplying pharmaceuticals and medical devices to international vessels. First, pharmaceutical and medical device operators are introduced into the traditional ship supply model, and a closed-loop supply process involving pharmaceutical operators, ship supply service providers, and shipping companies is established. Second, a restricted pharmaceutical and medical device operation license for ship supply service enterprises is introduced, which limits the supply targets (international ocean-going vessels) and restricts the catalog of pharmaceutical and medical device categories. Third, a multi-department online information supervision platform involving customs, maritime affairs,

drug administration, and shipping authorities is established, which breaks down interdepartmental joint regulation barriers, ensures full traceability throughout the medical supply process, and enables a comprehensive pharmaceutical and medical device supply guarantee system for international shipping vessels.

3. Exploring and refining standards in the shipping sector

First, exploring the establishment of domestic safety standards for lithium-ion battery maritime transport. Liaoning PFTZ's "innovation in transport standards for shipment of large lithium-ion battery cargoes" initiative advanced the "Technical Requirements for Safe Transport of Lithium-ion Batteries by Ships" to become China's first standard for the waterway transport of lithium-ion batteries. The "Technical Requirements" specify, for the first time in the transportation industry standards, detailed safety technical provisions covering the classification and numbering of lithium-ion batteries shipped by vessels, requirements for the batteries, packaging and cargo transport units, consignment, loading and unloading, carriage, and emergency response, providing a professional standard for the safe maritime export of lithium-ion batteries.

Second, exploring the establishment of domestic guidelines for the safe maritime transport of containerized lithium-ion battery energy storage systems. Fujian PFTZ's "innovative maritime safety assurance mechanism for containerized lithium-ion battery energy storage systems" has formulated the "Xiamen Port Maritime Safety Transport Guidelines for Containerized Lithium Battery Energy Storage Systems" to prevent and mitigate safety risks associated with the maritime transport of energy storage containers. Prior to the reform, energy storage containers were classified as Class 9 dangerous goods in international maritime transport. Using containers as integrated transport units led to applicability disputes, including definitions inconsistent with existing conventions and challenges



in conducting testing and inspection methods. Additionally, practical experience in the maritime transport of oversized and overweight customized products remains limited, with insufficient technical data support and the absence of unified technical specifications or standards for such shipments. Following the reform, the "Guidelines" proposes that container inspection agencies conduct compliance certification tests for modified energy storage containers. This approach ensures secure installation of lithium-ion battery modules while improving loading efficiency. Additionally, it establishes reasonable testing requirements, compliance inspections, and preventive measures tailored to potential maritime conditions such as turbulence, seawater exposure, rain, fog, and extreme heat from sun exposure, thereby achieving comprehensive checklist-based management for the entire chain of energy storage container maritime transport.

Third, filling gaps in the inspection institution for gas carrier vessels under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and various regional Port State Control Memoranda of Understanding. Zhejiang PFTZ's "institutional opening-up of international maritime inspection standards" incorporates the drafted "Port State Control Inspection Guidelines for the IGC Code" into the Asia-Pacific Port State Control Manual, establishing it as a regional inspection standard. The "Inspection Guidelines" cover structural principles and daily maintenance management of gas carriers, key inspection points for critical equipment on gas carriers, as well as design principles and daily maintenance management of dual-fuel systems, effectively enhancing the safety supervision efficiency of gas carriers and ensuring their operational safety in ports.

Report on China's Pilot Free Trade Zones

2025



3

Institutional Innovation in Financial Services for the Real Economy

(I) Further facilitation of cross-border settlement

Some PFTZs support maritime border trade agencies in using foreign exchange for settlement, and expand the scope of high-standard opening-up pilot programs for cross-border trade and investment, in a bid to further facilitate cross-border settlement.

1. Supporting maritime border trade agencies in using foreign exchange for settlement

Guangxi PFTZ's "innovative cross-border financial services mechanism for border trade" implements a pilot model of foreign exchange payments by agencies for processing on arrival of imported goods in border trade, supporting maritime border trade agencies in using foreign exchange for settlement. Prior to the reform, under the maritime border trade pilot model, border residents entrusted agencies to sign trade contracts and handle foreign exchange payments, while import customs declarations were still completed by the border residents. This resulted in a mismatch between the entity making the foreign exchange payment and the entity handling customs declarations, which was inconsistent with the foreign exchange regulatory principle of "foreign-exchange payment by the importer". Following the reform, the regulation of "foreign-exchange payment by the importer" was adjusted to allow registered agencies, when handling import payments for the processing of imported goods under the pilot border trade model, to adopt a transaction method where the payment

entity and customs declaration entity are inconsistent and use foreign exchange for settlement. This effectively meets the multi-currency settlement demands of maritime border trade.

2. Expanding the high-standard opening-up pilot for cross-border trade and investment

Zhejiang PFTZ's "iterative integrated innovation in foreign exchange for overseas talents" expands the high-standard opening-up pilot for cross-border trade and investment to foreign exchange for overseas talents, to address the inconvenience faced by high-quality enterprises in handling foreign exchange transactions for their overseas talents. In response to long-standing issues such as the separation of corporate and personal banking departments and operations, a new integrated "corporate + personal" current account foreign exchange service was introduced. For overseas talents—such as expatriates and employees posted overseas—of high-quality enterprises covered by the pilot, a five-dimensional profiling system (amount, currency, purpose, age, and season) was established. Differentiated management measures were applied to foreign exchange entities based on their risk levels to ensure mutual credit binding between enterprises and employees, thereby enhancing the convenience of two-way foreign exchange transactions for overseas talents in high-quality enterprises.

(II) New breakthroughs in supporting the industrial development

Some PFTZs have achieved new breakthroughs in ensuring that financial services serve the real economy by establishing co-managed accounts to overcome challenges in international factoring, developing green leasing standards to address difficulties in green financial leasing, introducing ultra-short-term compulsory traffic insurance to reduce the burden of cross-border transport insurance, facilitating



accounts receivable financing for technology contracts to resolve financing difficulties for technology-based companies.

1. Establishing co-managed accounts to overcome challenges in international factoring

Tianjin PFTZ's "integrated domestic and foreign currency co-managed account + priority claim right" innovative model effectively resolves the conflict between the principle of "foreign-exchange receipt by the exporter" and the factoring companies' right to receive payments. Prior to the reform, under the foreign exchange management principle of "foreign-exchange receipt by the exporter", commercial factoring companies lacked the authority to engage in external goods trade. They were unable to open accounts or settle foreign exchange in the name of exporters, leading to issues of "loss of guarantee coverage" and significant obstacles to the development of international commercial factoring business. Following the reform, an innovative model of "integrated domestic and foreign currency co-managed dedicated account + priority claim right" was introduced. Export enterprises open dedicated accounts in their own names at banks specifically for receiving factoring payments, which are overseen by both the enterprises and factoring companies. Through this "one account, dual oversight" approach, factoring companies gain actual control over the account funds, and the conflict between the principle of "foreign-exchange receipt by the exporter" and the factoring companies' right to receive payments is effectively addressed.

2. Developing green leasing standards to address difficulties in green financial leasing

Tianjin PFTZ's "innovation in green leasing evaluation mechanism" establishes a green leasing evaluation mechanism and implements integrated institutional arrangements for green leasing. Prior to the reform, green leasing projects

were not included in the scope of bank green credit due to the lack of clear industry norms and standards, making it difficult for them to access green financial policy support. Following the reform, systematic green financial leasing policy documents—such as the "Implementation Plan for High-quality Development of Green Financial Leasing in Tianjin Dongjiang Comprehensive Bonded Zone"—were formulated to establish mechanisms for identifying and evaluating green financial leasing projects, effectively addressing such problems as the lack of green standards and supporting regulations and difficulties in certification on the leasing market.

3. Innovating financing and credit models to address funding challenges for technology-based enterprises and SMEs

Shaanxi PFTZ's "new model of financing through securitization of technology property rights and assets" pioneers a new channel for technology-based enterprises to secure financing using accounts receivable from technology contracts. Under this model, eligible technology-based enterprises pledge their technology property rights and receivables from technology contracts to the underlying asset holder. The originator then constructs an underlying asset pool, with technology property rights accounting for no less than 70% and receivables from technology transaction contracts no less than 20%. This pool is used to issue asset-backed securities (ABS) through stock exchanges, which activates the technological assets of technology-based enterprises and enables them to secure financing.

Sichuan PFTZ's "intellectual property pledge-based customs guarantee model" establishes a multi-party coordination mechanism involving functional departments such as science and technology, commerce, and market supervision authorities, intellectual property trading platforms and financial institutions. This mechanism identifies high-tech enterprises with high ratings and strong qualifications, cross-references them with information about import-export trade demand maintained



by commerce departments, and forms a "whitelist" of pilot enterprises for intellectual property pledge-based customs guarantees, which is submitted to the provincial intellectual property office for record-keeping. This list serves as a key basis for pilot banks to provide enterprises with expedited credit review and loan facilities. Banks determine credit lines for enterprises' high-value patents by integrating the recommended valuation and financing quotas from the Chengdu Intellectual Property Trading Center with their five-dimensional (legal, market, technological, financial, and managerial) assessment system, and issue customs guarantees based on the approved credit lines, thereby effectively addressing the challenges of "difficult credit access and slow customs clearance".

Hebei PFTZ's "government procurement 'digital currency loan' model for empowering SME financing" pioneers the "digital currency loan" corporate financing instrument. This initiative increases the advance payment ratio for government procurement contracts to 80%, with 30% – 50% of the contract amount transferred via conventional methods to the supplier's bank settlement account, and the rest disbursed in digital currency to the supplier's digital RMB wallet. This approach alleviates financial pressure on SMEs and encourages financial institutions to use the digital RMB-denominated government procurement contract advance payments as collateral to provide financing loans to awarded suppliers and secondary suppliers.

(III) Exploration of registration model for non-monetary trust properties

Beijing PFTZ's "pilot registration model for non-monetary trust properties" innovates a registration model for non-monetary trust properties such as real estate and equity, and explores the establishment of a registration system for non-monetary trust assets. Prior to the reform, China's existing laws and regulations lacked specific

provisions for the transfer registration of non-monetary trust properties like real estate and equity. Consequently, establishing trusts using such assets could only disclose property rights changes but not trust registration. Following the reforms, the issuance of the "Notice on Conducting Registration of Real Estate Trust Property (Interim)" and the "Notice on Conducting Registration of Equity Trust Property (Interim)" clarifies the requirements, scope of application, and procedures for the registration of real estate and equity trust properties. Through the process of "pre-registration of trust products, signing of trust documents, and registration of trust property", the long-standing challenge of verifying rights for non-monetary trust properties in China's trust industry is resolved.

(IV) Development of a cross-departmental, full-process regulatory system for financial account opening risks

Shandong PFTZ's "precise prevention mechanism for corporate financial account opening risks" addresses the potential risks of enterprises opening multiple accounts that could be exploited for telecom fraud by establishing a full-process, cross-departmental risk supervision system. With the increasing convenience of enterprise registration and financial account opening, some criminals have exploited this to open multiple accounts for illegal activities such as telecom fraud. To effectively mitigate such risks, an information-sharing and administrative-criminal linkage mechanism involving banks, public security organs, and procuratorates has been established. This mechanism enables full-process sharing of information related to enterprise registration, bank account opening, law enforcement case handling by public security organs, and case acceptance by procuratorates. As a result, financial risks are effectively prevented.



4

Institutional Innovation in Whole-Process Supervision

(I) Continuous improvement in integrated supervision

Some PFTZs have enhanced the level of regulatory integration by implementing measures such as whole-process smart supervision, multi-department parallel supervision, collaborative supervision, and comprehensive credit-based supervision in specific areas.

1. Whole-process smart supervision

First, implementing smart supervision by integrating the whole process, including cross-border e-commerce customs declaration and logistics. Zhejiang PFTZ's "new model of smart integrated supervision for whole-process cross-border e-commerce" focuses on digital supervision of the entire cross-border e-commerce import process, including declaration, tax payment, first-line border entry, physical inventory management, and second-line release of parcels. At the declaration stage, a smart customs declaration hall has been established to facilitate seamless submission and retrieval of documents and samples by enterprises. For tax payment, electronic payment of import taxes and digital tax guarantees are being piloted for cross-border retail e-commerce. During first-line entry, monitoring modules and intelligent checkpoint management systems have been deployed to enable swift cargo clearance into the zone. In inventory management, digital warehouse upgrades allow automated data connectivity and collection, mitigating risks such as inventory discrepancies. For parcel dispatch, embedded

supervision is applied, with smart inspection platforms integrated into sorting lines to enable contactless clearance for non-targeted parcels.

Second, implementing smart supervision over the whole pharmaceutical production process. Zhejiang PFTZ's "continuous exploration of a new 'black box' model for digital-intelligent drug supervision to support China's medicine valley" has established a data repository for receiving and storing key production data from pharmaceutical companies, achieving comprehensive, round-the-clock, fully automated remote intelligent regulation of drug production. According to relevant national regulations, supervision for manufacturers of oral preparations and topical medications is required to achieve full coverage within three years. Manufacturers of injectables and eye drops must undergo inspections at least once a year, while producers of narcotic drugs, Class-1 psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals for drug manufacturing shall undergo inspection no less than once per quarter. Prior to the reform, traditional on-site inspections lacked targeted leads, often resulting in difficulties in identifying potential risks, delayed responses to risk incidents, and challenges in reconstructing facts during post-event investigations. Following the reform, a data repository has been established to cover four key scenarios: pharmaceutical manufacturers, medical device manufacturers, cosmetic producers, and retail pharmacies. It enables 24/7 real-time monitoring and automatic collection of critical parameters affecting drug quality during production at essential stages such as raw material sourcing, production processes, quality testing, and product release. The data repository employs dual-password technology to ensure that stored key parameters cannot be altered, destroyed, or leaked, effectively guaranteeing data authenticity and security. This achieves traceability of production sources, trackability of distribution flows, and controllability of product quality.

2. Integrated multi-department collaborative supervision

First, implementing parallel multi-departmental supervision throughout

the whole process of special goods entry. Shanghai PFTZ's "pilot program for facilitating the import and export of special biopharmaceutical materials in Zhangjiang Science City" integrates regulatory efforts from customs, commerce, health, market, science and technology, ecology and environment, transportation, and public security departments to implement parallel supervision over the entire lifecycle of imported special items including R&D, production, transportation, storage, sales, and waste disposal. Prior to the reform, enterprises importing special items had to undergo multiple procedures including risk assessment, quarantine approval, customs declaration, and post-entry supervision under the sequential supervision of different authorities. This complex and time-consuming process constrained the enhancement of corporate R&D efficiency to some extent. Following the reform, Zhangjiang Science City established a joint safety supervision platform for imported special items, breaking down barriers to cross-departmental information sharing and coordinated oversight. The platform enables parallel supervision of the whole process covering R&D, production, transportation, storage, sales, and waste disposal by authorities including Shanghai customs, commerce commission of the new area, health commission, market supervision administration, science and technology commission, ecology and environment bureau, construction and transport commission, and public security bureau. These departments conduct centralized evaluations of all stages involving imported special items such as blood and cells. Qualified enterprises with strong compliance records are included in a "whitelist", allowing for "single declaration, single risk assessment, and batch verification".

Second, implementing integrated multi-departmental supervision for the whole process of ship sewage management. Anhui PFTZ's "new system for whole-process supervision of ship sewage" integrates regulatory forces from maritime affairs, transport enforcement, and other departments to conduct real-

time monitoring of the whole process of ship sewage generation, delivery, transfer, and disposal. By establishing an IoT-based monitoring system for the entire ship sewage process, it tracks sewage generation, delivery, transfer, and disposal. Upon detecting illegal discharge activities, the system automatically sends alerts to maritime authorities, transport enforcement teams, and other regulatory bodies, forming a closed-loop collaborative supervision mechanism for the complete ship sewage management cycle.

3. Comprehensive credit-based supervision through product "traceability codes" and merchant "integrity codes"

Heilongjiang PFTZ's "'Suifenhe Credit Code' new model for imported food supervision services" integrates product "traceability codes" and merchant "integrity codes" into a unified "Suifenhe Credit Code", advancing product traceability and credit system development at the same time. Prior to the reform, the traceability of imported goods and the development of merchant credit systems were often pursued separately, making it difficult for consumers to accurately identify associated risks. Following the reform, the "Suifenhe Credit Code" integrates merchant credit information from Credit China (Suifenhe, Heilongjiang), the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System (Heilongjiang), and the "Internet + Regulation" platform, while simultaneously enabling product traceability, anti-counterfeiting measures, and supply chain monitoring. By scanning the code once, consumers can check both product traceability and credit inquiry/evaluation, transforming the previous single-department oversight of imported food into a multi-stakeholder, societal, credit-based regulation system.

(II) Continuous improvement of dispute resolution and judicial enforcement mechanisms

Several PFTZs have enhanced diversified commercial dispute resolution

mechanisms and promoted cross-departmental regulatory and enforcement collaboration, thereby improving dispute resolution and judicial enforcement systems.

1. Enhancing diversified commercial dispute resolution mechanisms

First, establishing mediation platforms tailored to emerging sectors such as international digital trade and digital finance. Under Jiangsu PFTZ's "alignment with DEPA to build a new model for digital trade dispute mediation", the Nanjing Jiangbei New Area International Digital Trade and Digital Financial Mediation Center is established, effectively addressing the challenges of resolving international commercial disputes in emerging sectors like digital trade and digital finance. Leveraging a full-chain notarization service platform for digital trade, the Mediation Center is built on the foundation of evidence preservation through digital depository and digital contracts. It integrates two core functions: the digital signing of trade, service, and labor contracts, and the digital depository of payment settlements, logistics, financial documents, and data. By ensuring the legality, authenticity, standardization, and visualization of evidence, it resolves prominent issues such as difficulties in evidence collection and presentation in international digital trade and digital finance commercial disputes. **Yunnan PFTZ's "diversified mediation and governance model for the jewelry and jade live streaming industry"** has standardized online live streaming marketing of jewelry and jade by rationalizing regulatory mechanisms, strengthening registration management, and implementing a "blacklist" system. Through various consumer dispute mediation methods such as "people's mediation + judicial confirmation", "industry mediation + community policing", and "online mediation + online agreements", it promotes the resolution of consumer disputes in the jewelry and jade sector.

Second, introducing a settlement-by-offer procedure in the adjudication of intellectual property civil cases. Guangdong PFTZ's "reform on settlement-

by-offer procedures to explore diversified dispute resolution mechanisms", drawing on extraterritorial litigation rules, innovatively introduced settlement-by-offer procedures, allowing parties to propose clear and specific settlement offers by referencing adjudication standards from analogous cases before a judgment is rendered. Specifically, during the trial of civil intellectual property cases, if one party proposes an offer and settlement solution and the other party accepts it, the court may, upon application by either or both parties, issue a mediation document and appropriately reduce or waive litigation costs based on the circumstances of the case. If the other party refuses the settlement-by-offer without justifiable reason, and the court's final judgment is not more favorable to the refusing party than the settlement-by-offer, the court will comprehensively consider various factors and increase the portion of litigation costs borne by the refusing party. This mechanism encourages parties in civil and commercial cases to reasonably and prudently consider settlement requests, optimizes the allocation of judicial resources, and promotes the timely and efficient resolution of civil and commercial disputes.

Third, permitting the sale of real property by the debtor while under seizure. Shandong PFTZ's "new model for 'transfer of seized real property ownership'" enables debtors to sell seized property on their own, bypassing judicial auction procedures. Prior to the reform, traditional enforcement procedures involved property disposal through judicial auctions, and would typically require processes such as property investigation, appraisal, public notice, first auction, second auction, forced sale, transfer of ownership, and eviction. This resulted in lengthy disposal cycles, cumbersome procedures, high costs, significant value uncertainty, and strong resistance to delivery. Following the reform, a pioneering approach is introduced by involving notarial institutions in mediation. After debtors and attaching creditors reach an agreement on self-disposal of assets for debt repayment, the People's Court issue

legal documents approving the debtor's self-disposal. At the same time, the notary institution establishes a dedicated escrow account. After the buyer and seller sign the housing sales contract, the purchaser make the payment into the escrow account. The real estate registration authority, relying on documents such as the housing sales contract, legal instruments, and escrow certificates, transfers seized real property ownership and complete the property delivery.

2. Advancing cross-departmental supervision and enforcement

Fujian PFTZ's "cross-regional collaboration mechanism for business entity registration and arbitration" establishes an cross-departmental information sharing and collaboration system between market supervision and labor arbitration authorities, effectively resolving issues such as malicious corporate changes or deregistration aimed at evading labor rights and other obligations. During case filing, labor arbitration institutions immediately synchronize involved business entity information to market supervision authorities for source-level alerts. Throughout case proceedings, market supervision authorities implement dynamic interception by flagging warning indicators in registration systems, issuing risk notifications when involved entities attempt deregistration or modifications, and lawfully suspending simplified deregistration or alteration applications. Upon case resolution, market supervision authorities lift warning statuses, achieving closed-loop feedback and full-cycle dynamic management of relevant labor arbitration cases.

(III) Further improvement of risk early-warning and prevention

Some PFTZs have established cross-departmental data sharing mechanisms to further enhance risk early-warning and prevention systems.

Shandong PFTZ's "new regulatory model for tax-related services of insurance agents" breaks down data-sharing barriers across financial regulatory,

taxation, and insurance association departments, implementing integrated supervision of insurance agents. Prior to the reform, the process of issuing summarized value-added tax invoices on behalf of insurance agents was initiated by insurance enterprises. They self-reported natural persons' information and submitted it to tax authorities for invoicing. Due to the vast number of individual insurance agents and the lack of confirmation with natural persons in the summarized invoicing process, coupled with tax authorities' limited access to information about insurance brokerage practitioners, there was a heightened risk of fraudulent use of invoicer information. Following the reform, a collaborative mechanism is established among tax authorities, financial regulators, and insurance associations. This mechanism enables cross-departmental sharing and utilization of data, including individual insurance agents' practice registration information, individual income tax withholding and remittance details, and summarized invoicing records from the Golden Tax System Phase III's core collection and management platform. By linking data from competent authorities with invoicing data and electronic tax information of natural persons, the system compares the amounts on summarized invoices with the income amounts declared by insurance companies for individual income tax withholding and remittance. This effectively mitigates the risks of natural persons being involuntarily issued invoices, having income attributed to them, or being subjected to tax payments without their knowledge.

5

Institutional Innovation in Industrial Opening-up and Development

(I) Tackling bottlenecks and challenges in industrial development

Some PFTZs, guided by a problem-oriented approach, have tackled difficulties in accessing rare disease drugs approved overseas but not domestically and inefficiencies and quality issues in seed breeding and production systems.

1. Resolving difficulties in accessing rare disease drugs approved overseas but not domestically

Beijing PFTZ's "Four Optimizations and One Revitalization" to ensure rare disease drug accessibility establishes a comprehensive "whitelist" system covering rare disease drugs for urgent clinical needs, import enterprises, and medical institutions by optimizing regulatory mechanisms, adopting joint inspection models, streamlining logistics and distribution channels, and strengthening interdepartmental coordination. This framework ensures end-to-end management of drug importation, distribution, and utilization to guarantee effective rare disease medication access. Under this framework, whitelisted medical institutions may submit temporary import applications for rare disease drugs based on clinical needs. Whitelisted drug import enterprises are permitted to conduct storage, importation, and distribution of these clinically urgent drugs under a bonded inventory model. Whitelisted medical institutions can import and use these drugs multiple times within nationally approved quotas according to clinical demand, effectively guaranteeing both the supply and safe use of clinically urgent drugs for rare diseases.

2. Addressing inefficiencies and quality issues in seed breeding and production systems

Hainan PFTZ's "establishment of a seed industry R&D service system" extends the contract research organization (CRO) model from pharmaceutical enterprises to the seed industry, creating an integrated, full-chain CRO service system for the off-season seed breeding in Hainan. Prior to the reform, researchers at scientific institutions and seed enterprises were not only responsible for scientific breeding but also for tasks such as land selection, trial planting, and field management—non-research activities that, to some extent, hindered improvements in breeding quality and breakthroughs in key core technologies of the seed industry. Following the reform, the CRO model of pharmaceutical enterprises was extended to the seed industry, creating the CRO integrated service platform for smart off-season seed breeding in Hainan. This platform provides "one-stop" online selection and reservation of CRO services for breeding enterprises and teams, including land selection, labor services, agricultural machinery, inspection and testing, and instrument equipment. It also offers various laboratory breeding services such as gene sequencing, molecular testing, seed quality testing, variety testing, germplasm resource identification, gene editing technology applications, and physiological analysis and testing. This has effectively enhanced the efficiency of breeding researchers and reduced the costs of off-season seed breeding in Hainan.

(II) Improvement of standardized and institutionalized system for industrial growth

Some PFTZs have strengthened the standardization and institutional framework for industrial development by establishing measurement standards for vertical liquefied natural gas storage tanks, formulating cross-border express logistics



service standards between China and Viet Nam, developing full-chain standards for the remanufacturing of construction machinery, creating comprehensive regulatory systems for the recreational fisheries industry, and implementing supporting frameworks for green and low-carbon transformation.

1. Exploring the establishment of capacity measurement standards for vertical liquefied natural gas storage tanks

Zhejiang PFTZ's "pioneering calibration method for vertical LNG storage tank capacity" has developed a calibration approach for vertical LNG storage tanks, enabling rapid and accurate measurement of LNG tank volumes. This measurement method, through research on spatial dimension precision algorithms based on massive point cloud data, overcomes key technical bottlenecks such as capacity correction between measurement conditions and ultra-low temperature (-163 ° C) conditions, processing of cross-sectional measurement data for storage tanks, and static pressure deformation correction for various LNG tank types. It effectively meets the needs of the domestic traceability system for vertical LNG storage tank capacity and resolves industry development constraints characterized by inability to measure, measurement inaccuracies, incomplete data, and slow processes.

2. Formulating service standards for cross-border express logistics between China and Vietnam

Guangxi PFTZ's "innovative implementation of service standards for cross-border express logistics between China and Viet Nam", through the establishment of China-Viet Nam cross-border express logistics service standards, effectively addresses issues such as difficulties in returning cross-border e-commerce goods and low efficiency in cross-border express delivery caused by differing standards between China and Viet Nam. Building on China's express delivery industry standards, the market regulatory authorities of Pingxiang and Chongzuo, in collaboration with the

Chongzuo Area, jointly developed three group standards: "Specifications for Inbound Warehouse Management of Cross-Border Express Logistics", "Specifications for Outbound Warehouse Management of Cross-Border Express Logistics", and "Specifications for Sorting and Consolidation Management of Cross-Border Express Logistics". This initiative has broken down standardization barriers between cross-border express logistics enterprises in China and Viet Nam, thereby enhancing the system for exporting cross-border logistics service standards.

3. Promoting the full-chain development of the remanufacturing industry for construction machinery through standardization

Hunan PFTZ's "'standard + certification' closed-loop management model to drive high-quality development of construction machinery remanufacturing industry" establishes a full-chain management system for the construction machinery remanufacturing industry through cross-regional joint standard formulation, inspection and certification, and comprehensive quality traceability. First, formulating cross-regional standards. Collaborating with relevant institutions in Hainan, Hunan PFTZ co-drafted the "General Technical Requirements for the Maintenance and Remanufacturing of Used Construction Machinery for Export". This document not only covers general technical specifications for all categories of construction machinery but also proposes specialized inspection indicators for key export models such as excavators and concrete pump trucks, filling the gap in domestic standards for the remanufacturing and maintenance of exported construction machinery. Second, establishing a base inspection and certification system. A full-process inspection and certification mechanism was implemented, covering application acceptance, document review, on-site inspection, rectification reassessment, and certificate issuance. The inspection process strictly adheres to standards, with a focus on verifying the legality of equipment sources, compliance of remanufacturing and maintenance

processes, and the attainment of performance indicators. For products that pass inspection, paper certificates and electronic identifiers are issued simultaneously to support traceability inquiries. Products that fail rectification are included in the base's equipment "blacklist" management, ensuring that non-compliant products do not leave the base. Third, creating a multi-stakeholder collaborative supervision mechanism involving market regulation, taxation, and other relevant departments. By developing a construction machinery remanufacturing traceability management platform, full-process traceability management of remanufactured equipment is achieved. Traders and remanufacturing enterprises are required to fulfill their primary responsibility for quality, providing documentation such as proof of legal equipment sources and records of repair and remanufacturing processes for tax verification purposes, while cooperating with regulatory authorities in conducting random inspections.

4. Establishing an institutional system for the comprehensive development of recreational fisheries

Hainan PFTZ's "comprehensive construction of a high-quality development mechanism for recreational fisheries" has introduced a series of institutional documents covering aspects such as the definition of recreational fisheries, licensing management for recreational fishing, and inspection and safety management of recreational fishing vessels. The package measures comprehensively address the entire process of establishing, standardizing, and ensuring the safety of recreational fisheries and fishing vessels from scratch. Among these, the Measures for the Management of Recreational Fisheries in Hainan Province (Interim) resolves the issues of who manages recreational fisheries and how they are managed; the Regulations on the Inspection and Management of Marine Recreational Fishing Vessels in Hainan Province (Interim) addresses how and by whom recreational fishing vessels are constructed, marking the establishment of the system; the Regulations

on the Licensing Management of Marine Recreational Fishing in Hainan Province (Interim) tackles how recreational fishing vessels operate and are managed, marking the beginning of the standardization process; and the Measures for the Safety Management of Marine Recreational Fishing Vessels in Hainan Province (Interim) establishes safety as the bottom line, ensuring the transition from standardization to safety.

5. Building the supporting safeguard system for green and low-carbon industrial transformation

Shandong PFTZ's "new model for carbon footprint assessment and management of exports" focuses on two product categories—containers and primary plastics—by developing technical specifications for carbon footprint accounting that cover the entire lifecycle, including production, transportation, usage, and waste disposal. Addressing issues such as inconsistent carbon footprint evaluation methods and systems across countries and the lack of reliable data, the model aligns with international standards to develop general principles for carbon footprint assessment of exports. It formulates a series of regulations and standards for evaluating and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions generated during production, transportation, usage, and disposal stages of exports. Simultaneously, carbon emission factor datasets have been developed by integrating general product data, effectively supporting corporate carbon footprint assessments and export carbon footprint certification.



6

Institutional Innovation in the Ensured Supply and Servicing of Factor Resources

(I) Innovation of human resource mobility and talent development service models

Several PFTZs have improved policies for facilitating entry, exit and residence of foreign nationals, explored the establishment of a "single examination for multiple certifications" system for special operation certificates and skill level certificates, among others, and promoted ongoing innovation in human resource mobility and talent development service models.

1. Improving entry-exit and residence facilitation policies for foreign personnel

First, the practice of stamping entry-exit verification seals for foreign drivers is streamlined from stamping at every entry-exit to stamping only at their first entry-exit each month. Xinjiang PFTZ's "innovative policy for facilitating customs clearance for foreign drivers" extends the customs clearance facilitation policies applicable to Chinese drivers to foreign drivers. The frequency of stamping entry-exit verification seal for foreign drivers is reduced from stamping at every entry-exit to stamping only at their first entry-exit each month. Prior to the reform, foreign employees engaged in cross-border transport in Xinjiang PFTZ were primarily self-employed, with most having no employment relationship with Chinese international transport companies. Their ports of entry and exit were not fixed. They traveled to multiple countries (regions), and their social interactions were relatively complex, posing

significant risks and challenges for administration of personnel movement at border ports. Additionally, due to the instability of foreign employees and the unique characteristics of road ports, it was difficult to obtain their identity information in advance. Authorities generally relied on on-site inspection and verification, leading to low clearance efficiency and difficulties in accurately authenticating identity documents. The requirement to stamp entry and exit verification seals for each border crossing further imposed high operational costs on foreign drivers engaged in cross-border activities. Following the reform, efforts have been made to explore the establishment of systems such as "identity verification, advance filing, regular inspection, and review and re-examination". By promoting the signing of labor contracts between Chinese foreign-related transport enterprises and foreign drivers, stable and legal labor (contractual) relationships have been established. The Xinjiang Border Inspection Corps conducts advance review and filing of the qualifications of employing enterprises and the identity backgrounds of foreign employees. For foreign drivers whose nationality is that of a country adjacent to the port, who frequently travel through the port for cross-border transport, who have stable and legal labor (contractual) relationships with Chinese foreign-related companies (employers), and who have no record of violations, inspection seals are now only stamped for the first entry and exit each month.

Second, implementing a "single-window processing and parallel approval" mechanism for disease surveillance, work permits, and residence permits for foreigners coming to China. Hunan PFTZ's "innovative service model for managing foreigners in China" have expanded and optimized the previous "single-window processing" for work permits and residence permits implemented in other regions to include the International Travel Health Certificate, work permits, and residence permits required for foreigners coming to China under a unified "single-window processing" system. Prior to the reform, foreigners working in Changsha had



to visit the Hunan International Travel Healthcare Center under Changsha Customs, the Changsha Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, and the Population and Immigration Reception Hall of the Changsha Public Security Bureau separately, requiring at least six trips and six approval procedures to obtain the three certificates. Following the reform, a one-stop service center for foreigners working in China was established. Over 30 documents previously required by customs, public security, and science and technology departments were streamlined and consolidated into a single set, enabling "single-window processing and parallel approval" for all three certificates. This resolved the previous challenge of foreigners having to repeatedly submit materials to multiple departments.

2. Improving talent development and evaluation mechanisms

Huber PFTZ's "cross-departmental 'one examination, multiple certifications' for professional credentials" enables candidates to obtain multiple professional certificates through a single comprehensive qualification examination. Prior to the reform, acquiring specialized operation certificates and skill-level certifications required participation in separate examinations administered by multiple departments—including housing and urban-rural development, emergency management, and human resources—resulting in overlapping examination content and imposing significant time and financial burdens on skilled personnel seeking certification. Following the reform, while adhering to the existing assessment standards of the three departments, the overlapping content of the three certificate examinations were merged through "combining like terms". Multiple examinations were integrated into a single assessment, with results shared among the three departments. Skilled personnel now only need to take one examination to qualify for all three types of certificates upon passing. **Chongqing PFTZ establishes a 'four teams' working mechanism for entrepreneurship mentorship of sci-tech talents**, taking the lead nationwide to promote the systematic development of "four supporting

teams", namely technology managers, professional managers, investment managers, and incubator managers. The government sets up platforms for guidance, rolls out enabling policies, launches supporting initiatives, and building a digital-intelligent system to form an efficient operational mechanism for serving sci-tech talent entrepreneurship.

(II) Improvement of technical factor supply system

Some PFTZs have established a full-chain trade secret protection system, innovated a comprehensive transformation system for scientific research achievements centered on "pilot testing", and explored equity incentives for technology managers, thereby continuously enhancing the technology factor support system.

1. Establishing a comprehensive trade secret protection system across the entire chain

Anhui PFTZ's "'standard + certification + application' mechanism for trade secret protection" has established a full-chain trade secret protection system encompassing standards, certification, and application. In terms of standards, addressing the challenge of standardizing trade secret protection, a standardization framework for corporate trade secret protection has been developed, including two provincial-level local standards—"Guidelines for the Protection of Trade Secrets" and "Corporate Trade Secret Management System Requirements", two industry standards in pharmaceuticals and software, and five enterprise standards. In terms of recognition, to tackle difficulties in trade secret protection recognition, the measures for the administration of trade secret recognition and protection have been introduced. These measures specify detailed requirements for recognition procedures, organizational management, and supervision and inspections, supplemented by incentive policies for certification subsidies to assist enterprises in establishing long-term mechanisms for trade secret protection. In terms of application, a multi-level adoption mechanism for trade secret recognition and protection

involving government, industry, and society has been established. The results of trade secret recognition and protection are incorporated into the enterprise innovation score evaluation system, with priority given to certified enterprises in areas such as credit line, commendations and awards, and qualification approvals.

2. Enhancing the support system for the application of scientific and technological achievements

First, establishing a full-chain scientific research achievement application system centered on pilot testing. Sichuan PFTZ's "nationally pioneering 'pilot testing+' initiative bridges the 'last mile' in applying scientific and technological achievements". With pilot testing platforms at the core, a "pilot testing+" ecosystem is established that integrates R&D, pilot testing, incubation, funding, and application scenarios for the full-chain application of scientific research achievements. The "pilot testing+" framework extends pilot testing platforms upstream and downstream to research institutions, incubators, investment institutions, and application scenarios. This creates a five-in-one innovation ecosystem of "technology R&D + pilot testing platform + professional incubation + angel funding + application scenarios". In this model, universities and research institutes serve as the technology providers, offering original scientific and technological achievements. Pilot testing platforms accept and promote the application of these high-quality outcomes. Professional incubators and angel funds deliver one-stop incubation and investment services for subsequent commercialization, while leading enterprises contribute application scenarios for final industrialization.

Second, exploring equity incentives for technology managers. Anhui PFTZ's "equity incentive model for technology managers in new R&D institutions" has innovated the income distribution mechanism for the application of scientific and technological achievements by implementing equity incentives for technology managers. This incentive model adjusts the traditional income distribution ratio for the application

of scientific and technological achievements from 7:3 to 7:2:1, with 70% allocated to the original technology invention team, 20% retained as earnings for the new R&D institution, and the remaining 10% designated as equity incentives for technology managers in their established partnership enterprises. This transforms technology managers from their previous role as intermediaries in the application of scientific and technological achievements into innovation partners. The technology inventor, technology manager, and new R&D institution now jointly hold shares, share risks, and benefit collectively.

(III) Activating the potential of data factors

Some PFTZs have established a full-chain data service system. They have also improved cross-border data flow services through "green channel" mechanisms and established scenario-based, field-level data outbound negative lists. These measures have further unlocked the potential of data as a key production factor.

1. Establishing a full-chain data service system

Henan PFTZ's "innovation in data component production, rights confirmation, and transaction models" focuses on data components as the "intermediate state" connecting both supply and demand ends of data, exploring comprehensive chain development including production, rights confirmation, and transactions. In the production phase, data operators aggregate public and social data, store it in secure and trusted data vaults, and collaborate with data component developers to process it into data components. This separates the raw data from data applications, ensures raw data does not leave the domain, and enables data usability without visibility. In the rights confirmation phase, the operational mechanism of property rights is followed, which separates data resource ownership rights, data processing usage rights, and data product operation rights. Rights are confirmed at the three stages of data resources, data components, and data products. In the data resource stage, the



holding entity possesses data resource holding rights and data processing and usage rights, with pricing determined by the cost method; in the data component stage, data operators collaborate with data developers to process data into components, holding data component processing and usage rights, with pricing determined by the income method; in the data product stage, data product providers process data components into products, holding data product operation rights, with pricing determined by market mechanisms.

In the transaction phase, different pricing models and distribution schemes are selected based on the cooperative models of the "data component" operating entities. **Chongqing PFTZ's "whole-industrial-chain innovation in data marketization"** establishes a data asset registration rule system to address challenges in inventorying and registering data resources; develops automotive data products and "data service models" to break through application scenario bottlenecks; expands pathways for incorporating data assets into financial statements to facilitate data transaction matchmaking; collaborates with financial institutions to innovate data asset-backed mortgage financing models, resolving problems in credit enhancement financing for data assetization, thereby achieving whole-chain institutional and practical innovation in making effective use of data asset.

2. Innovating the management system for cross-border data flow

First, improving cross-border data flow services through "green channels". **Beijing PFTZ's creates a 'green channel' for outbound data flow of foreign-invested enterprises to support high-quality development in the pharmaceutical industry,** establishes a "green channel" for outbound data flow by foreign-invested enterprises, enabling compliant cross-border data flows for pharmaceutical companies. Given that pharmaceutical enterprises handle substantial volumes of sensitive personal health information in scenarios such as pharmacovigilance and clinical trials with high sensitivity, complex legal assessments, and difficulties in getting regulatory approvals, Beijing PFTZ has established a "green channel" service mechanism for cross-border

data transfers by foreign-invested enterprises. This mechanism provides end-to-end support tailored to the specific circumstances of each enterprise's data flow needs, including one-on-one consultation during the declaration process, assistance in meeting compliance requirements, guidance on application materials, and pre-assessment of risks. It assists companies in accurately interpreting regulatory requirements and addressing common challenges in compliant cross-border data flow.

Second, establishing a negative list for cross-border data transfers.

Tianjin PFTZ launched China's first comprehensive cross-border data transfer negative list—"Tianjin PFTZ Cross-Border Data Management List (Negative List) (2024 Edition)", which divides cross-border data into 13 major categories and 46 subcategories, and specifies identification criteria for important data. Enterprises transferring data not listed in the negative list abroad are exempt from declaring security assessments for data exports, concluding standard contracts for personal information exports, or obtaining personal information protection certification. **Beijing PFTZ introduced China's first scenario-based, field-level negative list for cross-border data transfers.** The "Beijing PFTZ Cross-Border Data Transfers Management List (Negative List) (2024 Edition)" covers 48 data items across five industries including automotive, pharmaceuticals, retail, civil aviation, and artificial intelligence. It systematically categorizes key cross-border data transfer scenarios such as vehicle R&D testing, information services for internet of vehicles, clinical trials, pharmacovigilance, aircraft maintenance, membership management, and model training. The list clearly defines applicable scenarios for relevant industries and specifies in detail: data requiring security assessment for cross-border transfer, data subject to filing through standard contracts for personal information exports and personal information protection certification. This significantly enhances the efficiency and convenience for enterprises in managing cross-border data transfers.



(IV) Unleashing the value of marine resource factors

Hainan PFTZ's "three-dimensional development and utilization of marine spatial resources" has transformed the traditional planar sea use model by exploring the establishment of a three-dimensional layered system for sea area use rights. By precisely delineating marine spatial resources into four distinct layers, namely surface, body, seabed, and bottom soil, usage rights can be allocated separately for each layer. This approach facilitates a shift in marine management from a "planar" to a "three-dimensional" framework, effectively resolving conflicts of uses within the same sea area.

7

Institutional Innovation in Cross-Regional Cooperation

(I) Driving infrastructure connectivity across regions

Some PFTZs have achieved efficient cross-regional infrastructure connectivity through measures such as promoting cross-regional integrated supervision of resources and port logistics.

1. Integrated cross-regional supervision of airspace resources in Northeast China

Liaoning PFTZ's Northeast Low-Altitude Operation Management Center innovatively adopts a full-element integrated management paradigm for low-altitude economy by establishing an integrated low-altitude airspace management platform for the three northeastern provinces, enables "one-time application, universal access" for flights across the provinces. Prior to the reform, significant information barriers existed in the use of airspace resources across provinces and departments. In the approval process for flights across the provinces, application materials had to be submitted to flight control units along the route respectively, which severely constrained the improvement of flight efficiency and low-altitude economy development. Following the reform, an integrated low-altitude airspace management platform for the Northeast was established, eliminating obstacles in the connectivity of flight surveillance networks and navigation infrastructure across the three northeastern provinces. This has created an integrated approval service system characterized by "coordination across provinces and integration across cities", enabling "one-time application, universal access" for flight across the provinces without



submitting materials to units along the route respectively.

2. Promoting integrated logistics supervision in coastal and inland ports

The "Shandong–Henan clearance reform across customs districts" in Shandong PFTZ and Henan PFTZ has achieved "inland declaration, local release, direct train transport, direct loading upon arrival, and boarding in original containers" in sea-rail intermodal transport. Prior to the reform, under the integrated customs clearance model, inland goods required restoring and reinspection upon arrival at the port's railway yard. Following the reform, Qingdao Port and Zhengzhou Inland Port have strengthened logistics information sharing among customs, ports, and railways. After enterprises complete customs clearance and inspection procedures at the inland port, the port arranges booking shipping space in advance. During customs transfer, automatic release and verification are implemented. Upon arrival at Qingdao Port, cargo is directly loaded for shipment without restoring or reinspection at the railway yard. **Shanghai PFTZ and Anhui PFTZs' "innovation of the 'coordinated pick-and-load' supervision model"** enables integrated oversight which treats Yangshan Port and other ports in the Yangtze River Delta "as one port". For imported goods at Yangshan Port, they can be directly transported via barges to coordinated ports in Hefei, Dushan, Anqing, and Dafeng in the Yangtze River Delta. Enterprises can complete cargo pickup procedures directly at the unloading docks. When import inspection is required, it can be conducted at docks in Yangshan Island without transporting goods via the Donghai Bridge to Luchaogang port operation area for inspection. For exported goods, enterprises only need to transport the goods to the coordinated pick-and-load docks in the Yangtze River Delta. The exported goods are shipped by barge to Yangshan Port for loading and departure, and customs inspection and release procedures will be handled at Yangshan Port. If inspection of exported goods is required, it can be conducted at docks in Yangshan Island.

(II) Promoting government services coordination across regions

Some PFTZs have implemented measures such as one-stop online processing for cross-provincial corporate relocation and paperless approval for direct supply of bonded fuel oil across customs zones, facilitating efficient coordination of cross-regional government services.

1. Enabling one-stop online processing for cross-provincial enterprise relocation government matters

The "new full-chain service model for cross-provincial relocation of enterprises from Beijing" in Hebei PFTZ and Beijing PFTZ breaks down data barriers between the government service systems of Beijing and Hebei, enabling enterprises to complete cross-provincial relocation procedures through a one-time submission and one-click relocation process entirely online. Prior to the reform, enterprises handling cross-provincial relocation had to repeatedly travel between the origin and destination locations to submit three sets of paper-based documents—including relocation applications, change requests, and file transfers—and could only proceed with registration after the destination authorities received the files, resulting in a complex and time-consuming process. Following the reform, the Xiong'an New Area established a fully electronic enterprise registration system platform, establishing data-sharing channels between Beijing and Hebei. Covering six key aspects of the relocation process—enterprise registration, tax-related procedures, seal filing, housing provident fund, social insurance registration, and bank account opening reservations—the system enables enterprises to submit one online application with a single click. This allows seven departments—government service centers, taxation, human resources and social security, housing, public security, public services, and the People's Bank of China—to handle relocation-related procedures simultaneously through integrated processing.



2. Implementing paperless approval for direct supply of bonded fuel oil across customs zones,

Zhejiang PFTZ implements “paperless approval for direct supply of bonded fuel oil across customs zones”. This is based on the existing direct supply of bonded fuel oil across customs zones, breaks down barriers in sharing approval information across customs zones and achieves paperless approval across customs zones. Prior to the reform, enterprises were required to submit physical approval documents by traveling between Zhoushan Customs and the customs authority at the fuel receiving location, resulting in complex procedures. Following the reform, internal customs procedures and information transmission methods are optimized, and application procedures of bonded fuel oil across customs zones for enterprises have been streamlined. Enterprises only need to submit electronic applications online at their own business operation interface, and relevant data is transmitted in real time to the customs approval system. Upon online approval by Zhoushan Customs, the approval results are directly sent via the network to the customs at the fuel receiving location. Enterprises can view and print the approval receipts, further enhancing the efficiency of fuel supply approvals.

(III) Facilitating cross-regional judicial and law enforcement coordination

Some PFTZs have facilitated cross-regional judicial and law enforcement coordination through measures such as joint IPR protection and coordinated market supervision enforcement.

1. Judicial coordination for cross-regional intellectual property rights (IPR) protection

Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei PFTZ adopts "judicial coordination mechanism for IPR protection", contributing to the integrated development. Mechanisms for cross-provincial judicial coordination in IPR protection are established, including

coordinated adjudication of technology-related cases, unified application of laws in intellectual property trials, and exchanges in the cultivation of judicial personnel. First, establishing mechanisms for coordinated adjudication of technology-related cases. To address issues such as coordination difficulties and different levels of judicial protection in the adjudication of geographically linked technology-related cases, the courts of the three regions provide mutual support in areas such as service of process, preservation, and the determination of technical facts, with particular emphasis on overcoming challenges related to on-site inspections in technology-related cases, thereby resolving difficulties in cross-jurisdictional adjudication for such cases. Second, establishing mechanisms for the unified application of laws in intellectual property adjudication. To address the challenges in handling technology-related cases, cases involving key sectors, and cases involving emerging industries, a consultation mechanism for difficult, complex, and novel intellectual property cases has been established for courts in the three regions. This mechanism promotes the unified application of laws and adjudication standards for these three categories of cases. Third, establishing mechanisms for exchanges in the cultivation of judicial talent. With independent operation of courts in different regions, there are lack of mobility and exchanges among adjudicators in IPR protection and limited sharing of knowledge and experience. To address these issues, the courts in the three regions develop special model for jointly cultivating professional talent, which promotes complementary strengths and integration of ideas among professionals, effectively narrowing the gap in IPR adjudication across the three regions.

2. Cross-regional coordination in market regulation and law enforcement

The "new mechanism for coordinated market regulation and enforcement in PFTZs in Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei" has been adopted in Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei by unifying cross-regional enforcement standards and enabling mutual recognition of enforcement evidence and outcomes. First, unifying cross-regional



enforcement standards. The mechanism of "determining jurisdiction based on the place of registration" has been established, clarifying that when handling and transferring leads of illegal cases involving multiple regions, cases shall be uniformly transferred to the enforcement department of the PFTZ where the enterprise is registered, thereby avoiding duplicate case filings. Second, implementing mutual recognition of law enforcement evidence. Law enforcement evidence provided by the three regions, once verified and recognized, can be mutually cited, thereby reducing disputes and inconveniences arising from repeated or cross-regional evidence collection. Third, advancing mutual recognition of law enforcement outcomes. Under the premise of jurisdictional consensus, all cross-region violation cases of the same type shall be transferred to the enforcement authorities of the "enterprise's place of registration" for handling. The enforcement authorities of the "place where the violation occurred" shall recognize the penalty outcomes without imposing repeated penalties, thereby preventing inconsistencies arising from differing penalty standards between the "place where the violation occurred" and the "enterprise's place of registration."

(IV) Advancing cross-regional regulatory cooperation

Some PFTZs have facilitated fair and unified cross-regional regulation through reform measures such as supervision information sharing and coordinated law enforcement for container ship in the Bohai Rim region, joint customs supervision between the place of departure and the assembly location for the packaging of exported new energy vehicle batteries, cross-regional mutual recognition of risk assessment results for special goods, and mutual recognition of maritime inspection outcomes for new energy vehicle container exports between the place of departure and transshipment locations. These reforms have strengthened cross-regional regulatory effectiveness and promoted the accelerated establishment of a unified national market.

1. Implementation of cross-regional coordinated regulatory enforcement

First, information sharing and coordinated law enforcement for container ship supervision in the Bohai Rim region. Tianjin PFTZ's "new pattern of coordinated law enforcement for container ships on Bohai Rim branch lines" has achieved integrated cross-regional maritime supervision and law enforcement. Maritime authorities in Tianjin, Tangshan, and Qinhuangdao have jointly developed an intelligent container supervision platform, enabling information sharing of regulatory data visualization—including vessel positioning, trajectory monitoring, and distress alerts—covering "vessels, personnel, and companies". Simultaneously, leveraging this platform, the three authorities regularly conduct joint maritime law enforcement operations, exchange vessel lists and inspection reports via official correspondence, and remind each other to conduct safety hazard inspections—such as crew operations, vessel manning, and container lashing and securing. This facilitates enforcement information and resource sharing, and mutual recognition of standards, thereby enhancing the comprehensive maritime safety supervision synergy and effectively mitigating container vessel transportation risks in the Bohai Rim region.

Second, joint customs supervision between the place of origin and the assembly site for exported new energy vehicle batteries packaging inspection. The "new model of coordinated supervision for exported new energy vehicle batteries packaging inspection" in Hunan PFTZ and Chongqing PFTZ allows the customs at the assembly site to conduct the packaging inspection for new energy vehicle batteries on-site, eliminating the need to transport them back to the place of origin for inspection by the customs there. Prior to the reform, under the "split-shipment" model for new energy vehicle exports, automotive lithium batteries had to be transported from the production site to the assembly site for vehicle installation and debugging. Subsequently, the vehicle body and batteries were disassembled, repackaged separately, and exported



via the "split-shipment" method. In accordance with international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods, individually packaged automotive batteries had to be returned to their production sites to undergo customs declaration for hazardous materials packaging inspection. This process substantially increased transportation time, costs, and material losses. Following the reform, a coordinated customs supervision model between production and assembly sites has been implemented. Customs at the production site handle export declarations for automotive lithium batteries, while customs at the assembly site conduct on-site inspection of hazardous packaging usage, then customs at the production site issue relevant documents to enterprises based on inspection results, effectively eliminating redundant transportation of lithium batteries between production and assembly sites.

2. Promoting mutual recognition of cross-regional regulatory outcomes

First, mutual recognition of risk assessment outcomes for special goods across customs districts. The "mutual recognition of risk assessment outcomes for special items in the Yangtze River Delta Region" in PFTZs in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shanghai, and Anhui has achieved mutual recognition of risk assessment for special goods across customs districts. Prior to the reform, the same category of special goods from the same producer required repeated risk assessments when entering or exiting different customs districts, resulting in prolonged processing times and higher clearance costs. Following the reform, risk assessment outcomes for the same category of special goods from the same producer are now mutually recognized across customs districts within the Yangtze River Delta region. A risk assessment report issued by one customs office can be directly used for handling special goods health quarantine approval procedures at another, significantly reducing redundant risk assessment operations.

Second, mutual recognition of maritime inspection outcomes for new energy vehicle container exports between the place of departure and the place

of transshipment. The "integrated maritime supervision reform for new energy vehicle in rail-sea intermodal transport" in Chongqing PFTZ and Guangxi PFTZ has achieved one-time cross-provincial declaration and mutual recognition of inspections for export of new energy vehicle containers in rail-sea intermodal transport. Prior to the reform, new energy vehicle container exports in rail-sea intermodal transport required separate declarations at both the place of departure and the port of transshipment, with mandatory inspections by maritime authorities at the transshipment port. Following the reform, an innovative declaration and inspection model was introduced, replacing the need for separate declarations at the place of departure and the port of transshipment with a single declaration at the place of departure. The maritime inspection process, previously conducted at the port of transshipment, has been moved forward to the railway departure station. Following inspections by Chongqing maritime authorities, Qinzhou maritime authorities generally no longer conduct unpacking inspections on new energy vehicle containers upon arrival at the port.

3. Future Outlook



The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee called for "implementing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs and encouraging these zones to engage in pioneering and integrated explorations", placing greater expectations on the future development of PFTZs. Looking ahead, in line with the latest national requirements for PFTZ development, and taking into account both the evolving domestic and international economic and trade landscape as well as the progress achieved in 2024, PFTZs will further advance the implementation of the upgrading strategy, continue to improve institutional opening up in rules, regulations, management, and standards, while making reform and innovation more integrated. These measures will drive higher-quality and more efficient development of the open economy across a broader scope. PFTZs will be established as critical hubs for fostering domestic and international dual circulation and as powerful engines for high-quality growth, playing a greater exemplary role in advancing Chinese modernization.



1

Continuous Enhancement of Institutional Opening-up in PFTZs

Steadily expanding institutional opening-up in rules, regulations, management, and standards stands as a key component of China's efforts to deepen reform comprehensively and improve high-standard opening-up institutions and mechanisms. In 2013, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee proposed requirements of institutional opening up such as "developing new institutions for a high-standard open economy" and "selecting certain eligible locations to develop pilot free trade zones (ports)". As experimental fields, pioneering zones, and "bridgeheads" for reform and opening-up, PFTZs have, since their establishment, carried the important mission of advancing institutional opening-up. In 2022, the 20th CPC National Congress rolled out and implemented the strategy for upgrading PFTZs. In 2023, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee further emphasized the implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs and encouraged pioneering and integrated explorations. The Central Economic Work Conference held in December 2024 outlined the key tasks for economic work in 2025, emphasizing the need to "expand voluntary and unilateral opening-up in an orderly manner, steadily advance institutional opening-up, enhance the quality and efficiency of PFTZs and expand mandate for reform tasks". This further emphasized the imperative for PFTZs to align with new trends in economic globalization, adapt to evolving international dynamics, draw on internationally accepted rules, and continue to steadily advance institutional opening-up.

Today, unprecedented global shifts of a century-defining scale are accelerating. China's development has entered a period in which strategic opportunities coexist with risks and challenges, and uncertainties and unforeseeable factors are on the rise. **First, global protectionism is intensifying.** In 2024, globalization faced headwinds. According to World Bank analysis, the period 2020 - 2024 marks the five years for the weakest global economy in nearly three decades, characterized by slowing capital flows, contraction in trade and investment, and restrictive measures in trade and investment. In trade, the coverage of restrictive measures among WTO members surged sharply. The U.S. arbitrarily launched "tariff wars". Japan incorporated semiconductors and quantum technology into its control list, and the EU imposed additional tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. In investment, the UN Trade and Development report indicates that developed countries adopted more restrictive measures to address national security concerns, undermining the stability and predictability of global investment flows. **Second, the new wave of international economic and trade rule restructuring presents institutional challenges.** High-standard regional trade agreements such as the CPTPP and DEPA continue to upgrade, and rule systems in digital and green sectors are developing rapidly. Meanwhile, in 2024, the World Bank launched updated evaluation metrics, adding "labor and employment" and "market competition", with greater emphasis on the quality of institutions, rules, and mechanisms.

Looking forward, in response to evolving domestic and international dynamics, PFTZs will implement the plans of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, fully advance the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, take high-standard opening-up as the guiding principle, focus on institutional innovation, actively align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, intensify stress testing across rules, regulations, management, and standards, steadily expand institutional



opening-up, and unceasingly leverage their role as comprehensive experimental platforms for reform and opening-up, thereby exploring new pathways for deepening reform comprehensively and expanding opening-up. PFTZs are expected to accua more open global economy.voluntary opening. They will lay the foundation for establishing a regulatory framework aligned with internationally accepted rules and contribute "PFTZ solutions" to fostering a more open global economy.

2

Make Reforms in PFTZs More Systemic and Integrated

General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized, "We should further integrate our reforms, advance reforms with a holistic perspective and systematic thinking, strengthen the coordination of various reform measures, promote concerted efforts and form synergy of reforms across all fields and aspects, and enhance overall effectiveness". This important statement charts the course and provides fundamental guidance for deepening reform comprehensively in the new era. As China's comprehensive testing ground for reform and opening-up and a highland for institutional innovation, PFTZs shoulder the historic mission of deepening reforms and expanding opening up, playing a vital role in forging a new development dynamic.

At present, as China's reform agenda has entered a critical stage and uncharted waters, PFTZs are expected to strengthen the role of the comprehensive pilot platform for reform and opening-up in setting examples through systematic and integrated reforms under the guidance of the upgrading strategy. **First, PFTZs will introduce a series of pioneering and integrated reform measures.** Pioneering and integrated exploration is the core keyword in implementing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs. By the end of 2024, PFTZs have basically completed more than 3,400 reform pilot tasks. The strategy for upgrading PFTZs proposes a systematic policy framework focusing on the liberalization and facilitation of trade, investment, capital, transportation, personnel, and the secure and orderly flow of data. It guides PFTZs to further deepen reforms, explore more replicable and scalable successful experience, and achieve



more systematic and integrated reform outcomes. **Second, specialized policies will be introduced for differentiated exploration in PFTZs.** The implementation of the strategy for upgrading PFTZs centers on deepening institutional innovation in key areas such as cross-border data flow and remanufacturing, providing significant guidance for new pilot trials in each zone and promoting the alignment and compatibility of rules, regulations, management, and standards. Meanwhile, the strategy for upgrading PFTZs supports PFTZs in conducting differentiated explorations, leveraging their unique resource endowments and regional advantages in key sectors and industries such as biomedicine, marine economy, and bulk commodity trade, to achieve integrated innovation outcomes across industrial chains.

Looking ahead, PFTZs will adhere to the national general requirements for implementing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, focus more on pioneering pilot explorations, enhancing the integration of institutional innovations, and promoting more replicable and scalable institutional innovation outcomes. This will explore new pathways and accumulate new experience for China's reform and opening-up. PFTZs will undertake more differentiated and distinctive explorations in key sectors and industries. PFTZs will enhance the quality and efficiency and play a greater demonstrative and leading role in further deepening reforms comprehensively.

3

Improving the Quality of the Open Economy in PFTZs

As General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized, developing new institutions for a higher-standard open economy represents a proactive strategic initiative designed to leverage opening-up as a catalyst for reform and development. The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee called for resolutely expanding opening-up with broader coverage and greater scope, fully leveraging the strengths of China's enormous market and domestic demand potential, continuously elevate the level of openness through deepening international economic and trade cooperation, and accelerate the establishment of new institutions for an open economy aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules. As pioneers for China's opening-up and models for institutional innovation, PFTZs have pioneered a series of groundbreaking reform and opening-up measures through over a decade of exploration and practice. Achievements have been made in areas such as trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, cross-border capital flows, personnel mobility, streamlined transportation, and secure and orderly data flows. These innovative initiatives have significantly facilitated the concentration of high-end global factors of production, including goods, capital, talent, and data. World-class industrial clusters with leading scale, globally advanced technologies, and international influence have been formed. The institutional innovations and successful practices of PFTZs have been replicated and scaled up nationwide, playing a significant role in supporting local economic development and expanding opening-



up. It is evident that PFTZs pioneer China's high-standard opening-up and serve as important engines and exemplary models for high-quality economic development.

China's open economy has achieved phased results. PFTZs will continue to drive high-quality economic development through institutional innovation. **First, PFTZs will create broader space for international economic and trade cooperation.** As the main front of China's open economy, PFTZs have recorded growth rates in key indicators such as imports, exports, and foreign investment utilization that exceed the national average. PFTZs have further expanded market access for foreign investment, deepened reforms in trade and investment regulation, reduced institutional transaction costs, and fostered emerging business models such as cross-border e-commerce, thereby continuously enhancing the capacity to attract and concentrate high-quality resources and factors, and facilitating smoother domestic and international economic circulation. Meanwhile, China's international cooperation is diversifying and becoming more institutionalized, with a focus on collaboration in new energy and low-carbon technologies. Digital infrastructure projects are accelerating, and institutionalized achievements across various fields—such as the five-year plan for green energy cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative—are emerging steadily. International cooperation is shifting from project-based engagements to a greater emphasis on institutionalized outcomes. As a vital platform for international cooperation, PFTZs will see accelerated expansion of their international cooperation space, leading to the rapid formation of more institutionalized collaborative achievements. **Second,**

PFTZs will inject stronger momentum into the development of new quality productive forces. In recent years, in the face of international competition, PFTZs actively promoted integrated innovation across entire industrial chains, continuously strengthened the empowerment of technological innovation, addressed institutional and systemic barriers hindering high-quality industrial growth, established

interdisciplinary R&D platforms, strategically positioned themselves in cutting-edge sectors, and developed talent service systems to foster a robust talent growth ecosystem. Moving forward, PFTZs will foster more technology-leading enterprises, cultivate an ecosystem for the development of a modern industrial system, serve as a talent reservoir and preferred destination for entrepreneurship, and more effectively leverage institutional innovation to underpin high-quality development.

Third, PFTZs will deliver more achievements in cross-regional collaboration. Replicability and scalability are fundamental requirements for the development of PFTZs. As batches of reform and innovation achievements are replicated and scaled up, a situation has been formed where reform dividends are universally shared and opening-up outcomes are widely accessible. Looking ahead, PFTZs will leverage their differentiated strategic positioning to break down administrative barriers and harmonize regulatory discrepancies, facilitating the cross-regional flow of capital, technology, talent, data and other factors. This will generate more achievements in interregional coordinated development, promote the establishment of a unified national market, and better advance the Belt and Road cooperation.

Looking ahead, the open economy in PFTZs will achieve qualitative leaps and quantitative breakthroughs. Through continuously expanding openness and deepening international cooperation, these PFTZs will sustain growth in trade and investment scale, further optimize structures, continually foster new models and business forms, and open up an ever-broader landscape of mutually beneficial global collaboration. The deepening of open innovation across entire industrial chains will significantly enhance the core competitiveness and independent innovation capacity of PFTZs, with the potential to establish more globally influential industrial clusters and innovation hubs. By advancing deeper reforms to refine a higher-standard open economic system, PFTZs will drive surrounding areas and the country as a whole



toward higher-quality, more efficient, fairer, and more sustainable development of an open economy. They will continue to serve as engines and critical support for high-quality economic growth.

Report on China's Pilot Free Trade Zones

2025



Appendix 1: Status of 77 Institutional Innovations from PFTZs Replicated and Scaled Up at the National Level

Table 1: Fifth Batch of "Best Practices" in PFTZs

No.	Reform Initiative	Scope
	Letter of the Ministry of Commerce on Issuing the Fifth Batch of "Best Practices" in PFTZs S.Z.M.H. [2024] No. 14 http://zmqgs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/fztg/anli/202401/20240103467027.shtml	
1	New "one-stop" supervision model for cross-border e-commerce export returns	Nationwide
2	"Customs–Bank One–KEY" integrated reform for cross-regional handling in Sichuan and Chongqing	Nationwide
3	New "immediate entry upon arrival" model for first-line inbound goods to comprehensive bonded zones	Nationwide
4	Cross-border container logistics "full lifecycle" management service reform	Nationwide
5	International mail, international express delivery, and cross-border e-commerce services. New model of integrated supervision	Nationwide
6	New mechanism for price appraisal to exclude inland river freight, from the duty-paid price of imported transfer cargo	Nationwide
7	New model for ship supervision and declaration	Nationwide
8	New model for integrated approval services for shipping enterprises	Nationwide
9	Innovative model for building a government of integrity	Nationwide
10	"Intelligent Form" model for enterprise registration services	Nationwide
11	"E-Ticket Authenticity" model for tax service management in online freight platforms	Nationwide
12	New model for integrated processing of maritime static business	Nationwide
13	Seamless license renewal for enterprises	Nationwide
14	Coordinated standards for government services in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei region	Nationwide
15	New model for the comprehensive service platform of Yangtze River shipping	Nationwide
16	Reform on deep integration of environmental impact assessment and pollutant discharge permitting	Nationwide
17	Integrated service model for cross–Straits professional qualification recognition	Nationwide
18	"Land Supermarket" full lifecycle management model	Nationwide



19	Integrated innovation in cross-border trade and investment facilitation	Nationwide
20	Large enterprise open innovation center program	Nationwide
21	New model of full-chain service in commercial factoring industry	Nationwide
22	New "five forces" model for technological innovation	Nationwide
23	Fostering and developing new business model for high-end equipment-based marine ranching	PFTZ

Source: Ministry of Commerce website

Table 2: Summary of Replicated Reforms and Pilot Experience from PFTZs Promoted by Department (October 2019 – August 2023)

No.	Department in Charge	Reform Initiative	Year	Scope	Document
http://images.mofcom.gov.cn/zmqgs/202401/20240117162844331.pdf					
1	National Development and Reform Commission Ministry of Commerce	Removing the prohibition on investment in smelting and processing of radioactive minerals, and production of nuclear fuel	2020	Nation wide	Special Administrative Measures for Foreign Investment Access (Negative List) (2020)
2	National Development and Reform Commission Ministry of Commerce	Relaxing the requirement for new wheat varietal development and seed production to be majority-controlled by Chinese parties, with the Chinese share ratio now required to be no less than 34%	2020	Nation wide	Special Administrative Measures for Foreign Investment Access (Negative List) (2020)
3	Ministry of Science and Technology	Promoting the "Five New" mechanism for building world-class new research and development institutions	2023	Nation wide	Letter from the Inter-ministerial Coordination Group Office for National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zones on Issuing the Typical Cases of Reform and Innovation in National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zones for 2022 (G.Z.C.B.H. [2023] No. 1)



4	Ministry of Science and Technology	North–South collaborative mechanism for developing enclave industrial innovation parks	2023	Nation wide	Letter from the Inter-ministerial Coordination Group Office for National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zones on Issuing the Typical Cases of Reform and Innovation in National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zones for 2022 (G.Z.C.B.H. [2023] No. 1)	7	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Promoting high-quality development in the Lin-gang Special Area through the "Three Lines and One List" initiative	2022	Nation wide	Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on Issuing the Cases of Strengthening Ecological and Environmental Protection and Promoting High-Quality Development in PFTZs (H.B.Z.H.H. [2022] No. 391)
5	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Exploring the establishment of a comprehensive carbon asset monitoring and management model	2022	Nation wide	Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on Issuing the Cases of Strengthening Ecological and Environmental Protection and Promoting High-Quality Development in PFTZs (H.B.Z.H.H. [2022] No. 391)	8	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Enhancing third-party supervision efficiency of environmental law enforcement	2022	Nation wide	Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on Issuing the Cases of Strengthening Ecological and Environmental Protection and Promoting High-Quality Development in PFTZs (H.B.Z.H.H. [2022] No. 391)
6	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Innovating positive environmental management lists and exploring new models for differentiated regulation	2022	Nation wide	Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on Issuing the Cases of Strengthening Ecological and Environmental Protection and Promoting High-Quality Development in PFTZs (H.B.Z.H.H. [2022] No. 391)	9	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Development indicator system for "green free trade" based on low-carbon principles	2022	Nation wide	Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on Issuing the Cases of Strengthening Ecological and Environmental Protection and Promoting High-Quality Development in PFTZs (H.B.Z.H.H. [2022] No. 391)



10	Ministry of Transport	"Proximity auditing" for ship safety management system	2021	Nation wide	Announcement of the Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China on the Nationwide Implementation of Ship Safety Management System Audits (Maritime Safety Administration Announcement No. 4 in 2021)	14	State Administration for Market Regulation	"Quality infrastructure + cloud services" online–offline integrated model	2022	Nation wide	Notice of the General Office of the State Administration for Market Regulation on Promoting the Application of Model Cases in "One-Stop" Services for Quality Infrastructure (S.J.Z.H. [2022] No. 609)
11	Ministry of Transport	Innovating coordinated mechanism for waterway traffic safety	2021	Nation wide	Opinions of the Work Safety Commission of the State Council on Strengthening Risk Prevention and Control for Waterway Transport and Fishing Vessel Safety (A.W. [2021] No. 5)	15	National Financial Regulatory Administration	Appropriately streamlining market access for banking and insurance industries	2020	PFTZs nation wide	Guiding Opinions of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission on Replicating and Scaling Relevant Regulatory Policies in the PFTZ Nationwide (Y.B.J.Fa. [2020] No. 15)
12	Ministry of Transport	Promoting integrated innovation in international ship registration and classification management	2022	PFTZs nation wide	Notice of the National Development and Reform Commission on Promoting and Drawing on the Typical Experience and Innovative Measures of the First Batch of Authorized Items in the Shenzhen Comprehensive Reform Pilot (F.G.T.G. [2022] No. 1579)	16	National Financial Regulatory Administration	Developing cross-border investment and financing and other financial businesses in accordance with laws and regulations	2020	PFTZs nation wide	Guiding Opinions of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission on Replicating and Scaling Relevant Regulatory Policies in the PFTZ Nationwide (Y.B.J.Fa. [2020] No. 15)
13	People's Bank of China	Advancing higher-level facilitation of RMB settlement for trade and investment	2020	Nation wide	Notice by the People's Bank of China and Five Other Departments on Further Optimizing Cross-border RMB Policies to Support Stabilizing Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment (Y.Fa. [2020] No. 330)	17	National Financial Regulatory Administration	Encouraging financial reform exploration in areas such as green finance, technology insurance, and customs guarantee insurance	2020	PFTZs nation wide	Guiding Opinions of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission on Replicating and Scaling Relevant Regulatory Policies in the PFTZ Nationwide (Y.B.J.Fa. [2020] No. 15)
						18	National Immigration Administration	Online border inspection administrative licensing portal system	2019	Nation wide	N/A
						19	National Immigration Administration	China border inspection ship boarding code	2021	Nation wide	N/A



20	National Immigration Administration	Simplified border inspection procedures for international vessels refueling with bonded fuel	2021	Nation wide	N/A
21	National Immigration Administration	Domestic investment by non-investment foreign enterprises	2019	Nation wide	Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Facilitating Cross-Border Trade and Investment (H.Fa. [2019] No. 28)
22	National Immigration Administration	Bank processing of external debt deregistration	2019	Nation wide	Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Facilitating Cross-Border Trade and Investment (H.Fa. [2019] No. 28)
23	National Immigration Administration	Capital account revenue payment facilitation	2020	Nation wide	Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Optimizing Foreign Exchange Management to Support the Development of Foreign-Related Business (H.Fa. [2020] No. 8)
24	National Immigration Administration	Cross-regional bank handling of foreign exchange registration for foreign direct investment	2020	Nation wide	Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Business under Capital Account (2020 Edition) (H.Z.Fa. [2020] No. 89)

Source: Ministry of Commerce website

Table 3: Task Assignment for Replicating and Scaling Pilot Measures on Aligning with High-Standard International Rules to Advance Institutional Opening-up in PFTZs

No.	Pilot Measures	Responsible Parties	Scope
<p>Notice of the State Council on Task Assignment for Replicating and Scaling Pilot Measures on Aligning with High-Standard International Rules to Advance Institutional Opening-up in PFTZs G.H. [2024] No. 156 https://zmqgs.mofcom.gov.cn/fztg/jzfztg/art/2024/art_346431cac70944b58bbc3603d635e68f.html</p>			
1	Support the Pilot Regions in implementing import trials for remanufactured products in key industries. Such imports shall be exempt from China's measures prohibiting or restricting the import of used goods, provided they comply with all applicable technical requirements for equivalent new products (including but not limited to quality characteristics, safety, and environmental performance) and relevant regulations on remanufactured products, and bear the clear marking "Remanufactured Product". The Pilot Regions shall submit pilot proposals based on their actual conditions, specifying the list of relevant imports and applicable specific standards, requirements, conformity assessment procedures, and regulatory measures. Relevant departments shall jointly review and make a decision within six months of receiving the pilot proposals. Relevant departments and local authorities shall strengthen supervision, management, and inspection of remanufactured products to strictly prevent the importation of foreign waste and used goods under the guise of remanufactured products.	The Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Market Regulation, and other relevant authorities, as well as the provincial-level people's governments of the Pilot Regions, shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs



2	<p>The following goods temporarily entering the Pilot Regions from abroad may be exempt from customs duties, import value-added tax, and consumption tax upon entry, provided the obligor submits a guarantee to customs: professional equipment (including software, instruments, equipment, and supplies for news reporting or film and television production) necessary for temporary entrants complying with Chinese laws to conduct business, trade, or professional activities; goods for exhibition or demonstration; commercial samples, advertising films, and recordings; sports equipment essential for sports competitions, performances, or training. Such goods must be re-exported within six months from the date of entry and shall not be used for commercial purposes such as sale or lease during temporary stay. If an extension of the re-exportation period is required, relevant extension procedures must be completed in accordance with regulations.</p>	The Ministry of Finance, the General Administration of Customs and the State Taxation Administration shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs	5	For the importation of information technology equipment products in the Pilot Regions, relevant authorities shall accept supplier's declaration of conformity as explicit assurance of compliance with electromagnetic compatibility standards or technical regulations.	Led by the State Administration for Market Regulation, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and other relevant departments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs
3	Subject to compliance with China's customs supervision requirements and completion of the necessary quarantine procedures, the customs authorities in the Pilot Regions shall release air express cargo for which the required customs documentation has been submitted within six hours of arrival under normal circumstances.	The General Administration of Customs shall assume responsibilities.	All PFTZs	6	With the exception of specific new financial services, if Chinese-funded financial institutions are permitted to undertake a particular new financial service, foreign-funded financial institutions within the Pilot Regions shall also be allowed to provide the same type of service. Financial regulatory authorities may, within their statutory mandate, determine the types and nature of institutions eligible to provide such new financial services and may require that the provision of such services be subject to licensing. Financial regulatory authorities shall make decisions within a reasonable timeframe and may deny approval only on prudential grounds.	The People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs
4	Customs authorities in the Pilot Regions shall, under the premise of compliance with relevant Chinese laws, regulations, and stipulated procedures, as well as the completion of necessary quarantine processes, endeavor to release goods within 48 hours upon their arrival and submission of all required customs clearance information.	The General Administration of Customs shall assume responsibilities.	All PFTZs	7	Financial regulatory authorities in the Pilot Regions shall adhere to the principle of equal treatment for domestic and foreign entities. Upon receiving complete and legally compliant applications from overseas financial institutions, their investors, or cross-border financial service providers related to financial service operations, decisions shall be rendered within 120 days, with prompt notification to applicants. If a decision cannot be made within the specified period, the financial regulatory authorities shall immediately inform the applicant and endeavor to reach a determination within a reasonable timeframe.	The People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs



8	Enterprises registered in the Pilot Regions and individuals working or residing therein are permitted to cross-border purchase of overseas financial services in accordance with the law. Specific categories of overseas financial services shall be separately stipulated by financial regulatory authorities.	The People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs	12	Support the Pilot Regions in improving consumer protection mechanisms by prohibiting fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices that cause or may cause harm to consumers in online business activities.	The Ministry of Commerce, the State Administration for Market Regulation, and other relevant departments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs
9	Encourage overseas professionals to provide specialized services to enterprises and residents in the Pilot Regions in accordance with the law, and support the Pilot Regions in establishing and improving evaluation procedures for assessing the competencies of overseas professionals.	The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, along with relevant industry authorities, shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs	13	Procuring entities in the Pilot Regions shall provide justification for adopting single-source procurement methods when publishing the award results of government procurement.	The Ministry of Finance and provincial-level people's governments overseeing the Pilot Regions shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs
10	Foreign-invested enterprises in the Pilot Regions are permitted to grant accompanying spouses and family members of intra-corporate transferee experts the same duration of entry and temporary stay as the experts.	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Immigration Administration, and other relevant departments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs	14	People's courts in the Pilot Regions shall, upon receiving intellectual property relief requests from business entities, expeditiously adopt relevant measures in accordance with judicial rules without prior hearings of the opposing party's statements, provided that the applicants have submitted reasonably obtainable evidence and preliminarily established that their rights are being infringed or are under imminent threat of infringement.	The provincial-level people's government overseeing the Pilot Regions shall assume responsibilities.	All PFTZs
11	Senior executives of foreign enterprises planning to establish branches or subsidiaries in the Pilot Regions shall be granted a temporary entry stay validity period extended to two years, with accompanying spouses and dependents permitted the same entry and temporary stay duration.	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Immigration Administration, and other relevant departments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs	15	Support enterprises, business organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other entities in the Pilot Regions to establish voluntary mechanisms for improving environmental performance (including voluntary auditing and reporting, implementation of market-based incentives, voluntary sharing of information and expertise, and public-private partnerships), and encourage their participation in the development and revision of environmental performance evaluation standards for voluntary mechanisms.	The Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and provincial-level people's governments overseeing the Pilot Regions shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs



16	Support enterprises in the Pilot Regions in voluntarily adhering to corporate social responsibility principles in the environmental field. Such principles shall align with international standards and guidelines endorsed or supported by China.	The Ministry of Ecology and Environment and provincial-level people's governments overseeing the Pilot Regions shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	All PFTZs	21	In the Pilot Regions, wines with descriptors or adjectives such as chateau, classic, clos, cream, crusted/crusting, fine, late bottled vintage, noble, reserve, ruby, special reserve, solera, superior, sur lie, tawny, vintage, or vintage character are permitted to be imported.	The General Administration of Customs and the State Administration for Market Regulation shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide
17	Support the Pilot Regions in ensuring that labor and personnel dispute arbitration institutions provide parties with written arbitration awards in a standardized and timely manner, and make them publicly available in accordance with the law.	The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security shall assume responsibilities.	All PFTZs	22	Relevant authorities and their personnel shall not require the transfer or acquisition of proprietary software source code owned by enterprises or individuals as a precondition for the importation, distribution, sale, or use of mass-market software (excluding software used for critical information infrastructure) or products containing such software.	The Cyberspace Administration of China, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of State Security, the Ministry of Commerce, the People's Bank of China, the National Administration of State Secrets Protection, and the State Cryptography Administration, along with other relevant departments, shall assume responsibilities in accordance with their respective mandates.	Nationwide
18	Customs authorities in the Pilot Regions shall not deny preferential tariff treatment to goods solely due to minor discrepancies in certificates of origin, such as typographical errors, printing mistakes, omissions of non-critical information, or minor inconsistencies between documents.	The General Administration of Customs shall assume responsibilities.	Nationwide	23	The Pilot Regions shall permit all free, prompt, and unimpeded transfers of legitimate funds associated with investments by foreign investors, both inward and outward. Such transfers include: capital contributions; profits, dividends, interest, capital gains, royalties, management fees, technical assistance fees, and other charges; proceeds from the total or partial sale of investments, proceeds from the total or partial liquidation of investments; payments made under contracts, including loan agreements; compensation or indemnification obtained in accordance with the law; and payments arising from dispute resolution.	The People's Bank of China and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide
19	Where the legal basis, facts, and circumstances underlying a customs advance ruling remain unchanged, the applicant may apply to the customs authorities in the Pilot Regions for an extension of the ruling. The customs authorities in the Pilot Regions shall expedite its decision before the expiration of the ruling's validity period.	The General Administration of Customs shall assume responsibilities.	Nationwide				
20	Customs authorities in the Pilot Regions shall release the goods if they meet all other clearance conditions, including cases where duties, other import-related taxes, and fees remain undetermined before or upon arrival, provided that guarantees have been furnished to customs or prescribed procedures for disputed payments have been completed.	The General Administration of Customs shall assume responsibilities.	Nationwide				



24	For published patent applications and granted patents involving business entities in the Pilot Regions, competent authorities shall disclose the following information in accordance with relevant regulations: search and examination results (including details or information related to searches of relevant prior art, etc.); non-confidential responses from patent applicants; citations of patent and non-patent literature submitted by patent applicants and relevant third parties.	The China National Intellectual Property Administration shall assume responsibilities.	Nationwide	27	Refining security assessment mechanisms: The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with relevant departments and local authorities, has promptly tracked pilot progress. By analyzing and evaluating emerging situations and challenges in light of evolving external conditions and global trends, appropriate measures—such as adjustments, suspensions, or terminations—have been implemented based on risk levels, continuously optimizing pilot implementation strategies.	Relevant departments and provincial-level people's governments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide
25	When investigating suspected unfair competition practices, relevant authorities in the Pilot Regions shall provide guidance to the business operators under investigation. If the operators make relevant commitments and promptly correct their practices in accordance with such commitments, proactively eliminating or mitigating the harmful consequences, administrative penalties shall be lenient, mitigated, or waived in accordance with the law.	The State Administration for Market Regulation shall assume responsibilities.	Nationwide	28	Strengthen risk prevention and mitigation, refine control measures, and establish a safety protection system that integrates institutions, management, and technology.	Relevant departments and provincial-level people's governments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide
26	The Pilot Regions shall establish and improve mechanisms for identifying major risks and preventing systemic risks. The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with relevant departments, will strengthen overall coordination, guidance, and evaluation, enhance the analysis and assessment of various risks, and intensify efforts in security risk screening, dynamic monitoring, and real-time early warning.	Relevant departments and provincial-level people's governments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide	29	Ensure the implementation of risk prevention and control responsibilities. Local authorities shall fulfill their primary responsibilities by establishing and improving supporting risk control measures and refining the safety production accountability system while advancing relevant reforms. Relevant departments shall strengthen guidance and supervision, performing regulatory duties in accordance with their respective mandates.	Relevant departments and provincial-level people's governments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide
				30	Strengthen ex-ante, in-process, and ex-post regulation, improve regulatory rules, innovate regulatory approaches, enhance coordinated oversight, and establish a sound supervision system with clearly defined responsibilities, fairness and impartiality, transparency, and simplicity and efficiency. Coordinate and advance market regulation, quality supervision, safety oversight, financial regulation, and more.	Relevant departments and provincial-level people's governments shall assume responsibilities according to their respective mandates.	Nationwide

Source: Ministry of Commerce website



Appendix 2: Milestones

On January 8, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce, the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology jointly issued the "Notice on Measures to Support Fujian in Exploring New Paths for Cross-Straits Integrated Development in the Economic and Trade Field". The Notice proposes "supporting Fujian PFTZ in taking the lead in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, promoting institutional opening-up, and exploring the construction of institutional systems and regulatory models conducive to cross-Straits economic and trade integration", as well as "guiding and supporting Fujian PFTZ in leveraging its geographical advantages, concentrating on key reform areas such as cross-Straits goods trade and mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and continuously deepening pioneering and differentiated exploration". These measures further underscore Fujian PFTZ's role as a pioneer, enhancing Fujian's openness, strengthening cooperation with Taiwan, and advancing cross-Straits integrated development.

On January 12, 2024, the State Council approved the "Overall Plan for Building a Pilot Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation" (G.H. [2024] No. 6). The Plan clearly defines the strategic positioning of the Pilot Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation: leveraging Hunan PFTZ to establish a new hub for economic and trade cooperation with Africa, accelerate the development of replicable and scalable cooperation models, and inspire regions across the country to deepen economic and trade engagement with Africa, thereby fostering China-Africa resource sharing, joint platform development, and industrial growth.

On January 18, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce released 47 institutional innovations from PFTZs, comprising 23 "Best Practices" from the fifth batch and 24 successful reform experience promoted by departments in the third batch. These are intended for reference and replication by various regions in deepening reform and expanding opening-up in relevant fields.

On February 6, 2024, the Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration issued the "Notice on Piloting Preferential Stamp Tax Policies for Offshore Trade in Shanghai PFTZ and the Lin-gang Special Area" (C.S. [2024] No. 8). Under this Notice, enterprises registered in Shanghai PFTZ and Lin-gang Special Area conducting offshore resale transactions are exempt from stamp duty on the corresponding sales contracts.



On February 9, 2024, the State Council approved the "Implementation Plan for Building the Beijing Municipal Administrative Center into a National Green Development Demonstration Zone" (G.H. [2024] No. 27). The Plan emphasizes the need to strengthen both international and domestic exchanges and cooperation in the green industry. It aims to vigorously develop high-quality, high-technology, and high-value-added green product trade based on the national comprehensive demonstration zone for expanding the opening-up of service industry and the International Business Service Area of Beijing PFTZ.

On February 19, 2024, the State Council approved the "Overall Plan of Shanghai Eastern Hub International Business Cooperation Zone" (G.H. [2024] No. 30). The approval calls on the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and the General Administration of Customs to focus on promoting high-quality development, proactively respond to changing circumstances, cultivate new opportunities, and open new avenues. It emphasizes better leveraging Shanghai's advantages in opening-up, capitalizing on its international aviation hub conditions, and making full use of the institutional innovation achievements of Shanghai PFTZ. The Plan aims to establish highly convenient platforms for international business exchanges, coordinate development with security, better connect domestic and international markets, and optimize the use of both domestic and international resources, thereby making greater contributions to advancing high-standard opening-up.

On March 19, 2024, the General Office of the State Council issued the "Action Plan for Steadily Advancing High-Standard Opening-Up and Attracting and Utilizing Foreign Investment with Greater Efforts" (G.B.Fa. [2024] No. 9), which outlines practical measures to attract foreign investment with greater intensity. These measures include expanding market access, facilitating the flow of innovation factors, and aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules.

On March 21, 2024, while presiding over a symposium on advancing the rise of the central region in the new era, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized the need to steadily expand institutional opening-up, deeply integrate into Belt and Road Cooperation, proactively align with the New Eurasian Land Bridge and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, develop PFTZs to high standards, create more high-level platforms for opening-up and cooperation, and play a greater role in connecting the dual circulation of domestic and international markets.

On March 22, 2024, during his inspection tour of Hunan, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized that Hunan should strengthen systematic reforms, better participate in the development of a unified national market, fully integrate into the strategies for the rise of the central region and the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt, deeply integrate into Belt and Road Cooperation, steadily expand institutional opening-up, develop PFTZs to high standards, and focus on creating a Pilot Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation.

On March 22, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce issued the "Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Cross-Border Trade in Services" (2024 Edition) and "Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Cross-Border Trade in Services in PFTZs" (2024 Edition) (MOC Order No. 1 in 2024). The national negative list for cross-border trade in services comprises a total of 71 items, marking the first nationwide establishment of a negative list management system for cross-border services trade and defining the "baseline" for market access in cross-border services. The PFTZ version of the negative list for cross-border trade in services contains 68 items, introducing opening-up measures in areas such as professional qualifications for natural persons, specialized services, finance, and culture, thereby advancing the orderly expansion of openness in the cross-border services sector.

On March 22, 2024, the Cyberspace Administration of China promulgated the "Regulations on Promoting and Regulating Cross-Border Data Flows" (CAC Order No. 16). The Regulations aim to refine the implementation of data cross-border transfer systems, including security assessments for cross-border data transfers, standard contracts for the export of personal information, and personal information protection certification, in order to ensure data security, safeguard personal information rights, and promote the lawful, orderly, and free flow of data.

On March 27, 2024, the General Office of the State Administration for Market Regulation issued the "Notice on the Filing of Certification Services for Export Products Conducted by Overseas Certification Bodies in Hainan FTP". The Notice removes the local presence requirement for overseas conformity assessment bodies and clarifies the conditions and procedures for their filing to conduct export product certification business in Hainan FTP.

On April 8, 2024, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued the "Announcement on Carrying out Pilot Work to Expand the Opening-Up of Value-Added Telecommunications Services" (G.X.B.T.X.H. [2024] No. 107), specifying the removal of foreign equity restrictions in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan, and Shenzhen for businesses including Internet Data Centers (IDC), Content Delivery Networks (CDN), Internet Access Services (ISP), online data processing and transaction processing, as well as information release platforms and delivery services in information services (excluding internet news information, online publishing, online audiovisual, and internet cultural operations), and information protection and processing services. This marks a new phase in the opening up of China's telecommunications market.



On April 16, 2024, the General Administration of Customs formulated and issued the "Measures to Support and Promote the Construction and Development of Xinjiang PFTZ". The Measures proposes 21 supporting measures across five aspects, including promoting the coordinated development between border ports and inland areas, and leveraging the geographical advantages of Xinjiang PFTZ.

On April 24, 2024, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping presided over a symposium on promoting the development of the western region in the new era, emphasizing the need to improve the layout of various industrial parks, border economic cooperation zones, and cross-border economic cooperation zones in border areas, and to promote the high-quality development of pilot free trade zones. He further underscored the importance of steadily expanding institutional opening-up and fostering a market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized business environment.

On April 25, 2024, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Beijing Municipal People's Government jointly issued the "Implementation Plan for Building the Zhongguancun World-Leading Science and Technology Park (2024-2027)". The Plan proposes exploring measures to facilitate the cross-border flow of innovation factors. It promotes the coordinated development of the Zhongguancun demonstration zone with the national comprehensive demonstration zone for expanding the opening-up of service industry and Beijing PFTZ, with policies on cross-border facilitation of innovation factors applicable to the entire Zhongguancun area upon approval.

On June 27, 2024, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, and the State Taxation Administration jointly issued the "Notice on Tax Policies for Temporary Inbound Repair Pilot Program in Shanghai PFTZ" (C.G.S. [2024] No. 18). Under the policy, eligible goods temporarily admitted from abroad into the special customs supervision areas within Shanghai PFTZ (including the Lin-gang Special Area) for repair shall be bonded, exempt from customs duties upon re-export, while those not re-exported and sold domestically shall be subject to duties in accordance with relevant regulations.

On July 7, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce, together with multiple government agencies, issued the "Opinions on Strengthening Business and Financial Coordination to Provide Greater Support for High-Quality Development of Cross-Border Trade and Investment" (S.C.H. [2024] No. 321). The Opinions calls for enhancing the effectiveness of open platforms, providing guidance to local commerce authorities to thoroughly implement the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, and proposing a series of integrated and pioneering reform and innovation measures in trade, investment, and finance, based on PFTZs and other open platforms, to advance institutional opening-up.



On July 18, 2024, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee adopted the "Resolution of CPC Central Committee on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization". The Resolution outlines the plans to improve institutional mechanisms for high-standard opening-up, explicitly calling for "advancing the strategy for upgrading PFTZs and encourage pioneering and integrated exploration", thereby providing direction and guidance for the development of PFTZs in the new era.

On July 26, 2024, the People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, and the Tianjin Municipal People's Government jointly issued the "Opinions on Financial Support for High-Quality Development in Tianjin". The Opinions outlines 34 key tasks and safeguard measures across seven areas: strengthening financial support for technological innovation and enabling fintech, promoting the deep integration of finance and digital technology, improving the green financial system, accelerating the development of inclusive and pension finance, optimizing financial services in PFTZs and cross-border finance, leveraging local advantages to promote high-quality development of specialized finance, and enhancing financial regulation to prevent and resolve financial risks. These measures are of great significance for advancing the "Five Key Areas of Finance" and promoting high-quality financial development in Tianjin.

On August 1, 2024, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Improving the Market Access System", encouraging eligible regions such as Hainan FTP and PFTZs to explore more secure, more convenient, and more efficient collaborative models for domestic and foreign investment access.

On August 2, 2024, the State Council issued the "Policy Measures to Further Support the High-Quality Development of Tianjin Binhai New Area", which include support for the coordinated development of Tianjin PFTZ alongside Beijing PFTZ and Hebei PFTZ.

On August 29, 2024, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping presided over the sixth meeting of the Central Commission for Further Reform and delivered an important address. The meeting reviewed and adopted the "Opinions on Implementing the Strategy for Upgrading PFTZs". The meeting emphasized that since the 18th CPC National Congress, the 22 PFTZs established by the CPC Central Committee have introduced a large number of landmark and pioneering institutional innovations, effectively serving as comprehensive pilot platforms for reform and opening-up. Implementing the plans of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee and carrying out the strategy for upgrading PFTZs aim to explore broader areas and deeper levels, achieving comprehensive improvements in institutional opening-up, systemic reform effectiveness, and the quality of the open economy within these zones. Efforts should be guided by high-standard opening-up, with institutional innovation at the core. Pilot and experimental trials should be encouraged to promote pioneering and integrated exploration,



drive innovation across entire industrial chains, enhance the overall competitiveness of foreign trade, and advance investment liberalization and facilitation. The policy framework should be further improved, with a focus on ensuring the free and facilitated flow of trade, investment, capital, transportation, and personnel, alongside the secure and orderly flow of data. It is essential to balance development and security, steadily expand institutional opening-up in rules, regulations, management, and standards, and strengthen risk prevention and control capabilities.

On August 29, 2024, the State Administration for Market Regulation issued the "Key Measures by Market Regulatory Departments to Improve the Business Environment (2024 Edition)" (G.S.J.Z.Fa. [2024] No. 84). This Measures proposes supporting eligible PFTZs and FTPs in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and in exploring and introducing substantive measures in areas such as business registration management, inspection and testing in goods trade, certification and accreditation, consumer protection, and cross-border services, so as to further advance institutional opening-up and reforms in PFTZs.

On September 2, 2024, the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Promoting the High-Quality Development of Trade in Services through High-Standard Opening-Up" (G.B.Fa. [2024] No. 44). The document calls for giving full play to the pioneering role and stress-testing function of PFTZs and the Hainan Free Trade Port, and steadily promoting the phased opening-up of cross-border trade in services nationwide.

On September 14, 2024, the General Office of the General Administration of Customs issued the "Notice on Further Optimizing Customs Tax Services and Supporting Measures to Enhance the Quality and Stability of Foreign Trade" (S.B.S.H. [2024] No. 12), proposing 12 measures related to tax guarantees, duty reductions and exemptions, cross-border transportation of imported goods, and origin-related benefits for enterprises, aimed at supporting businesses in fully utilizing import tax policies and measures.

In September 2024, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Health Commission, and the National Medical Products Administration jointly issued the "Notice on Launching Pilot Programs to Further Open Up the Medical Sector" (S.Z.H. [2024] No. 568). The notice permits foreign-invested enterprises in Beijing PFTZ, Shanghai PFTZ, and Guangdong PFTZ, as well as Hainan FTP, to conduct research, development, and application of human stem cells, gene diagnosis, and therapeutic technologies for purposes of product registration and production.

On October 17, 2024, during his inspection tour in Fujian, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized the need to further implement the strategy for upgrading PFTZs, proactively align with major regional development strategies, deeply integrate into the high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation, build the key region on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and consolidate and expand the functions of key nodes and crucial channels for domestic and international dual circulation.



On October 25, 2024, the State Council issued the "Notice on Task Assignment for Replicating and Scaling Pilot Measures on Aligning with High-Standard International Rules to Advance Institutional Opening-up in PFTZs" (G.H. [2024] No. 156). The Notice requires that the replication and scaling efforts be guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, thoroughly implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress and the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 20th CPC Central Committee, actively align with international high-standard economic and trade rules, expand institutional opening-up in rules, regulations, management, and standards, and establish a broader institutional system and regulatory model that dovetails with high-standard international economic and trade rules.

On November 19, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce issued the "Notice on Issuing Several Policy Measures to Promote Stable Growth of Foreign Trade" (SH.M.Fa. [2024] No. 288). The Notice proposes conducting research to release a new batch of catalogs for bonded maintenance products in comprehensive bonded zones, as well as the second batch of bonded maintenance products with overseas-sourced inputs and overseas-destined outputs in PFTZs; supporting a new round of pilot projects, including bonded maintenance projects in comprehensive bonded zones and PFTZs with overseas-sourced inputs and overseas-destined outputs, along with bonded remanufacturing pilot projects within comprehensive bonded zones.

On November 25, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province issued the "Plan for Building a Hub for Bulk Commodity Resource Allocation in Zhejiang PFTZ" (S.Z.M.Fa. [2024] No. 291). The Plan targets key commodities such as oil and gas, minerals, and grains, addressing five major areas: storage and transportation, processing, trade, logistics, and maritime services for bulk commodities. It further incorporates supporting policies on finance, personnel, and data, and sets out 15 priority tasks.

On December 4, 2024, the National Development and Reform Commission and other relevant departments issued the "Opinions on Leveraging Domestic Trade Credit Insurance to Enhance Integration of Domestic and Foreign Trade" (F.G.C.J. [2024] No. 1731), encouraging purchasing of domestic trade insurance by enterprises operating in foreign trade and economic cooperation hubs—such as PFTZs, FTP, special customs supervision areas, and border economic cooperation zones—as well as in innovation-driven areas like high-tech industrial development zones and national independent innovation demonstration zones.

On December 11, 2024, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the Central Economic Work Conference, emphasizing the need to expand self-directed and unilateral opening-up in an orderly manner, steadily advance institutional opening-up, enhance the quality and efficiency of PFTZs while expanding their reform mandates, and accelerate the implementation of core policies for Hainan FTP.



On December 12, 2024, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Accelerating the Construction of a Unified and Open Transportation Market". The Opinions proposes building an institutional system and regulatory model that are consistent with internationally prevailing rules, steadily broadening institutional opening-up across rules, regulations, governance, and standards, actively aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and promoting institutional innovation for opening up the transportation sector in eligible PFTZs and FTP. This enhances the underwriting capacity of marine insurance and global service levels, while advancing institutional and regulatory innovations in maritime arbitration.

On December 18, 2024, the Ministry of Finance issued the "Notice on Launching Pilot Programs in Relevant PFTZs and FTP to Address Abnormally Low-Priced Bids in Government Procurement" (C.B.K. [2024] No. 265), deciding to launch pilot initiatives in PFTZs in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Fujian, and Guangdong, as well as Hainan FTP, starting from February 1, 2025, to address abnormally low-priced bids in government procurement.

On December 30, 2024, the State Council issued the "Approval of Continuing Provisional Adjustment to the Application of Relevant Administrative Regulations in Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ" (G.H. [2024] No. 204), approving that, from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027, the relevant provisions of the "Regulations of the People's Republic of China on International Ocean Shipping" and "Regulations on the Administration of Domestic Water Transport" shall be temporarily adjusted in their application in Lin-gang Special Area of Shanghai PFTZ.