NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Technological Strength without Growth? Prof. Donald Low Explores China's Tech Advantage and Economic Slowdown

Prof. Donald How Tian LOW published a commentary on Channel NewsAsia (CNA) on June 3, 2026. He put forward a core developmental paradox: while China holds world-leading technological strengths in new energy vehicles, renewable energy and artificial intelligence, its macroeconomy and stock market remain under persistent pressure. He constructed a streamlined analytical framework connecting technological advancement, domestic consumption, the property sector slump and local government debt issues. He pointed out that technological advantages alone cannot drive comprehensive economic growth, as weak consumption and a depressed real estate sector keep squeezing corporate profits and dampening market confidence.

Professor Donald Low further elaborated on the imbalance between massive domestic investment in AI and lacklustre stock market performance. Global capital is flowing into overseas semiconductor sectors, leading to substantial market value losses for China's leading tech firms.

He warned that geopolitical restrictions on chips and the slow commercialisation of technological achievements would widen the gap between technical breakthroughs and tangible economic returns. In closing, he proposed coordinated balanced structural reforms covering consumption stimulation, property risk resolution and industrialisation of technological innovations, so as to translate technological strengths into steady, long-term economic growth momentum.

Commentary

Commentary: What China's underperforming tech stocks say about its real economy

China cannot keep boosting only one part of the economic growth equation, says public policy professor Donald Low.



People visit a terrace of a shopping mall overlooking the central business district (CBD), in Beijing, China August 11, 2025. (Reuters/Tingshu Wang)



Donald Low

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Nuclear Risks and Monitoring Limits – Prof. Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin's view on debates over China's low-yield nuclear testing

On March 11, 2026, Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin, Assistant Professor at the Division of Public Policy of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), was interviewed by Science (science.org), a leading international academic journal. His analysis was featured in the special report Allegations Chinese Nuclear Blast May Reignite Weapons Testing. During the interview, Prof. Julien examined the debate over U.S. allegations that China may violate the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), unpacking the core reasoning behind ongoing global nuclear tensions from multiple perspectives.

Prof. Julien began the discussion by comparing the historical scale of nuclear testing conducted by China and the United States. Prior to signing the CTBT in 1996, China carried out fewer than 40 nuclear tests at Lop Nur, a figure vastly lower than the more than 1,000 tests undertaken by the U.S. He argued that China's limited track record of nuclear testing shapes its strategic calculus regarding potential low-yield nuclear tests in the future.

Prof. Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin structured his subsequent arguments around two distinct dimensions: technical requirements and on-site infrastructure evidence. First, addressing technical imperatives: mainstream projections forecast that China's nuclear warhead stockpile will expand from approximately 600 warheads to 1,000 by 2030. Low-yield nuclear testing, in his view, serves as a viable technical approach to refine warhead designs and sustain the long-term reliability of an enlarged nuclear arsenal. Second, citing infrastructure developments backed by satellite imagery referenced in the Science article: a new laser fusion complex in Sichuan built to match the capabilities of the U.S. National Ignition Facility, alongside ongoing excavation work at the Lop Nur nuclear test site. According to Prof. Julien, the concurrent development of these two projects signals China's pre-emptive infrastructure preparations for the possible resumption of nuclear testing.


Science

SCIENCEINSIDER | ASIA/PACIFIC

Allegations of a Chinese nuclear blast may reignite weapons testing

As new global arms race looms, accusation highlights limits to monitoring low-yield tests

24 FEB 2026 · 3:50 PM ET · BY RICHARD STONE

Ballistic missiles are brandished during a 2025 military parade in Beijing. China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal. LIU ZHAOJIONGHUA VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Master of Public Policy (MPP)	• A bachelor's degree with second class honors or above from a recognized institution, or an approved equivalent qualification. • Fulfilled English Language requirements set by the University.	For applicants from outside Hong Kong: 31st May 2027 For applicants from Hong Kong: 31st May 2027

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