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## Chen Dong sets national record for longest time in space

Chen Dong has set a new record for the most cumulative days living and working in space by a Chinese astronaut.

The China Manned Space Agency said on Tuesday that the two-time space traveler, who is onboard China's orbiting Tiangong space station, has become the first Chinese to stay in orbit for more than 200 days.

Together with two other astronauts, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe, Chen was sent to the space station core module Tianhe aboard the Shenzhou XIV spaceship on June 5 for a six-month stay.

The crew has spent more than 170 days in orbit. This is the second time Chen has ventured into space, following his first 33-day Shenzhou XI mission in Tiangong 2, the space station's predecessor, in 2016 with astronaut Jing Haipeng.

"Chen is a perfectionist. He never leaves problems unsolved," said Jing. After his first space trip, Chen was conferred with a third-class medal and the honorary title "heroic astronaut".

Chen was born in 1978 in Henan province. He was recruited into China's astronaut team in May 2010.



We will make good use of such a platform to carry out more complicated sci-tech experiments, so as to generate more achievements to serve the world and benefit all mankind."



Chen Dong, Chinese astronaut

Appointed as the mission commander, Chen has led the Shenzhou XIV crew to complete multiple tasks over the past five months, including three spacewalks, a series of scientific experiments, a live science lecture, and several in-orbit operations of rendezvous, docking and transposition. They have been called "the busiest space crew" by Chinese netizens.

During the mission, the trio in orbit oversaw the arrival of the station's two lab modules, Wentian and Mengtian, and saw off Tiangong 4 cargo craft. They will also witness the historical moment when the Chinese space station is fully completed by the end of this year.

"Building China's space station is the dream of all Chinese people. We are so lucky and happy to see that the construction of the space home will be completed in our hands," Chen said while the trio met the media ahead of the mission.

"We will make good use of such a platform to carry out more complicated sci-tech experiments, so as to generate more achievements to serve the world and benefit all mankind."

China is ready to send the next manned mission into space as the Shenzhou XV spaceship and its carrier rocket were transferred to the launch area on Monday.

Chen and his team members will be involved in the first Chinese space station crew handover in orbit when the Shenzhou XV astronauts arrive.

The manpower in Tiangong will grow to six for a short period before the Shenzhou XIV heads back to Earth.

The Shenzhou XIV crew is scheduled to return to the Dongfeng landing site in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region in December.

XINHUA

### Opinion Line

## Space belongs to humanity, come share it with China

At the UN/China space exploration and innovation partnership conference on Monday, the China National Space Administration raised eight issues in the keynote speech delivered by its deputy director Wu Yanhua, which should inspire anybody who has concerns about China's space program.

China made clear, in no ambiguous terms, its basic principles about human space exploration, namely openness, sharing and cooperation.

It showed China's firm determination to strengthen cooperation, defend the core role of the UN in space matters, and oppose any attempt to divide space exploration participants into camps. These are things the United States, and its Western allies in particular, need to hear.

As a sector that can achieve wonders if backed by adequate funds, astronautics requires everybody's

cooperation. However, the West, the US in particular, has been trying to dominate the field and maintain its hegemony. That is the reason why it has even set up a space force. In contrast, China's sincerity in sharing everything and its open mind is exemplary as well as laudable.

It should be noted that China's sincerity is not limited to mere words but extends to action. Following its rocket launches in 2021, China has timely updated the information on its astronautics white paper, so as to promote coordination with other nations in space research and exploration, thus creating more opportunities for countries of the world.

After China's lunar probe brought back samples from the moon's surface, China publicized the detailed management regulations on the moon samples, wel-

coming interest shown by other countries to ask for a portion of the sample to carry out studies and expand their knowledge of the moon and space.

When the International Space Station retires, China's space station will be the only permanent residence for humankind in space. China has more than once encouraged professionals from around the world to participate in China's space programs.

In a nutshell, when China says it is willing to cooperate with the world, it means it. It is progressing speedily in terms of astronautics, but it has never forgotten its friends and will never leave them behind.

Space belongs to all humankind, and China is doing a good job as a pioneer.

—SHI HAO, SCIENTIST AT CHINA AEROSPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION