XI Congratulates on Successful Deep-Sea Trials of Submersible

On November 28, Chinese President XI Jinping expressed his congratulations to involved scientists on the triumphant return of *Fendouzhe*, a new manned submersible of China, from its successful 10,000-meter sea trials.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is a major contributor to the R&D of the deep-sea submersible, known as Striver in English. The vehicle has set a national record by diving to a depth of 10,909 meters on November 10 in the Challenger Deep, the deepest known point of the Earth's oceans, at the southern end of the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean. It returned to port in Sanya, Hainan Province of China on November 28, the same day XI sends his letter of congratulation to the involved institutions.

XI greeted the scientists and engineers working on deep-sea equipment and exploration, and encouraged them to keep contributing to the nation's rise as a strong maritime country, as well as humanity's understanding, conservation and development of the oceans.

The feat shows that China now has the ability to conduct scientific exploration and research in the deepest parts of the ocean, reflecting the country's overall prowess in cutting-edge maritime technologies, XI said in the letter.

XI called for all scientists involved in maritime equipment and exploration to keep scaling new heights and accelerate the nation's progress in becoming a maritime power, thus contributing more to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Fendouzhe, also known as Striver in English, the submersible that has set a national record by diving to a depth of 10,909 meters in the Mariana Trench. [Photo/China Daily]

With its ability to conduct deep-sea navigation and explorations, *Fendouzhe* is believed to have empowered China with "full ocean depth capacity", enabling the country to carry out routine manned expeditions at any depth of any ocean, given that the average depth of the oceans is about 3,600 to 4,000 meters. This might lead to new discoveries in unchartered areas in deep sea where the water pressure is large enough to crush any ordinary vehicles, and hence help humanity better understand a series of scientific issues, including the formation of tectonic plates.

A total of 10 institutes under the Chinese Academy of Sciences have deeply involved in the building of the vehicle and its trials at different depths of oceans. As the owner of the vehicle, the Academy has played a central role in the related R&D projects and the organization of the trials.