



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact
John Robbins 832-280-5815
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

China to switch benchmark for floating-rate loans to lower funding costs



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Monday, December 30, 2019 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Tesla set to begin deliveries of China-made Model 3 cars on Dec. 30



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump holds a campaign rally in Sunrise, Florida, U.S., November 26, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

BEIJING/SHANGHAI (Reuters) - U.S. electric vehicle maker Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) will begin delivering Model 3 vehicles built at its Shanghai factory on Monday, a company representative told Reuters.

Construction of its first plant outside the United States began in January and production started in October. It aims to produce 250,000 vehicles a year after production of the Model Y is added in the initial phase

The first 15 customers to get the cars on Dec 30 are Tesla employees, the company representative added.

The delivery date of Dec. 30 means that the plant will start delivering cars to customers just 357 days after the factory's construction started, which will mark a new record for global automakers in China.

The China-made cars are priced at 355,800 yuan (\$50,000) before subsidies and Tesla has said it wants to start deliveries before Chinese new year beginning on Jan. 25.

The Shanghai plant is part of the Silicon Valley automaker's plans to bolster its presence in the world's biggest auto market and minimize the impact of the U.S.-China trade war.

The carmaker already treats China, the world's biggest electric vehicle market where 1.3 million new-energy vehicles were sold last year, differently than elsewhere, with offerings such as racing events and showroom parties.

FIL PHOTO: China-made Tesla Model 3 electric vehicles are seen at the Gigafactory of electric carmaker Tesla Inc in Shanghai, China December 2, 2019. REUTERS/Aly Song

It is also building service centers and charging stations across China to assure customers of standardized after-sales service, Reuters reported last month.

The Chinese government has also been supportive of the factory, which is China's first wholly foreign-owned car plant and a reflection of the government's broader shift to open up its car market.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Friday said it had added Tesla's China-made Model 3 to a list of new energy vehicles exempt from purchase tax.

The ministry had said in August it had exempted all of Tesla's models from purchase tax.

Bruce Lee's daughter sues Chinese fast food chain for using late kungfu master's image

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - A firm run by the daughter of Bruce Lee has sued a Chinese fast food for using the late kungfu star's image in its logo without permission and is seeking over 210 million yuan (\$30 million) in compensation, Chinese media outlet The Paper reported.

California-based Bruce Lee Enterprises, whose head is Shannon Lee, filed the case against the Real Kungfu chain in a Shanghai court on Wednesday, requesting that the food firm stop using the image and pay an additional 88,000 yuan to cover legal expenses.

It also asked that the Guangzhou-based chain to issue clarifications for 90 days to say that it has nothing to do with Bruce Lee. Real Kungfu, which sells rice bowls with Chinese dishes, was founded in 1990 and has outlets in over 57 Chinese cities.

Its logo is of a man dressed in a yellow long-sleeved top whose looks and stance are similar to Bruce Lee and his famed 'ready to strike' pose.

Real Kungfu on its Weibo account on Thursday said it was "puzzled" by the lawsuit as it had used that logo for the last 15 years. It said that while there had been some issues in the past, its use of the logo was approved by national authorities.

The filing of the case comes as China has pledged to improve protection for intellectual property rights and apply stiffer penalties, one of the key topics in Beijing's trade dispute with the United States.

旺鋪招商 凱蒂大學城 附送油井



租約最好 正對上萬學生校園 上學下班必經路 商鋪有限
雙高速圓環中心點 全時段人潮車流

意者請電! John Woo | 832-876-8678 | Passion Realty | www.KATatUniversity.com

金冠 CROWN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

特價海鮮 帝皇餐

瑤柱鮑魚海參羹
蒜蒸皇帝蟹身腳
皇帝蟹蓋炒飯
酸子炒雙龍蝦
清蒸游水荷殼魚
海參扒菜膽
蒜蓉蒸原雙帶子(5只)
野菌炒牛柳絲
蒜蓉豆苗

8-10人(蟹7磅) \$599.00
(套餐皇帝蟹7磅計算, 多了每磅\$40.00)

德州生蠔
\$11.99(6只)
\$21.99(12只)



維吉尼亞螃蟹
(沙茶粉絲煲)



\$23.99

一個 Order, 兩只龍蝦



特價午餐 (Lunch specials)

(週一至週五) 11am-3pm (假日除外)

www.crownseafoodrestaurant.com

10796 Bellaire Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77072 (at Wilcrest)

Tel: 281-575-1768 Fax: 281-575-1763

China to switch benchmark for floating-rate loans to lower funding costs

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's central bank will use the loan prime rate (LPR) as a new benchmark for pricing existing floating-rate loans, in a step that analysts say could help lower borrowing costs and underpin economic growth.

FILE PHOTO: Headquarters of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, is pictured in Beijing, China September 28, 2018. REUTERS/Jason Lee/File Photo

Beijing has unveiled a raft of pro-growth measures this year, including tax cuts, more infrastructure spending, reductions in the amount of cash banks must keep on reserve and lending rates to boost credit.

Starting on Jan. 1, financial institutions will be prohibited from signing floating-rate loan contracts based on the previous benchmark bank lending rate the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said in a statement on its website on Saturday.

Floating-rate loans, excluding individual housing loans tied to state provident funds, that have been signed before 2020 will be priced in line with the LPR, the central bank said.

Under the new rate regime unveiled in August, the revamped LPR is linked to the medium-term lending facility (MLF), a key policy rate of the PBOC.

"The purpose of the step is to make interest rates more market-driven and help lower financing costs," said Wen Bin, an economist at Minsheng Bank in Beijing.

The one-year loan prime rate (LPR) is at 4.15%, down by 16 basis points from August.

The previous benchmark bank lending rate has been kept steady at 4.35% since October 2015.



FILE PHOTO: Headquarters of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, is pictured in Beijing, China September 28, 2018. REUTERS/Jason Lee/File Photo

The five-year LPR is at 4.80%.

Analysts expect the central bank to cut the MLF rate by 20-30 basis points in 2020, which could pave the way for lowering the LPR further.

SLOWING ECONOMY

China's economic growth slowed to 6.0% in the third quarter, a near 30-year low, but full-year growth is expected to be within the government's target of 6-6.5%.

Analysts believe easing trade tensions with the United States could relieve pressure on exports, but further policy loosening is still needed to cope with weak demand at home and abroad.

The government plans to set a lower economic growth target of around 6% in 2020, relying on increased state infrastructure spending to ward off a sharper slowdown, policy sources said.

From March 1, financial institutions will negotiate with customers on terms for converting the pricing benchmark on their loan contracts into the LPR, the central bank said.

The converted lending rate on the existing commercial individual housing loans should remain unchanged, in order to implement the government's property regulations, the central bank said.

The benchmark conversion should be completed before the end of August, the central bank added.

Nearly 90% of new loans are benchmarked against the LPR, but the existing floating rate loans are still priced based on the previous benchmark lending rate, which "cannot reflect the changes of market interest rate in a timely way", the PBOC said.



美南報業/電視/網站/傳媒總社 SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

Media | Newspaper | Television | Yellow Pages | Printing
The Largest Asian Independent Multi-media Group In Houston & USA.

15.3 Southern Television

美南日報 Southern Chinese Daily News

休士頓黃頁 Houston Chinese Yellow Pages

休士頓旅遊指南 Houston Travel Guide

美南新聞網站 www.scdaily.com

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER 美南國際貿易中心 International Trade Center www.itchouston.org

美南印刷廠 U.S.A. Printing

美國美南拉瑪爾大學環球職業教育中心 Global center for Professional Education Lamar University -SNG

Phonoscope Fibox 美南光聲電訊傳媒集團 Phonoscope-Southern News Group Telecom Media Group



SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

T 281-498-4310
F 281-498-2728

ad@scdaily.com
www.today-america.com

11122 Bellaire Blvd
Houston, TX 77072

Editor's Choice



A child looks on, whose shelter has been burned after a fire broke out in a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 27, 2019. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Emergency and security personnel are seen at the site of a plane crash near Almaty



Women wearing special protective glasses observe the annular solar eclipse at mosque in Gowa



A runner dressed as Santa Claus walks through the forest while joining the annual 'Roast Goose Digestion Run' aiming to burn the calories after holiday celebrations in Berlin, Germany December 26, 2019. REUTERS/Michele Tantussi TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



People observe a partial solar eclipse at the Science Center for Education in Bangkok, Thailand, December 26, 2019. REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Women scatter flower petals in the waters of the Bay of Bengal during a prayer ceremony for the victims of the 2004 tsunami on the 15th anniversary of the disaster, in Chennai



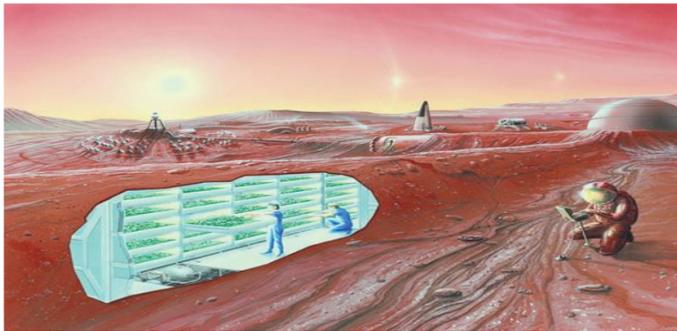
A man reacts during a protest against a new citizenship law outside the Jamia Millia Islamia university in New Delhi



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson attends a rally event in Colchester

The More Resources We Can Harness On The Red Planet, The Fewer We Need To Bring With Us

Almost Everything We Need To Live On Mars Is Already There



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

We continue to learn that Mars is rich with resources that could be vital to supporting astronauts on the Red Planet for any extended period of time. Instead of launching resources such as water and materials to build a habitat to Mars, it could potentially be much more cost effective to send automated robots to harvest resources from the Martian surface and atmosphere in preparation for the arrival of humans.

This colonization strategy is the subject of an April 2016 NASA scientific and technical information (STI) paper titled "Frontier In-Situ Resource Utilization for Enabling Sustained Human Presence on Mars," which argues that the information we have gleaned from rovers and orbiters suggests that there is an abundance of useful resources already on Mars. What's more, we are on the cusp of developing the technology that would be required to extract resources on Mars with robotic systems so they would be immediately available to arriving astronauts.

From the paper:

In recent years, measurements by rovers and satellites at Mars have indicated massive amounts of water in the form of ice beneath and within the regolith. At times, during the Martian year, liq-

uid water is observed on the surface of Mars. If the planet were flat and the ice melted, there would be an ocean many meters deep on the entire planet. These huge deposits of water can be extracted in several ways and combined with the large amounts of carbon residing in the 95% CO2 atmosphere to produce life support fluids, fuels, oxidizers, and plastics for equipment, including rovers and spare parts.



The tentative plan all starts with water. By sending in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) equipment to regions of Mars with subsurface water ice deposits, we could extract the water that is key to producing other materials. Carbon extracted from the atmosphere could then be used to make a wide range of things, from plastics to rocket propellant to habitat-heating fuel.

Mineral resources are in abundance as well, including iron, titanium, nickel,

aluminum, sulfur, chlorine and calcium. "Clay-like minerals are also ubiquitous in the Martian surface soils, making the manufacturing of ceramics for pottery and similar purposes a straightforward enterprise," reads the STI paper. "The most common material measured by the Viking landers on Mars was silicon dioxide (SiO2)... the basic constituent of glass, which thus can readily be produced on Mars using sand-melting techniques similar to those that have been used on Earth for thousands of years." SiO2 could also be used to make "many important glass products, including fiberglass, an excellent material for constructing various types of structures." To protect Martian settlers from cosmic radiation and intense cold, the most logical thing to do is build habitats underground, ultimately filling the caverns with inflatable habitat modules. Digging out habitats would also be an efficient way to expose subsurface water ice and other resources needed for ISRU.



Food could also be produced on Mars in a "protected atmospheric environment using sunlight," or possibly using an artificial light source. "Earth independence requires that the astronauts grow their own food or that the food be grown for them robotically. Such robotic agriculture exists now. Possible food sources which could be produced on planet include mushrooms, insects, cyanobacteria (e.g. spirulina) and duckweed, along with many others." The STI paper also mentions the possibility of developing a "rice paddy aquaculture" or "taking a plethora of insect species to Mars."

If this all sounds familiar that is because,

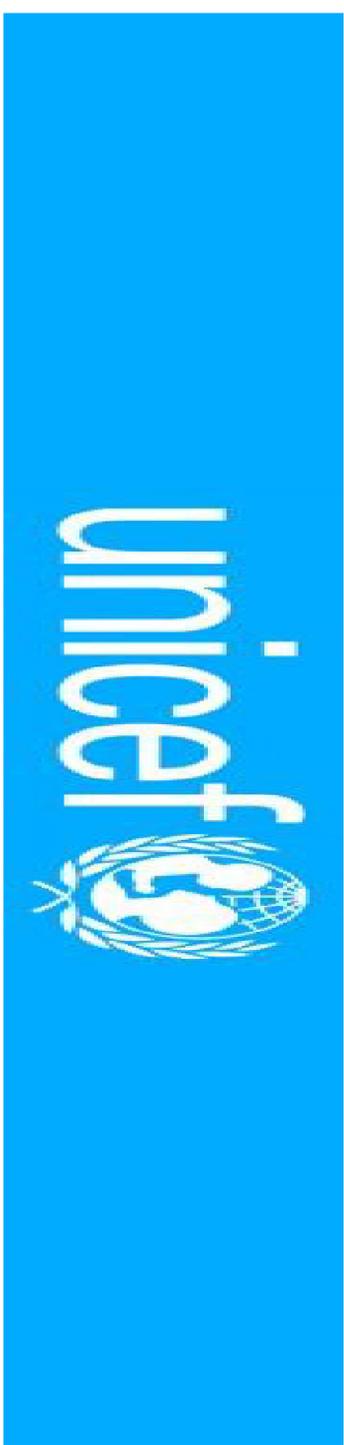
yes, this is pretty much exactly how it all goes down in Kim Stanley Robinson's Red Mars.

To actually realize a Martian outpost anything like what is outlined in the STI paper (and/or Red Mars), we would rely on advances in robotics technology and automated systems. Basically, we would need to send robots to start building our Martian settlement for us before we arrive, and continue to maintain the habitat, food-production systems, and other equipment. "The crew is there to explore, and to colonize, not maintain and repair. Any time spent on 'living there' and 'housekeeping' should be minimized to an oversight role of robotic automated tasks," reads the STI paper.



We are starting to scratch the surface of developing robotic systems that could break ground on our new Martian home. A prototype instrument called Moxie will be included on the Mars 2020 rover for extracting oxygen from the Martian atmosphere. NASA is also considering a plan to launch an orbiter to Mars in 2022 that would search for ice deposits near the surface of the Red Planet, helping scientists pick the ideal location for a Martian outpost.

The point is, the resources we need are already there waiting for us. We just need to figure out how to use them. (Courtesy/ NASA via Aviation Week)



Healthcare that understands your culture.



Alan Chang, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
OB/GYN
Mandarin & Cantonese
The Woodlands OB/GYN and Women's Health



Kuangzoo Huang, M.D.
Family Medicine
Mandarin
Meyerland Plaza Clinic



Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.
Family Medicine
Mandarin
Meyerland Plaza Clinic



Tri Lee, M.D.
Endocrinology
Cantonese
Main Campus Clinic
Meyerland Plaza Clinic



Yee-Ru (Amy) Chen, D.O.
Family Medicine
Cantonese, Mandarin & Taiwanese
Downtown at The Shops at 4 Houston Center



Jeanie Ling, M.D.
Ophthalmology
Ophthalmic Surgery
Glaucoma Specialist
Mandarin
Tanglewood Clinic



Philip L. Ho, M.D.
Urology
Mandarin
Clear Lake Clinic
Main Campus Clinic
Spring Medical & Diagnostic Center



John Tam, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Cantonese & Mandarin
Fort Bend Medical & Diagnostic Center



Joyce Holz, M.D.
Gynecology
Mandarin
Main Campus Clinic



Eileen Wu, M.D.
Orthopedic Surgery
Mandarin
Spring Medical & Diagnostic Center
The Woodlands Clinic

Meet Dr. Jennifer Lai



Jennifer Lai, M.D.
Pediatrics
Mandarin
Tanglewood Clinic – starting Sept. 9

"I am a strong advocate of promoting health and wellness to my patients, especially in the pediatric population. I want to make a difference and have a strong, healthy impact on my patients' lives."

-Jennifer Lai, M.D.

Dr. Lai is a board-certified pediatrician who earned her medical degree from The University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio and completed her pediatric internship and residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her special clinical interests include General Pediatrics, caring for newborns, managing autism, and treating childhood obesity. She cares for young patients at Kelsey-Seybold's Tanglewood Clinic, near the Galleria.

Appointments: 713-442-5437 (KIDS)



Chen Xie, M.D.
Ear, Nose, and Throat
Mandarin
Main Campus Clinic



Beth Yip, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Pediatrics
Cantonese & Mandarin
Pearland Clinic

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
Changing the way health cares.™

Kelsey-Seybold welcomes new patients and accepts more than 50 health insurance plans including Aetna, Cigna, KelseyCare, UnitedHealthcare, and Humana.

24-hour appointment scheduling: 713-442-0000
Learn more at kelsey-seybold.com/cares

TOKYO/HIGASHI MATSUSHIMA, JAPAN (Reuters) - A northern Japanese city's efforts to rebuild its electric power system after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami mark a quiet shift away from the country's old utility model toward self-reliant, local generation and transmission.

After losing three-quarters of its homes and 1,100 people in the March 2011 temblor and tsunami, the city of Higashi Matsushima turned to the Japanese government's "National Resilience Program," with 3.72 trillion yen (\$33.32 billion) in funding for this fiscal year, to rebuild.

The city of 40,000 chose to construct micro-grids and de-centralized renewable power generation to create a self-sustaining system capable of producing an average of 25 percent of its electricity without the need of the region's local power utility.



The city's steps illustrate a massive yet little known effort to take dozens of Japan's towns and communities off the power grid and make them partly self-sufficient in generating electricity. "At the time of the Great East Japan earthquake, we couldn't secure power and had to go through incredible hardships," said Yusuke Atsumi, a manager at HOPE, the utility Higashi Matsushima created to manage the local generation and grid.

Under a large-scale power system a "blackout at one area would lead to wide-scale power outages. But the independent distributed micro-grid can sustain power even if the surrounding area is having a blackout."

The Resilience Program is mainly for building back-up capabilities for Japan's cities and towns in the event of another

Quiet Energy Revolution Is Underway In Japan As Dozens Of Towns Go Off The Grid



Higashi-Matsushima city major Hideo Abe shows off pictures of the city's reconstructing plan after March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, at the city government office in Higashi-Matsushima, northern Japan, February 22, 2017. (Photo/REUTERS)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

er disaster such as the earthquake and tsunami that caused meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. However, the Program has spurred the creation of micro-grids and distributed power generation across Japan that reduces municipalities dependence on large power plants.



Japan's government ministries are seeking to raise the budget for the Program by another 24 percent for the fiscal year starting in April 2018, the cabinet office said last month.

The money earmarked for this fiscal year is going in part to the creation of smart energy management systems and distributed generation systems in towns across Japan.

"Since Fukushima, there has been a gradual elaboration of policies to realize that kind of local autonomy, local consumption paradigm," said Andrew Dewit, a professor of energy policy at Rikkyo University in Tokyo.



Distributed generation uses small-scale power generation fueled by natural gas or solar and wind power arrays. Smart energy systems use the internet to connect appliances and meters to better direct electric power where and when it's needed.

Higashi Matsushima has built its own independent transmission grid and solar generating panels as well as batteries to store power that can keep the city running for at least three days, according to Atsumi.

Companies in Japan are shifting their focus in response to the changes heralded by cities like Higashi Matsushima.

Sekisui House (1928.T), Japan's biggest builder of detached homes, constructed Higashi Matsushima's smart micro-grid for 85 housing units in 2016.

Taisei Corp (1801.T), one of Japan's biggest construction companies, set up an energy strategy division this year to take

advantage of the drive for smart energy systems.

The company is planning to double energy-related orders to around 120 billion yen over the next five years, focusing on renewables, energy efficient buildings and smart communities, a spokesman said.



Steps taken by cities like Higashi Matsushima were the brainchild of Takao Kashiwagi, a professor at the International Research Centre for Advanced Energy Systems for Sustainability at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

He designed Japan's first smart town and is the head of the New Energy Promotion Council that has paid out more than 100 billion yen in subsidies from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for smart energy communities.

"We are moving towards a day when we won't be building large-scale power plants. Instead, we will have distributed power systems, where small power supply systems are in place near the consumption areas," he said. (Courtesy https://www.reuters.com/)

2019美南地區 最具影響力的各行各業. Advertisement for various services including legal, education, gaming, and real estate.

The MINT National Bank A SBA PLP Lender Recently Closed Loans. Advertisement for various loan products including SBA Motel, SBA Loan-Gas Stations, Conventional-Gas Station, SBA Loan-Motel, Conventional: Retail Condominiums, Conventional: Gas Stations, Conventional: Gas Stations, and Conventional: Builder line of credit.