

Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium on World Opening-Up

【Basic Information】

Moderator:

WANG Guan CGTN Senior Journalist

Keynote Speeches:

Shahin Mustafayev Deputy Prime Minister of the Rep. of Azerbaijan

LING Ji Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative

ZHAO Zhimin Secretary General of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

SHU Luomei Director in the Division of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) and Institutional Partnerships, UNIDO

Press Conference on *World Openness Report*:

LIAO Fan Director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics, CASS

WANG Xuekun Director of Research Center for HQF

Business Leader's Views on Openness:

Zafer Unluer Senior Vice President of Organon, President of Organon China

QIAO Yinping Chief Operating Officer of Shanghai Electric Group Company Ltd.

Pascal Dasseux Executive Vice President Havas, Senior Advisor Asian Affairs Vivendi

Experts' Views on World Openness:

ZHU Min	Member of the Senior Expert Advisory Committee of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, and Former Deputy Managing Director of the IMF
Kishore Mahbubani	Former Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, and Distinguished Fellow of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS)
Hamid Rashid	Former Officer-in-charge, Global Economic Monitoring Branch of UN, and a former lead author of World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)
ZHANG Yuyan	Academician of the CASS, and Dean of the School of International Politics and Economics, University of CASS

[Brief Introduction]

The Launch Ceremony and International Seminar of the World Openness Report 2025 was held in Hall 4.2, National Convention and Exhibition Center (Shanghai), NO.333 Songze Avenue, Qingpu Dist., Shanghai, China on the afternoon of November 5, 2025.

Hosted by the Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and the Research Center for Hongqiao International Forum(HQF), co-organized by the National Institute for Global Strategy of the CASS, and organized by the China Outsourcing Institute. The event features four panels: Keynote Speeches, Press Conference on World Openness Report, Business Leader's Views on Openness, and Experts' Views on World Openness.



[Keynote Speeches]

During the Keynote Speeches session, guests included Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Rep. of Azerbaijan; LING Ji, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative; ZHAO Zhimin, Secretary General of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences(CASS); and SHU Luomei, Director in the Division of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) and Institutional Partnerships, UNIDO. Guests exchanged views on the global openness landscape, countries' opening-up practices, and the value of international cooperation.

Openness is an indispensable path to global prosperity and development. Faced with challenges such as unilateralism and protectionism, multilateralism-advocating dialogue and consultation, mutual benefit and win-win results-is the best way to resolve differences. Many countries have actively embraced open economies, achieving stable economic growth and diversified development through measures including improving laws and regulations, optimizing the business environment, and advancing digital transformation and green development. China has always been firmly committed to expanding high-standard opening-up. The 15th Five-Year Plan has clarified the direction and roadmap for opening-up. China's large market offers broad opportunities to the world, and it plays an important role in stabilizing global industrial and supply chains, and promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. International organizations and countries should strengthen cooperation to create an open, transparent and inclusive business environment, support developing countries in industrialization and integration into global value chains, and ensure that the fruits of openness benefit people of all countries.



Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Rep. of Azerbaijan,
Addressed the Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium on World Opening-up



LING Ji, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative,
Addressed the Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium on World Opening-up



ZHAO Zhimin, Secretary General of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences(CASS), addressed the Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium on World Opening-up



SHU Luomei, Director in the Division of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) and Institutional Partnerships, UNIDO.,addressed the Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium on World Opening-up

[Press Conference on World Openness Report]

During the Press Conference on World Openness Report, LIAO Fan, Director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics, CASS, and WANG Xuekun, Director of Research Center for HQF, were invited to release the Report. The guests introduced the core content and key findings of the World Openness Report 2025. The Report has achieved four major breakthroughs in terms of internationality, depth of measurement, research perspective, and governance focus, presenting the trend in global openness through 35-year time series data. Currently, world openness shows a pattern of "overall tightening, intensified differentiation, and kinetic energy transformation". While economic and cultural openness are under pressure, and traditional openness engines such as Europe and North America are losing momentum, emerging markets and developing economies have become an important force maintaining world openness. Over the past 35 years, China's openness index has increased by nearly 30%, with key indicators leading among major economies. Since 2008, the index has continued to rise, injecting stability and certainty into global openness. China's opening-up practices, such as the joint construction of the Belt and Road, the China International Import Expo (CIIE), and pilot free trade zones (FTZs), have become a certain force for world openness. The return on investment for foreign businesses in China ranks among the top in the world, and "to believe in China is to believe in tomorrow" has become a consensus among global enterprises.



LIAO Fan, Director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics, CASS,
Attended the Parallel Session on Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium
on World Opening-up and participated in the Press Conference on *World Openness Report*



WANG Xuekun, Director of Research Center for HQF,
Attended the Parallel Session on Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium
on World Opening-up and participated in the Press Conference on *World Openness Report*

[Business Leader's Views on Openness]

During the Business Leader's Views on Openness session, guests included Zafer Unluer, Senior Vice President of Organon and President of Organon China; QIAO Yinping, Chief Operating Officer of Shanghai Electric Group Company Ltd.; and Pascal Dasseux, Executive Vice President of Havas and Senior Advisor on Asian Affairs of Vivendi. Guests discussed the value of openness to the development of different industries and the corresponding practical paths.

Openness is the core of innovation in the biopharmaceutical industry. Life and health know no borders-the global flow of talents, data, and capital can accelerate drug research and development, meet diverse medical needs in various countries, and a stable and predictable policy environment is crucial for sustained innovation. In the green industry, cooperation on opening-up promotes the transformation of the global energy structure. Through technology export and project cooperation, China's new energy industry has helped participating countries of the BRI, reduce energy costs, improve people's livelihoods, and drive local industrial upgrading and employment growth. Although the cultural sector faces the challenge of a tightening openness index, cross-cultural exchange is vital. It can be promoted by expanding overseas study opportunities, increasing international direct flights, optimizing the convenience of payment systems, and leveraging artificial intelligence to break down language barriers. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen international communication to highlight cultural charm and national image.



Zafer Unluer, Senior Vice President of Organon, President of Organon China, Attended the Parallel Session on Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium on World Opening-up and participated in the discussion



QIAO Yinping, Chief Operating Officer of Shanghai Electric Group Company Ltd.,
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Pascal Dasseux, Executive Vice President Havas , Senior Advisor Asian Affairs Vivendi,
Attended the Parallel Session on Press Conference on *World Openness Report 2025* & International Symposium
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[Experts' Views on World Openness]

During the Experts' Views on World Openness session, guests included ZHU Min, Member of the Senior Expert Advisory Committee of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges and Former Deputy Managing Director of the IMF; Kishore Mahbubani, Singaporean diplomat, Former Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations and Distinguished Fellow of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS); Hamid Rashid, Former Officer-in-charge of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch of the UN, and a former lead author of World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP); and ZHANG Yuyan, Academician of the CASS, and Dean of the School of International Politics and Economics, University of CASS. The guests conducted in-depth exchanges on topics such as the game of global openness, openness trends, and global governance reform.

Currently, global openness faces contradictions including the expansion of emerging economies and the contraction of developed economies, as well as the interweaving of regional integration and unilateralism. However, factors such as market forces, countries' willingness for development, and the rise of the Global South have rendered the trend of openness irreversible. Global trade presents characteristics of multipolarization and decentralization: developing countries are actively striving for their right to development, and a diversified trade structure is taking shape. Unilateral opening-up and independent opening-up have achieved remarkable results. China has implemented measures such as zero-tariff treatment for the least developed countries and expanding the visa-free scope, driving global openness through its own opening-up. The global financial system is undergoing profound changes with sustained active capital flows; China has become a net capital exporter, and the open competition between the US dollar, euro, and RMB is promoting the transformation of the international monetary system. The Global South has made outstanding contributions to global economic growth and trade increments. Its collective rise will push the global governance system toward a more fair and reasonable direction. It is necessary to enhance the discourse power of developing countries by reforming the voting rights and quotas of international organizations, improving multilateral trade rules, and strengthening the role of multilateral development banks.



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