

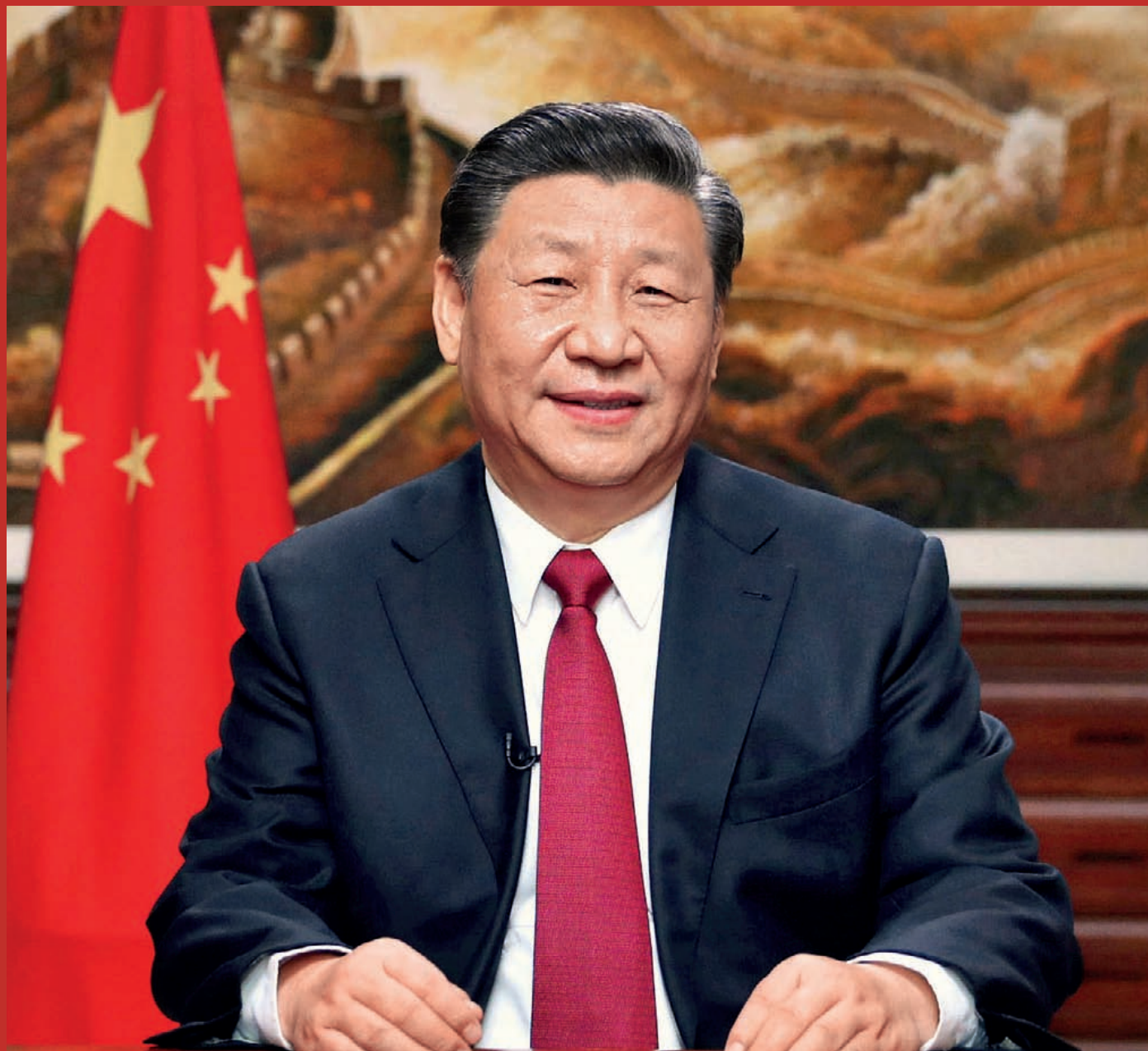
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RING IN 2020

ACHIEVING FIRST CENTENARY GOAL

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President Xi Jinping delivers 2020 New Year speech, vowing to achieve first centenary goal





President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year speech to extend New Year greetings to all Chinese and best wishes to friends all over the world in Beijing on December 31, 2019. *Xinhua*

President Xi Jinping on December 31 delivered a New Year speech in Beijing to ring in 2020, pledging to achieve the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in the “milestone” year.

Xi pledged to lift all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty and eliminate poverty in all poor counties.

“The year of 2020 is crucial in winning the anti-poverty battle,” Xi said. “The clarion has sounded. We must work together and work hard... to secure a victory in the battle against poverty.”

Xi also extended best wishes to Hong Kong and Hong Kong compatriots.

“The situation in Hong Kong has been everybody’s concern over the past few months,” said Xi.

“Without a harmonious and stable environment, how can there be a home where people can live and work happily!” Xi said. “We sincerely hope for the best for Hong Kong and Hong Kong compatriots.”

A prosperous and stable Hong Kong is the aspiration of Hong Kong compatriots, as well as the expectation of the people of the motherland, he said.

Noting that there are both peaceful and eventful times in history, Xi said that “we are not afraid of winds and rains, or any kind of difficulties.”

He said China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development, safeguard world peace and promote common development.

“We stand ready to join hands with people around the world to actively build the Belt and Road, push for the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and work tirelessly to create a better future for humanity,” Xi said.

“In 2019, we sweated and we toiled as we pressed ahead with concrete efforts for achievements,” Xi said in his speech, summarizing the progress made in 2019.

China’s gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to near 100 trillion yuan (14.37 trillion US dollars) while its per capita GDP is expected to reach 10,000 US dollars in 2019, the president noted.

Key progress has been made in efforts to forestall and defuse major risks, carry out targeted poverty alleviation, and prevent and control pollution.

Around 340 poor counties across China will get rid of poverty and more than 10 million people will be lifted out of pov-

erty by the end of 2019, Xi said.

He highlighted advances in science and technology. Chang’e-4 probe made a historic landing on the moon’s far side; the Long March-5 Y3 carrier rocket was successfully launched; polar icebreaker Xuelong 2 set sail on its maiden voyage to the Antarctic.

A new batch of pilot free trade zones were established, the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone was expanded, the science and technology innovation board was launched smoothly, and over 2 trillion yuan of taxes and fees have been cut over the year.

Xi noted solid reform progress in national defense and armed forces. A grand military parade took place on the National Day. The first Chinese-built aircraft carrier was commissioned.

“The most memorable moment of 2019 was the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China,” said Xi, adding that the sheer force of patriotism was felt by the people.

Xi said over the year he traced the routes of China’s revolution. “Our original aspiration and mission are our inexhaustible source of motivation during our Long March of the new era.”

“As usual, no matter how busy I was, I spent time visiting people in the countryside,” Xi went on to recollect his interaction with the people during the year.

Xi mentioned the names of individuals among many ordinary people who, he said, “touched us deeply” over the past year.

Xi highlighted a series of events China hosted over the year including the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition, the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations and the second China International Import Expo.

Xi said he met with leaders of many countries over the year, sharing with them China’s proposals, promoting friendships and enhancing consensus.

The number of countries China has established diplomatic relations with has reached 180, according to Xi.

“We have friends in every corner of the world,” he said.

Wrapping up his speech, Xi said “let’s seize the day and live it to the full and greet the arrival of the year 2020 together.” (*Xinhua*)



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COVER: President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year speech to extend New Year greetings to all Chinese and best wishes to friends all over the world in Beijing on December 31, 2019. *Ju Peng*



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New Era, Shared Future

The 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE) was held at the Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai on November 5-11, 2019. President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and related activities of the 2nd CIIE and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum, delivering a keynote speech.

Compared with last year, the 2nd CIIE is larger in scale, with more exhibits and more participating enterprises. It represents a major initiative of the Chinese government to firmly support trade liberalization and economic globalization, and to open its markets to the world, which is conducive to economic and trade exchanges and cooperation among all countries and promoting global trade and world economic growth.

The 2nd CIIE concluded on November 10, 2019. The total volume of intentional purchase reached \$71.13 billion on the basis of one year's term, up 23 percent than that of the previous year. A total of 910,000 entries were made during the six-day event, according to statistics.

中华人民共和国
The 70th Anniversary
The People's Republic of China

CIIE
新
共
NEW ERA





Spectators take a photo in front of the Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Center on November 8, 2019. The second China International Import Expo was held in Shanghai on November 5-10, 2019. Jin Liwang

Openness and cooperation for a shared future

Keynote speech by Xi Jinping, president of the People's Republic of China,
at the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo

Shanghai, November 5, 2019



President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech, titled Openness and Cooperation for a Shared Future, at the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on November 5, 2019. The CIIE was held at the Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Center. *Ju Peng*

Your excellency President Emmanuel Macron,
Your excellencies Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and Prime Minister Ana Brnabic,

Your excellencies Speakers of Parliament,
Your excellencies Heads of International Organizations,
Your excellencies Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

In this lovely season tinted with deep autumn hues, it gives me great pleasure to get together with you by the Huangpu River. I now declare open the second China International Import Expo!

At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese government and people as well as in my own name, a hearty welcome to all the distinguished guests from afar! To the many old and new friends gathered here from across the world, I give you my warm greetings and best wishes!

A year ago in this same place, the inaugural China International Import Expo was successfully held. Today, we are happy to be joined by even more friends in the second Expo that carries on the theme of “New Era, Shared Future”. I trust that you will all find your participation in the event worthwhile and rewarding!

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

At last year’s Expo, I announced the initiatives China was to take in the five areas of further opening-up and spelt out three specific steps for Shanghai to open wider to the world. One year on, these initiatives and steps have been by and large put in place. The Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone now has a Lingang special area, and six other new pilot free trade zones have been set up in other provinces of the country. The Shanghai Stock Exchange launched a sci-tech innovation board, with a registration system being piloted for the listing of companies. In the Yangtze River Delta area, a plan for integrated development of the region has been introduced as a national strategy. At the national level, a Foreign Investment Law will enter into force on January 1 next year. A management system combining pre-establishment national treatment and the negative list has been effected nationwide. Major progress is being made in increasing imports to boost consumption and in bringing down the tariff level. For last year’s Expo, during my bilateral events with foreign leaders, 98 initiatives were agreed upon, of which 23 have now been completed, 47 are making good progress, and 28 are on track of steady implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Economic globalization represents the trend of history. Like the world’s great rivers, the Yangtze, the Nile, the Amazon and the Danube — they all surge forward in relentless flow, and nothing can stop their mighty movement, not the current of undertows or hidden shoals or rocks beneath the water.

Of the problems confronting the world economy, none can be resolved by a single country alone. We must all put the common good of humanity first rather than place one’s

own interest above the common interest of all. We must have a more open mindset and take more open steps, and work together to make the pie of the global market even bigger. We need to strengthen the mechanisms for sharing benefits globally, and explore new ways of international cooperation. The goal is to give more impetus to economic globalization and remove impediments as much as we could.

For that to happen, I want to propose the following:

First, let us work together to build an open world economy through cooperation. As global value and supply chains continue to develop, countries are inter-connected with each other, and integration of their economies is the order of the day. Distances between countries are getting shorter, and interactions among countries are growing, hence the probability of differences and frictions. The right solution lies in consultation and cooperation. All problems could be settled in the spirit of equality, mutual understanding and accommodation. We need to promote development through opening-up and deepen exchanges and cooperation among us. We need to “join hands” with each other instead of “letting go” of each other’s hands. We need to “tear down walls”, not to “erect walls”. We need to stand firm against protectionism and unilateralism. We need to continually bring down trade barriers, optimize global value and supply chains, and jointly foster market demand.

Second, let us work together to build an open world economy with innovation. Innovation-driven development is essential to sustained growth of the world economy. What we are seeing is a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. It has reached a historic juncture when major breakthroughs are within sight. Countries need to step up cooperation in innovation. We need to facilitate integration of science and technology with economic growth, and increase the sharing of innovation results. We need to remove barriers that hamper the flow of knowledge, technology, talents and other factors of innovation, and support our businesses in technical exchanges and cooperation on their own accord. This is a way to unleash the potential for innovation. And, to benefit mankind with the better use of knowledge, we need to tighten the protection of intellectual property. The least desirable is for us to stifle the flow of knowledge, or to create or even widen the technology divide among us.

Third, let us work together to build an open world economy for mutual benefits. We need to work toward the vision of inclusive and mutually beneficial development. We need to work together to safeguard the international order underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, uphold the core values and basic principles of the multilateral trading system, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial to all. We need to work in real earnest to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and increase support for the Least Developed Countries so that the benefits of development will reach more countries and peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Standing at a new historical starting point, China will open its door only wider to the world. The Communist Party of Chi-



第二届中国国际进口博览会暨虹桥 THE SECOND CHINA INTERNATIONAL IMPORT EXPO AND THE HONGQIAO IM

2019年11月5日
November 5th, 2019



President Xi Jinping (center, front row) takes a group photo with foreign leaders attending the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) before the opening of the CIIE in Shanghai on November 5, 2019. Xie Huanchi

na has just concluded the fourth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee. A decision has been made to further uphold and improve the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and to modernize the country's system and capacity for governance. That included a host of significant measures to deepen reform and opening-up. China will adhere to its fundamental State policy of opening-up and stay committed to opening-up to promote reform, development and innovation. This will bring about opening-up at an even higher level.

First, China will continue to open up its market. China has a population of 1.4 billion. Its middle-income population is the biggest in the world. The huge Chinese market points to a potential that is simply unlimited. The Chinese people often say, "The world is a big place, and I want to see just more of it." What I want to say to you today is that the Chinese market is such a big one that you should all come and see what it has to offer. China will better leverage the fundamental role of domestic consumption in economic development and foster a more robust domestic market to boost growth at home and

create more room for global growth. China will give greater importance to import. We will continue to lower tariffs and institutional transaction costs, develop demonstration zones to promote import trade by creative means, and import more high-quality goods and services from around the world. We will take steps to promote balanced development of both imports and exports, of trade in goods and services, of two-way trade and investment, and of trade and industry. This way, we will ensure a free yet orderly flow of both international and domestic factors of production, improve the efficient allocation of resources, and deepen integration of markets.

Second, China will continue to optimize its opening-up structure. China's opening-up is all-dimensional and all-sectoral. A new structure of all-out opening-up is quick in the making. China will continue to encourage bold trials and experiments in pilot free trade zones and quicken the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port as pacesetters of opening-up in China. China will continue to implement integrated regional development strategies for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei

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Shanghai, China



region, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the Yangtze River Delta region, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and draw up a new national strategy for environmental protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River basin. The purpose is to seek greater synergy of opening-up among different parts of the country.

Third, China will continue to improve the business environment. Proper business environment provides the necessary condition for enterprises to survive and thrive. On October 24, the World Bank released its Doing Business Report 2020, which ranks China 31st, up by 15 places from last year's ranking of 46th. Last month, China issued a regulation on optimizing the business environment. Going forward, China will continue to remove major constraints on economic development, gear up reforms regarding key links and areas, and modernize the system and capacity for governance as an institutional support for high-standard opening-up and high-quality development. China will continue to foster an enabling business environment that is based on market prin-

ciples, governed by law, and up to international standards. We will give foreign investments greater market access to more sectors, shorten the negative list further, and improve institutions for investment promotion and protection and for information reporting. With regard to IP protection, we will cultivate an environment that appreciates the value of knowledge, improve the legal framework, step up law enforcement, and enhance protection through both civil and criminal justice systems.

Fourth, China will continue to deepen multilateral and bilateral cooperation. China is a champion for international cooperation and a supporter of multilateralism. China supports necessary reforms to the WTO so that the organization can play a bigger role in promoting openness and development and the multilateral trading regime can be more authoritative and effective. Later this afternoon, the Chinese side will host an Informal WTO Ministerial Meeting. We look forward to candid exchanges that will lead to joint actions to improve global economic governance. I am happy to note that yesterday, 15 countries taking part in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) concluded text-based negotiations, and I hope the agreement will be signed and enter into force at an early date. China will be happy to conclude high-standard free trade agreements with more countries. We will speed up negotiations on a China-EU investment agreement, a China-Japan-ROK FTA, and a China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) FTA. We will stay actively engaged in cooperation within the United Nations, the G20, APEC, and BRICS to move economic globalization forward.

Fifth, China will continue to advance Belt and Road cooperation. To date, China has signed 197 documents on Belt and Road cooperation with 137 countries and 30 international organizations. China will follow the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, the philosophy of open, green, and clean cooperation, and a high-standard, people-centered, and sustainable approach to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Looking forward, China will follow the new development approach and the strategy of innovation-driven development, and redouble our efforts to foster new growth drivers by shifting the growth model, improving the economic structure, and creating new growth momentum. We believe such efforts will not only bring China high-quality development but also new growth opportunities for the global economy.

I have faith in the bright prospects of China's economic development. China's development, viewed through the lens of history, is an integral part of the lofty cause of human progress. China will reach out its arms and offer countries in the world more opportunities of market, investment and growth. Together, we can achieve development for all.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

The Chinese civilization has always valued peace under heaven and harmony among nations. Let us all work in that spirit and contribute to an open global economy and to a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you. ■

Embracing the world

Second CIIE adds power to China's opening-up

By Li Xiaoyang

Last year, Nachi-Fujikoshi, a Japanese corporation known for its industrial robots, was the first to sign up to take part in the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. It was an early bird for this year's expo as well, registering as early as August 8 last year, more than 400 days before the event that opened on November 5.

The first CIIE brought great benefits to the company as it showcased industrial robots used for welding cars with the fastest speed in the industry. During the six-day event, it received orders exceeding 500 million yuan (\$71 million).

Earlier this year, Nachi-Fujikoshi established a subsidiary in Shanghai. At the second CIIE, it displayed more products such as mini robots used for producing mobile phone components and larger ones that can copy human movements and are used in unspecified industrial production. The company said its clients in China include the Geely Auto Group as well as tech companies Huawei and Xiaomi.

Held in a flood of global attention from November 5 to 10, the second CIIE drew more participants, establishing itself as a platform to boost domestic demand and quality development, and open up the vast Chinese market wider despite external challenges.

At the inaugural ceremony, President Xi Jinping affirmed that China will continue to expand and improve its opening-up, optimize the domestic business environment, deepen multilateral and bilateral cooperation, and further cooperation with other countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

New measures will be taken to ease market access for foreign investors, shorten the negative list that specifies the industries out of bounds for foreign investors, and promote import trade, he said.

One reason for foreign participants' enthusiasm for this year's CIIE was the rising interest in the Chinese market, which is becoming increasingly accessible due to new policies. Xi also said China has the largest middle-income population in the world. Therefore, the huge Chinese market has





Spectators visit the second China International Import Expo in Shanghai on November 7, 2019. The expo attracted large number of buyers and customers to purchase imported products. Wang Peng

unlimited potential.

“China’s move of widening opening-up is encouraging. It has seen steady development with a huge market, and we look forward to being part of its growth,” Kazuyuki Tawara, President of Nachi-Fujikoshi (China) Co. said.

Larger and better

The CIIE is the world’s first import-themed national-level exhibition. Themed New Era, Shared Future, the second CIIE hosted nearly 4,000 enterprises from 155 countries and regions, with more Fortune Global 500 companies than in the first expo. 64 countries hosted country exhibitions, including 24 countries doing so for the first time. Representatives of 26 international organizations also showed up for the event.

A total of 192 US companies attended this time, an 18-percent increase over last year. French firms also had a strong presence as France was one of the 15 guest countries of honor. They included luxury goods giant Louis Vuitton and industrial gas and service provider Air Liquide.

The exhibition space increased from 300,000 to 360,000 square meters, allowing more exhibitors to present items for sale with reduced tariffs and access the extensive Chinese market. Ranging from high-end equipment to accessories, the products were as diverse as the smallest item on display, a 3-mm needle for insulin injections produced in Japan, and the largest, a 20-meter-long high-speed patrol boat, the Ferretti FSD195, manufactured by Italian shipbuilder Ferretti Security and Defense.

“China will reach out its arms and offer countries in the world more opportunities of market, investment and growth. Together, we can achieve development for all.”



The Zeiss high definition fundus camera booth of Germany. Yu Xiangjun

While bedazzling visitors with high-end objects like a diamond and gold-encrusted glittering guitar with an estimated value of \$2 million, it also offered down-to-earth exhibits such as Spanish hams.

Hi-tech facilities and exhibits were one of the highlights of the expo. The National Exhibition and Convention Center, the main venue, was fully covered by 5G network. The organizers used guide robots for navigating the sprawling fair. Robots were also deployed to sort out waste. The expo employed vehicles equipped with an intelligent system that recognized emotions and gestures.

With the CIIE promoting domestic buyers’ exposure to high-quality products from the four corners of the globe, Xu Hongcai, deputy director of the Economic Policy Commission, China Association of Policy Science, said the introduction of quality international products would squeeze standard products out of the domestic market, benefiting Chinese consumers.

“Through complementary cooperation, China can sharpen its edge in international competition and move up toward the higher end of the global industrial chain,” Xu told the reporter.

“Though improved imports may make domestic enterprises feel some pressure, they meet the demands of consumption upgrade and can drive China’s industrial restructuring,” said Liang Ming, director of the Foreign Trade Institute with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Growing with China

Since the first CIIE, China has introduced new opening-up policies, with the initiatives announced last year implemented across the board.

The domestic market has opened up wider by adding new pilot free trade zones. The country’s first Foreign Investment Law will come into effect in January 2020, improving investor confidence. A foreign investment management system combining pre-establishment national treatment and a negative list has been put in place nationwide. Customs clearance has been facilitated. The threshold has been lowered for foreign banks and insurance companies to enter China. The Shanghai Stock Exchange launched a science and technology innovation board in July for better trade in hi-tech stocks.

As recently as in October, the State Council, the cabinet, issued a regulation to optimize the business environment and protect market entities’ legitimate rights and interests.

These measures have made China an ideal destination for foreign investment. According to the Doing Business 2020 study released by the World Bank in October, China ranks 31st in the ease of doing business index out of 190 economies, up 15 places from last year’s ranking.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said on October 28 that foreign direct investment in China grew 4 percent year on year to \$73 billion during the first six months of the year.

“The higher-level opening-up measures, especially further opening up, cutting tariffs and institutional costs, and improving the business environment and facilitating investment have boosted our confidence in the Chinese market,” Anna Pawlak-Kuliga, CEO and chief sustainability officer at IKEA

China, told the reporter.

According to many international exhibitors, the CIIE is a signal of opportunities. Charles Bronson, CEO of US antique car dealer Bund on the Boulevard, said he decided to attend the second CIIE after hearing of the success of its debut version.

"The platform shows the world that China is open to business. We are very interested in being a friend of it and doing business with people here," he said.

While Bund on the Boulevard is a newcomer, Linde Hydraulics of Germany and French company Atermes from the defense and security sector have been tapping into the Chinese market for years. According to Janfried A. Tirre, executive vice president of Linde Hydraulics, his company came to China in 2012. Through working hand-in-hand with Chinese partners, its competitiveness has been sharpened greatly.

"The market here is growing fast owing to the stable and open economy, as well as the improved business climate. The CIIE is a very important platform. It also sends a strong signal to the world that China is very important in the manufacturing industry," he said.

For Lionel Thomas, deputy general manager and sales executive manager of Atermes, the Chinese market is familiar since his company has been cooperating with a firm in Chengdu in southwest China's Sichuan Province for about 16 years.

"This expo is a great opportunity for all foreign companies, especially for us as we have built a very strong connection with an institute in Chengdu to create a technical solution for border surveillance," he said.

According to Thomas, sharing their technology with a major country like China provides an opportunity for them to do business both in and outside the country, such as in other Asian countries as well as those participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Foreign traders are also eyeing China's e-commerce channels. As Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi di Maio told the Hongqiao International Economic Forum held on the sidelines of the expo, his country is looking to hook up its small and medium-sized enterprises with major Chinese e-commerce platforms, hoping to ride China's consumption and e-commerce boom.

"Foreign producers and sellers can cooperate with Chinese e-commerce retailers, localize their products to meet Chinese consumers' demands and improve post-sales services," Xu said.

Room for growth

With its influence growing, the CIIE has become more than a platform for trading, it is now an important event for economic exchanges. "The expo has enabled China to interact with the rest of the world and promote economic globalization," said Sang Baichuan, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

At the inauguration of the second CIIE, French President Emmanuel Macron said China has not only benefited from economic globalization but also contributed to it. Highlighting that unilateralism and protectionism cannot address unbalanced development, he urged for multilateralism and free trade to be maintained.



Above: An employee packs wines at a chateau in Argentina on September 25, 2019. *Xinhua*

Down: Customers taste wines imported from Argentina at the second CIIE in Shanghai on November 6, 2019. *Wei Hai*



"Many bilateral tensions or challenges some countries are facing today require a multilateral response, and the reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is definitely needed, especially in the areas of trade and investment," Xue Rongjiu, deputy director of the Beijing-based China Society for WTO Studies, told the forum.

In his keynote speech at the inaugural ceremony, Xi said China, a champion of international cooperation and a supporter of multilateralism, looks forward to candid exchanges that will lead to joint actions to improve global economic governance.

However, China needs to address external risks, which have added to the pressure on the Chinese economy, experts said. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows that Chinese imports dropped 0.1 percent on an annual basis in the first three quarters of the year.

Liang attributed it to the slowdown of the global economic growth. He said institutional constraints need to be further removed to avoid local protectionism and expand imports.

"To drive up imports, China also needs to further lower import tariffs, enhance financial services to achieve the full convertibility of the yuan, and improve payment methods and logistics," Xu said. (Beijing Review) ■

Playing a bigger role

Shanghai expo becomes more than an import fair

By Zhang Shasha

Last year, when the organizers of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) unveiled the mascot of the expo, a giant panda looking dapper with a stylish scarf draped round its neck, people agreed that it was delectable. This year, when it made its appearance at a matchmaking event ahead of the second CIIE, it was actually edible.

A baking feat, the bread panda was part of the Bread of Jinbao collection, an assortment of breads also shaped like the CIIE logo and the four-leaf clover, which is the shape of the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai where the second CIIE opened on November 5. The collection was the handiwork of three master bakers, the national team of China, who are competing with four other teams in the Louis Lesaffre Cup Asian qualifying round of the Coupe du Monde de la Boulangerie, the artisan bakery competition held annually in Paris, also known as the Bakery World Cup.

"The qualifying rounds are generally held in professional bakery or food fairs, but this year, we chose the CIIE as it is a global platform," Yu Zhiqiong, corporate communication manager of Lesaffre China, a French yeast and bread maker and one of the organizers of the bakery competition, said. "Through the CIIE we want to showcase to the world a high-caliber competition, masterly hand skills and craftsmanship, and China's bakery capabilities. The CIIE is more than just a platform for us to sell our products."

"The contestants were confused at first when they were told the bakery competition would be held at an import expo," Yu added. "But it is the CIIE, and it creates possibilities."

Lesaffre took part in the first CIIE, the first national-level import-themed trade fair, to gain industrial influence and seek business partners. They found the CIIE was also a platform for business-to-business companies to tap the business-to-consumer market.



"Made in Russia" is the theme of the exhibits in the Russian National Pavilion. Yu Xiangjun

The French factor

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of China-France diplomatic ties and France is a guest country of honor at the second CIIE. Last year, the 69 French enterprises taking part in the expo notched up transactions worth \$1.51 billion.

This year, there was impetus for them from the top level, from the presidents of both countries. On October 15, President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron had a telephone conversation where Xi said China stands ready to work with people around the world, including France, to advance the building of a community with a shared future for humanity. He also said China will continue to pursue the strategy of opening-up based on mutual benefit.

Gao Yuanyuan, counselor at the Office of Economic and Commercial Affairs of the Chinese Embassy in France, said there was a high level of interest among French companies in the CIIE.

"French government organizations came to us during the past two years to ask detailed questions about the CIIE, which showed their in-depth research on the event. The French Government attaches high importance to it," she said.



“China continues to pursue the strategy of opening-up based on mutual benefit.”



Mercedes-Benz Trucks, a hallmark of the world's leading commercial vehicle, presents its latest products and technology at the CIIE. Yu Xiangjun

“The CIIE serves as an important window for us to participate in and share the opportunities of China’s stable economic growth,” Zou Chunyi, vice president of Greater China Public Affairs at Danone, a French food corporation, told the reporter.

“While offering a capacious trading platform for global partners, it accommodates premium imported goods from all over the world, which is conducive to generating new demands, stimulating consumption and upgrading and satisfying people’s ever-growing needs for a better life.”

French beef producers have embraced the CIIE to reach the Chinese market after a long prohibition on beef imports. In 2001, China announced the first ban on European imports due to the outbreak of the mad cow disease. In 2003, the US also came under the ban. But the restriction began to be eased in recent years.

“Last year, French Minister of Agriculture and Food Didier Guillaume announced the return of French beef to China at the CIIE,” said Meng Fanye, chief Chinese representative of the French Pig Federation and French Livestock and Meat Industry Association. “This year marks the real return from a market perspective.”

On January 16, beef processing, sales and e-commerce companies from China signed a cooperation agreement with French beef production and breeding companies, which marked its official entrance into the Chinese market.

The French enthusiasm has shown again how foreign enterprises can benefit from China’s huge market and their confidence in long-term development in China.

“French meat companies choose China for its market potential and its importance to the world,” Meng said. “France has been cautious about where to export. French companies choose China based on years of study and consideration and they have plans for long-term cooperation and development.”

Especially for the French beef market, he said although there are challenges as 90 percent of China’s imported beef is from countries like Uruguay and Brazil, French companies are coming to China not for a quick huge profit but for stable and solid growth.

The 5G bond

Other Western companies also see growth prospects in China. Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson is heartened by the Chinese Government’s promotion of advanced technology.

“The Chinese Government really plays a big role in helping drive the Chinese economy as well as technology, which I think is very positive,” said Amanda Woolverton, Ericsson’s vice president of Marketing and Communications for North-east Asia. “The CIIE is a very good exemplification as it gives the message that the entire country is behind it for global business to connect to Chinese buyers and consumers.”

The Chinese Government’s support of 5G, Ericsson’s main focus at this year’s CIIE, is another reason for the company’s optimism in China. “The government is so decisive in rolling out 5G licenses, which gives the right signal to all the players that 5G is not just a buzzword, but is going to be a reality,” she said. “If we don’t know what the prospect is, no one will seriously invest. But in China we know 5G has become its na-



A spectator flies a mock-up aircraft at the second CIIE in Shanghai on November 9, 2019. Phurbu Tashi

tional strategy and we have confidence.”

She said Ericsson has the confidence to continue its commitment to China’s development. “5G is something that really requires global collaboration. Just like telecommunication itself, it needs to work everywhere,” she added. “If it is just a technology for a single country, then no one can connect with anyone else.”

Regarding Ericsson’s relationship with Chinese brands, Woolverton said they have mutual respect for each other. Also, “5G will make the pie bigger” as it drives new businesses.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland grew 6.5 percent year on year to 683.21 billion yuan (\$96.4 billion) in the first nine months. Over 30,800 new foreign-funded enterprises were founded during the period.

This increase amid a slump in investment globally indicates an improved business environment in China. China’s ease of doing business ranking climbed to 31st this year from 46th last year, according to a World Bank report on October 24.

World Bank senior economist Marcin Piatkowski attributed the growth to the special attention paid by the Chinese Government especially to the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations.

Global collaboration

Woolverton echoed Xi’s thought at the Boao Forum for Asia meeting last year that China’s development cannot be separated from the world, and the world’s development cannot be separated from China’s.

“There are a lot of things Ericsson can learn from Chinese companies, and Chinese companies can learn from Ericsson as well,” she said.

Ericsson entered the Chinese mainland as early as 1892, when many people didn’t know much about China. Today, more than 95 percent of Ericsson’s revenue comes from international markets.

With Chinese companies today keen on expanding their business internationally, they could learn from the Ericsson example while readying for the global market and devising strategies and systems for risk management.

Woolverton also appreciated Chinese companies’ resource allocation ability, and speed of innovation and product portfolio updates and in meeting customer requirements. She called it impressive and worth learning from.

“Competition is important, but it requires more participation of all players to make things happen,” she said. “It’s not just one company, one player. We need the entire ecosystem to play a bigger role.” (Beijing Review) ■

Bonuses from CIIE continue to unfold

One month after the second China International Import Expo (CIIE), the jeweled shoes designed by Jimmy Choo Yeang Keat OBE that attracted attention at the expo have entered the brand's first jewelry shoe concept store in the world on the Bund in Shanghai.

"At the CIIE, we made a lot of friends and received many invitations to open a brick-and-mortar store. But we decided to open the first store in Shanghai as this is where East meets West," said Reggie Hung, chief designer of the luxury brand Genavant.

The CIIE not only helps foreign exhibitors better understand the Chinese market but is also changing people's buying habits. After the second CIIE, over 8,000 kinds of imported commodities from more than 80 countries and regions are on display at the Hongqiao Import Commodities Exhibition and Trading Center.

"With more frequent customers, our sales volume and customer flow have doubled. Our next step is to promote the platform to other cities in the Yangtze River Delta region and speed up the entry of imported goods into residents' homes," said Zhu Yinghua, with Shanghai Hongqiao Central Business District Administrative Committee.

A total of \$71.13 billion worth of tentative deals were reached for one-year purchases of goods and services at the second CIIE, up 23 percent year-on-year. As the second CIIE concluded last month, more overseas companies are now benefitting from China's large market.

At a production base in Jiangxi-Shanghai Economic and Technological Development Zone in East China's Jiangxi province, two workshops and seven production lines are carrying out premix production of feed additives in an orderly way.

Methionine on the feed production line was from France's Adisseo Group, yeast from France's Lesaffre Group, and lysine from CJ Group of the Republic of Korea, said Zhou Wenqin, general manager of Jiangxi Zhengbang Biotechnology Co Ltd, adding that the materials on the production line were the results of purchases at the CIIE.

Established 20 years ago, Zheng Bang Group is a leading enterprise in animal husbandry and plant protection. It is expected that the group will achieve a total output value of 88 billion yuan in 2019 and a target of 100 billion yuan in 2020.

"The CIIE enables enterprises to communicate with each other

face to face, which is so much more convenient than phone calls or emails," said Huang Guoqiang, manager of the group's purchasing department, who participated in the CIIE as a domestic purchaser for two consecutive years.

The enterprise signed a \$50-million purchase contract with Adisseo Group at the first CIIE, and expanded contracts with France's Lesaffre Group and ROK's CJ Group at the second CIIE, with the purchase of 70 million dollars of new programs.

"The CIIE has become an important platform for inland provinces such as Jiangxi to further open up and improve their economic development quality," said Liang Yonghong, deputy head of the foreign trade development bureau of the province's commerce department, adding that the introduction of high-end equipment, high-quality products and services will enhance the development level of their local economy.

The CIIE not only provides a platform for companies to seek the great potential of the Chinese market but also helps them better understand the needs of Chinese consumers.

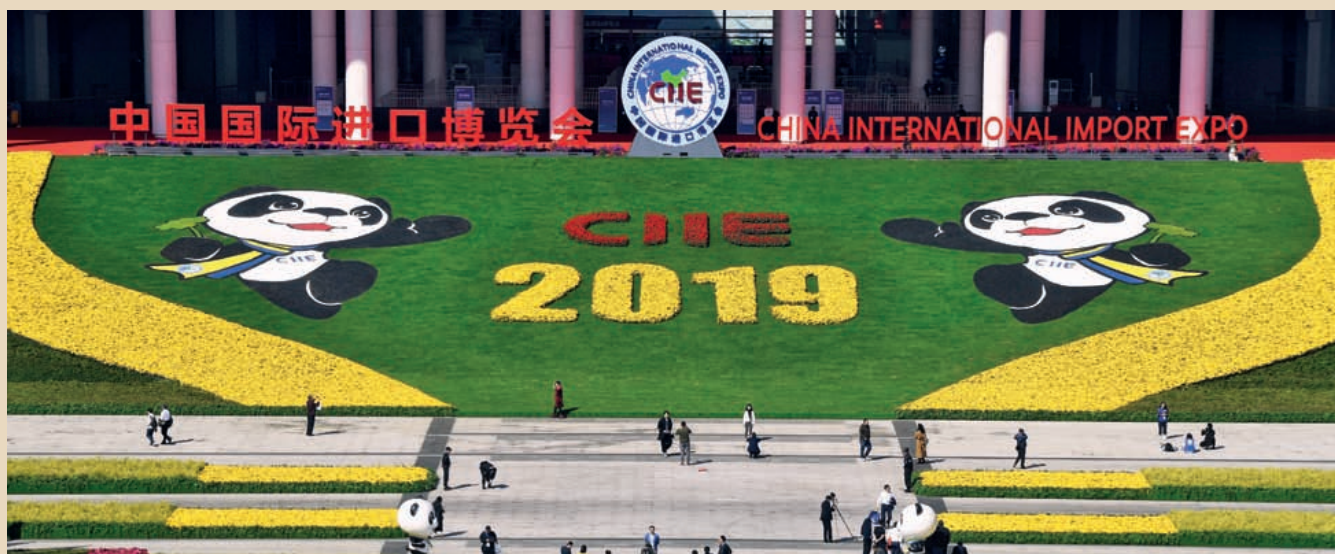
"We have already signed up for the third CIIE," said Tetsuro Homma, CEO of China & Northeast Asia Company, Panasonic Corporation, adding that the company is pleased with the turnouts of the CIIE.

To further strengthen business in China, this April, Panasonic established the China & Northeast Asia Company in Beijing.

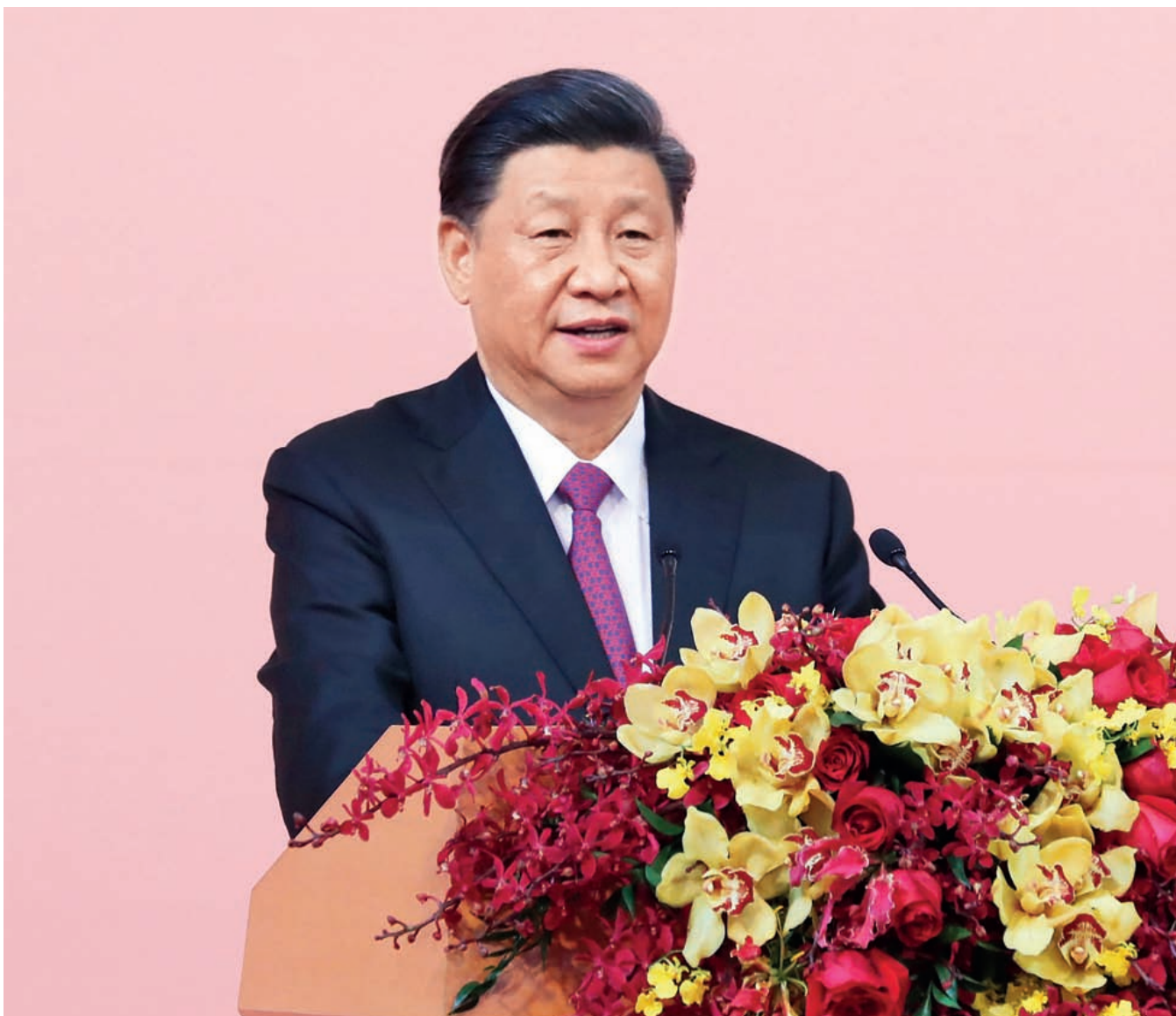
"It's clear that we would not be able to respond to the rapid changes in the Chinese market if we only rely on the operational judgment made in Japan. Local business is run locally. The decisions, from development to production and sales in the Chinese market, are all made in China," Homma said.

The huge business opportunities in the Chinese market have not only attracted companies such as Panasonic to increase its investment in China but has also allowed them to launch star products in the Chinese market.

Panasonic launched an OLED TV at the CIIE, which looked like a piece of transparent glass but could actually be turned into a TV. "This represents our confidence and optimism in the Chinese market," Homma said. (Xinhua)



Spectators arrive at the four-leaf-clover-shaped Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Center on November 9. Wang Peng



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers a speech at a welcome banquet in Macao, South China on December 19, 2019. *Ju Peng*

Biggest improvement witnessed

President Xi Jinping on December 19 commended the historic achievements made by Macao in economic and social development.

Macao's economy registered the fastest growth and livelihoods witnessed the biggest improvement over the past two decades, Xi said in a speech delivered at a welcome banquet marking the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to

China, which falls on December 20.

"The past 20 years are also a period that saw Macao compatriots share dignity of the great motherland and enjoy the greatest sense of glory," said Xi.

Macao's historic achievements shall be attributed to the thorough implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle, strong support from the central government and

the mainland, the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government's active performance of duties and concerted and strenuous efforts of people from all walks of life in Macao, Xi said.

"I have deeply felt the fast changes in Macao since my last visit here five years ago. Macao compatriots, as masters of their own house, are in high spirits. The Macao SAR's steps forward are firm and strong," he said.

Xi praised the Macao SAR government and the people of Macao for combining the requirements of the "one country, two systems" principle with Macao's conditions and for their courage to explore and innovate.

He said the Macao practice of "one country, two systems" has new commendable aspects: "Loving the motherland and loving Macao" becoming a core value of the whole community, the authority of the Constitution and the Basic Law being firmly upheld, the executive-led system functioning smoothly, Macao actively integrating itself into the national development, and social inclusiveness and harmony creating great power to unite the people of Macao.

Xi said the Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming strong.

"This is an era of great development and great achievements for the Chinese nation and also an era of common prosperity and common progress for Macao and the mainland," he said.

"The past 20 years are also a period that saw Macao compatriots share dignity of the great motherland and enjoy the greatest sense of glory,"

Xi expressed his firm belief that the practice of "one country, two systems" with Macao characteristics will surely achieve greater success, with Macao compatriots making greater contribution to the realization of national rejuvenation.

Macao SAR Chief Executive Chui Sai-on in his speech said "the most valuable" experience in Macao's successful practice of "one country, two systems" is "the full and accurate implementation of the Constitution and the Basic Law."

The key is to accurately understand and wholeheartedly uphold the political system and core values of the country, Chui said.

Held by the Macao SAR government, the banquet was also attended by Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Ho Hau Wah, Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR Carrie Lam, incoming chief executive of Macao SAR Ho Iat-seng, leading officials of the Macao SAR government and representatives of all walks of life in Macao.(Xinhua) ■



Fireworks bloom in the sky of Macao on December 22, 2019. For the first time, Macao and Zhuhai in South China's Guangdong Province jointly held the firework show to mark the 20th anniversary of the return of Macao to China. Zhang Jinjia



Li Zhanshu (center), chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, delivers a speech at a seminar to mark the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on December 3, 2019. *Liu Weibing*

Upholding, improving 'one country, two systems' urged

China's top legislator Li Zhanshu on December 3 called for efforts to promote the successful practice of "one country, two systems" with Macao's characteristics in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, made the remarks at a symposium marking the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law of the Macao SAR.

The successful implementation of the Basic Law in Macao has proven that only by forging a broad sense of national

identity across the society, can the Basic Law be fully and faithfully carried out; only by safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, can Macao maintain long-term prosperity and stability; and only by including the Macao SAR in the country's governance system and overall development, can Macao progress toward a new, bright future, Li said.

He stressed that upholding the "one country, two systems" principle and advancing the reunification of China is a basic policy in upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Li raised four points for the comprehensive, faithful and effective implementation of the Basic Law in Macao:

-- The governance of the Macao SAR should be strictly

based on the Constitution and the Basic Law of the SAR.

-- The central government's overall jurisdiction over the Macao SAR as well as the SAR's high degree of autonomy should be both carried out in accordance with the law. The central government's overall jurisdiction is the condition and foundation for authorizing the Macao SAR to exercise a high degree of autonomy. The two are interconnected and consistent with each other, and can not be separated or counterposed under any circumstance.

-- The institutions for maintaining national security should continuously be improved to guard against external interference in Macao affairs and to thwart acts of secession, subversion, infiltration and sabotage;

-- Unremitting efforts must be made to improve the publicity of the Constitution and the Basic Law to promote the spirit of the rule of law.

Li added that upholding the "one country, two systems" principle, maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao, and pushing forward the peaceful reunification of the country signify a significant strength of China's State institutions and governance system.

Macao's economy has achieved continuous growth since its return to the motherland in 1999, said Li, adding that Macao's GDP surged from 51.9 billion patacas in 1999 to 444.7 billion patacas in 2018, marking a leapfrog development, and the GDP per capita grew from 120,000 patacas in 1999 to 670,000 patacas in 2018, ranking among the top in the world.

On handling the relations between "one country" and "two systems," Li required adhering to the principle that "one country" is the premise and basis of the "two systems," and the "two systems" are subordinate to and derived from "one country" and are united under "one country."

Over the past 20 years, the Macao SAR has fully implemented all regulations of the Basic Law, properly recognized and handled the relations between "one country" and "two systems," and the central government's power and a high degree of autonomy in the region were both ensured and efficiently exercised within the framework of "one country, two systems," Li said.

One of the most important reasons why this could happen is that the people in Macao have been upholding the core values of loving both the country and Macao, possessing a strong sense of national identity and the Constitution, Li said, noting that national identity has a broad and profound social foundation in Macao.

During the past 20 years, the stable and prosperous region has become an important bridgehead in China's two-way opening-up and international people-to-people exchanges due to its strengths, including outstanding business environment and highly developed market, Li said.

He added that Macao has made important contributions to the country's reform and opening-up, as well as the country's modernization, noting that the region and the mainland have been mutually reinforcing and commonly developed, displaying strong vitality of the "one country, two systems."

"No difficulty, risk or challenge can falter our faith and determination to resolutely stick to the successful path of 'one country, two systems,' or keep us from rising up to the difficulties and moving on," Li noted.

The central government has now gained enough experi-

"No difficulty, risk or challenge can falter our faith and determination to resolutely stick to the successful path of 'one country, two systems,' or keep us from rising up to the difficulties and moving on,"

ence, garnered enough confidence, gathered enough power and possessed enough measures to ensure that the cause of "one country, two systems" can proceed in a stable manner, and that the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Macao SAR can be comprehensively, faithfully and effectively implemented, he said.

During the symposium, Chief Executive of the Macao SAR Chui Sai On said the most precious experience of the successful practice of "one country, two systems" with Macao's characteristics lies in fully and faithfully implementing the Constitution and the Basic Law, following the principle of ensuring rights while fulfilling duties, and giving full play to the institutional advantages conferred by the Basic Law.

With a solid foundation laid and rich experience accumulated over the past 20 years, the central government, the Macao SAR government and people from all walks of life in Macao will be more confident in coping with new situations, problems and challenges in the future implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle, said Zhang Xiaoming, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council.

Vice Premier Han Zheng, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, as well as some 150 government officials, legislators, political advisors and scholars, attended the symposium. (Xinhua) ■



The picture taken on December 13, 2019 shows the statue, Lotus Flower in Full Blossom, on Lotus Square in Macao Special Administrative Region. Zhang Jinjia

Rightful reunion

Macao transforms itself after returning to the motherland 20 years ago

By Ji Jing



Runners take a group photo before the Ruins of Saint Paul on December 20, 2019, which is a landmark of Macao, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to China. Wang Shen

When Kou Kam Fai was a university student in Macao, he had to work part-time to pay for his tuition because his family couldn't afford his education. That was before 1999 when the peninsula in south China was under Portuguese rule following Portugal's occupation that began in the mid-16th century. But since the return of Macao to the motherland in 1999 and extensive reforms, a different story has unfolded.

Today, Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), a 32.9-square-km area in the Pearl River Delta facing Hong Kong across the sea, has the government shouldering 90 percent of the tuition fees of university students, who need to pay only 25,000 patacas (\$3,100) a year.

Kou's status has also changed. Before the return he was a teacher and the average salary for teachers was about \$800-900 a month. Today, it is nearly \$5,000. Along with being the principal of a middle school, Kou is also chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the Chinese Educators Association of Macao, which has given him a deep insight into the changes blowing through the education sector.

"When Macao was under Portuguese rule, the Portuguese Government didn't care about education," he said. But in 2019, the government's education budget is 8.6 billion patacas (\$1.07 billion), over eight times the allocation in 1999.

Winds of change

Education is a small part of the extensive changes over the past 20 years that have transformed the economy and improved people's livelihood.

Ho Hau Wah, who was the first chief executive of Macao SAR from 1999 to 2009, recalled the sluggish economic growth prior to the return, aggravated by the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and weak public security.

From 1999 to 2018, Macao's GDP increased from over \$6 billion to \$55 billion. By the end of 2018, foreign exchange reserves had reached \$20 billion, jumping six-fold over 1999.

With the rapid economic growth, social welfare has improved. Before the return, students enjoyed free education for 10 years. In 2007, it was increased to 15 years. Today, over 90 percent of high school graduates go to university.

Residents get cash bonuses, their share of the city's development dividend. A Macao resident above 65 years gets more than \$756 a month. The improved healthcare system enables pregnant women, children and seniors above 65 to enjoy free medical services in public hospitals. People diagnosed with major illnesses such as cancer are fully covered by medical insurance.

The unemployment rate decreased from 6.3 percent in 1999 to 1.8 percent in 2018, while the median average monthly income of Macao's working population jumped from nearly \$600 in 1999 to nearly \$2,000 in 2018.

Macao's international status has also improved significantly. The number of international organizations the region is part of increased from over 50 in the early years of the return to more than 110 at present. Today, 144 countries and regions have a visa-free or visa-on-arrival policy for Macao SAR passport holders. In the beginning, only three countries granted them visa-free entry.

One country, two systems

"This wouldn't have happened without the 'one country, two systems' mechanism, cooperation with the Chinese mainland and regional cooperation," Ho said.

The "one country, two systems" concept was put forward by the Chinese leadership in the 1980s to promote China's peaceful reunification. The underlying principle is that while there is only one China, the SARs will retain their own economic and administrative systems. They will also continue to have their own governmental system, running their legal, economic and financial affairs independently.

In 1987, the Chinese Government signed a joint declaration on Macao with the Portuguese Government based on this principle.

The declaration said Macao is Chinese territory and China would resume its exercise of sovereignty over the region on December 20, 1999. The Chinese Government agreed to implement the "one country, two systems" mechanism, allowing Macao people to govern the region with a high degree of autonomy.

In 1993, the National People's Congress, promulgated the Basic Law of Macao SAR for its governance.

Chui Sai On, chief executive of Macao SAR, called the Chinese mainland the strongest backup for Macao. "Whenever Macao has difficulties, the Central Government gives us immediate care and support to help us go through the hard times," Chui said.

He recalled the bleak period in 2003 when the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), a viral respiratory ill-

"This wouldn't have happened without the 'one country, two systems' mechanism, cooperation with the Chinese mainland and regional cooperation,"



Participants sing *My Motherland and I* when attending a performance to mark the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to China at the East Asian Games Dome in Macao on December 19, 2019. *Pang Xinglei*

ness, hit neighboring Hong Kong and Guangdong Province. Although Macao reported only one sufferer who traveled back from outside the region, its economy was seriously affected. Subsequently, the Central Government not only provided Macao with medical supplies to prevent the disease but also promoted individual trips by mainland tourists to Macao to boost local tourism and the economy.

The soldiers have contributed during natural disasters. Chui said when Super Typhoon Hato hit Macao in 2017, they took part in the rescue and relief operations. Once a year, the garrison opens to the public.

Ho said Macao residents follow the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of Macao SAR. These are taught in schools to explain Macao's special relationship with the Chinese mainland. Another factor for the success of "one country, two systems," according to him, is Macao's alignment with national strategies such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which has presented it with opportunities to be part of China's national development. With its small population of 676,100 and limited area, Macao's economy cannot be diversified without the huge mainland market.

The Greater Bay Area development plan, unveiled in February, provides new opportunities for Macao's development. It comprises Hong Kong, Macao and nine cities in Guangdong.

To develop the connectivity of the area, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was opened last year. The longest sea bridge in the world, it has slashed travel time between Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai in Guangdong to within one hour, greatly facilitating transportation.

Macao, one of the four central cities in the Greater Bay Area along with Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, is reaping the fruits of the development plan.

Chui said cooperation agreements with the industrially developed Guangdong are boosting Macao's economy. One result of the cooperation is the Guangdong-Macao Industrial Cooperation Park in Zhuhai, a special economic zone.

"The proportion of Macao's young people who work elsewhere is relatively small. So we encourage them to go to the Greater Bay Area. We also welcome friends from the Greater Bay Area to come to Macao to study and work," Chui said.

However, Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong have different legal systems, which need be synchronized for the development of the Greater Bay Area, he added.

"The Greater Bay Area is an opportunity for Macao to go beyond its limitations. Macao has a small area and population and few resources, which greatly restrict the development of a diversified economy. However, under the Greater Bay Area, the Central Government is providing favorable policies for Macao to address the limitations and participate in the country's overall development," Ho said.

Macao has the advantage of being bilingual. This combined with its geographical position and sound commercial environment has made it an important platform for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries was launched in 2003. Through the forum, Macao enterprises have invested in public housing, leisure and tourism industries in Mozambique and Cabo Verde.



People attend a large-scale parade in Macao to mark the 20th anniversary of the city's return to China on December 8, 2019. Zhang Jinjia

The Greater Bay Area development plan, unveiled in February, provides new opportunities for Macao's development. It comprises Hong Kong, Macao and nine cities in Guangdong.

Economic diversification

For a long time, Macao's economy was dominated by its gambling industry. In 2003, the government decided to promote diversification of the economy by developing its tourism, cultural, finance and conference and exhibition industries.

It signed an agreement with the Central Government the same year, which opened individual trips by mainland tourists. In 2005, the Historic Center of Macao, a cluster of 20 sites with a unique fusion of Chinese and Portuguese cultures, made it onto the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming a matter of national pride and tourists' interest. Three years later, Macao was positioned as a world tourism



and leisure center. In 2017, it was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

Before the return, Hong Kong visitors accounted for over half the tourists to Macao but since the return, visitors from the mainland have become the majority, accounting for around 70 percent of all tourists in recent years.

Tourism and related industries have brought economic benefits and created jobs. Of the 380,000 people employed in Macao in 2017, over half were employed in tourism-related industries.

The cultural industry has also developed rapidly. From 2013, the Cultural Affairs Bureau began providing funding for culturally creative industries.

The Art Macao event this year turned the picturesque city into a living art gallery with joint exhibitions and performances from June to October. The Macao Museum of Art, foreign consulates and luxury hotels were the venues of the program that showcased drawings by over 40 Italian Renaissance masters on loan from the British Museum, masterpieces from the National Art Museum of China, and an exhibition of ceramic arts by contemporary artists from nearly a dozen countries and regions.

“In the future we will focus on folk art, design, film, literature and music to make the cultural industry an important part of the diversification of the local economy,” Chan Kai Chon, vice president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, said. (Beijing Review) ■

Guan Weiming (in yellow shirt), who is the third-generation inheritor of Drunken Dragon Dance, takes a photo with his colleagues in Macao on December 8, 2019. Zhang Jinjia



О МАТИЧЕСКИХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ между КНР и РФ
щества китайско-российской дружбы

中俄友好、和平与发展委员会

-российский комитет дружбы, мира и развития

中国俄罗斯友好协会

Общество китайско-российской дружбы

2019年10月9日 北京

9 октября 2019 г. Пекин



Li Zhanshu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, delivers a speech at a reception at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on October 9, 2019, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia Friendship Association. *Liu Weibing*

Chairman Li Zhanshu calls for new contributions to China-Russia relations

On October 9, Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress called on people from all walks of life in China and Russia to join hands and make new contributions to the development of bilateral relations in the new era.

The remarks came as Li attended a reception marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia and the China-Russia Friendship Association at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Hailing the bilateral relations and friendship between the two peoples, Li said the China-Russia relationship has become a model for major countries and neighboring countries featuring mutual trust and coordination, and has injected positive energy into safeguarding world peace and international order.

Andrey Denisov, Russian ambassador to China, said Russia is ready to work with China to take the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties to promote Russia-China relations for new achievements. (Xinhua) ■

NPC handles 8,160 suggestions submitted to the 2nd annual legislative session

All the 8,160 suggestions submitted by Chinese lawmakers to the second annual session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) held in last March have been handled, with feedbacks sent to the NPC deputies, according to a report.

The report on the handling of lawmakers' suggestions at the second annual session of the 13th NPC was submitted on December 24 to the ongoing bimonthly session of the NPC Standing Committee.

Xin Chunying, vice secretary-general of the NPC Standing Committee, briefed lawmakers on the report at the second plenary meeting of the bimonthly session.

Xin said 71.28 percent of the problems raised by the lawmakers in the suggestions have been solved or given a schedule for solution.

The suggestions mainly focused on poverty alleviation, tackling pollution, forestalling and defusing major risks and improving people's wellbeing, among others, Xin said. (Xinhua) ■



The 15th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress holds its third plenary meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on December 25, 2019. The meeting heard the deliberation results of the proposals submitted by the deputies to the second annual session of the 13th National People's Congress. Feng Tao

Voices from deputies

Chen Fengzhen

"During the Two Sessions in 2019, I submitted more than 30 suggestions and 5 proposals. On September 5, 2019, Wu Heng, vice chairman of the NPC Education, Science, Culture and Health Committee, and officials from the Ministry of Education held a symposium in Xingtai, Hebei Province to brief the handling of the proposals and listen to my views," said Chen Fengzhen, an NPC deputy.

Chen said that most of her suggestions are related to people's livelihood, especially education, and many of them had been better implemented. For example, her "Suggestions on Strengthening the Education of the People's Congress System" has been highly valued and implemented by the Party School of the Central Committee of CPC, which made a face-to-face discussion of the proposal with her.

Besides, Chen's proposal on the amendments to the Higher Education Law was listed as a key bill by the NPC Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health.

"During the handling of my proposals, I was impressed by the efficiency and attention by relevant departments of the country, which adopted various communication methods in handling of deputies' proposals, such as symposiums, field researches and phone calls to solicit the views of deputies and timely reply us the handling situation," Chen said.



Ma Ruiyan

All the proposals made by Ma Ruiyan, an NPC deputy, during the second annual session of the 13th NPC in 2019 have been answered by relevant departments. "For several years in a row from the 12th NPC to 13th NPC, I put forward five suggestions on supporting the construction of the 'Agriculture Valley' national agricultural high-tech zone in Shanxi Province from different angles. Later on, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the provincial government of Shanxi made continuous efforts in this regard. In December 2019, the State Council approved the construction blueprint of a "Modern Agricultural Silicon Valley" - in Shanxi to implement the innovation-driven development and rural revitalization strategy and to promote the development of modern agriculture," Ma said.

In her view, different government departments attached great importance to NPC deputies' proposals in various forms of communication, research and positive feedback in 2019.

She said, these departments would like to "approve, push forward and implement (the proposals) as soon as possible. For those problems that cannot be solved instantly, ministries and departments would make it clear and seek solutions together (with NPC deputies)."



Getting closer to long-expected civil code

Lawmakers on December 23 started deliberating a draft civil code as part of the priorities of a session rounding out the country's legislative work in 2019.

The draft civil code, consisting of general provisions and six sections on property, contracts, personality rights, marriage and family, inheritance, and torts, was submitted to the ongoing bimonthly session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, which runs from December 23 to 28.

According to work arrangements, the draft is expected to be submitted to the third annual session of the 13th NPC next year for deliberation.

The General Provisions of the Civil Law, which was adopted in 2017, is included in the draft civil code as the first book.

All the other draft books have gone through at least two readings at previous NPC Standing Committee sessions as well as wide consultations from the public and authorities.

The draft will be sent to all national lawmakers to solicit opinions in January, said Shen Chunyao, vice chairman of the NPC Constitution and Law Committee, while briefing lawmakers on the draft on December 23.

Opinions of local legislatures, relevant authorities and the public will also be solicited to improve the draft before it is submitted to the annual session of the NPC, he said.

The incorporation of the books into an entire draft civil code marks the wrapping-up stage of the codification work, said Wang Yi, dean of the law school of Renmin University of China.

A civil code that answers the call of the era will help advance the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, Wang said.

Improvements

At the plenary meeting on December 23, Shen also briefed lawmakers on the changes made to the general provisions and six other sections of the draft after previous readings.

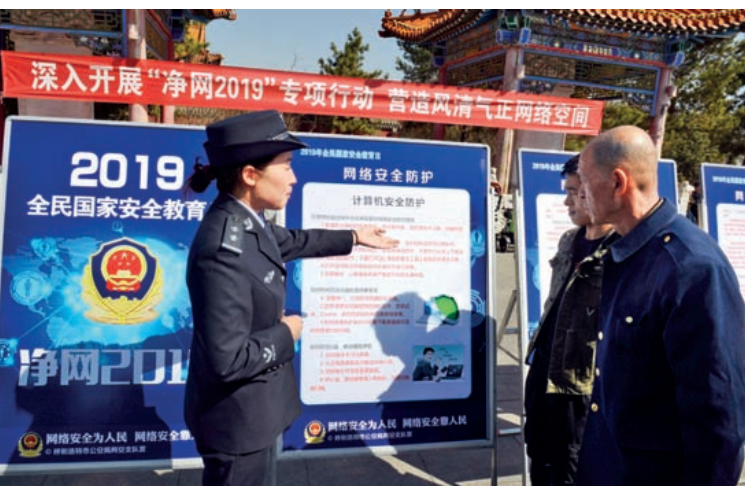
In the contracts section, the draft makes a clearer stipulation to ban "usury," stating that "the interest rates of loans shall not violate relevant national regulations."

The stipulation is expected to provide more legal basis to address prominent problems in the area of private lending, said Meng Qiang, director of the research center on civil code at the Beijing Institute of Technology.

Banning usury will encourage people to invest more in the real economy, which will facilitate the high-quality development of China's economy, said Wang.

The personality rights section of the draft stipulates that Party and government departments, enterprises, schools and other institutions shall adopt appropriate measures to prevent and stop sexual harassment behaviors that take advantage of power or posts, revising a previous unspecific provision.

Other modifications have also been made, such as improvements on the system of the right of habitation, the definition of privacy and new rules on handling cyberspace torts. (Xinhua) ■



A policewoman introduces how to prevent leakage of personal information and anti-fraud knowledge of the internet to local citizens in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia on April 15, 2019. It is reported that the draft civil code strengthens the protection of privacy and personal information. *Liu Wenhua*



In a public hearing on a case of unidentified throwing objects from high buildings in Shanghai on November 30, 2019, the court sentenced the defendant to one year's imprisonment for the crime of endangering public security by dangerous means. *Xinhua*

Civil code milestone for rule of law

For the first time in the history of the People's Republic of China, a complete civil code is expected to be introduced to govern legal disputes other than those involving crimes. This is undoubtedly a milestone in the development of China's rule of law.

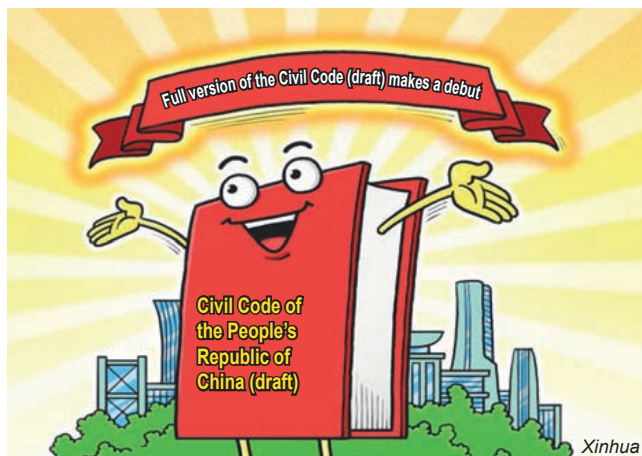
The importance of having a complete civil code cannot be overstated. However wealthy a country is or however comprehensive its national strength is, a lack of protection of basic civil rights and private rights of every individual citizen constitutes an Achilles heel for its social foundation.

That explains why the draft of a civil code to be deliberated at the 15th session of the 13th National People's Congress Standing Committee is being greeted as a major step forward for the modernization of China's governance.

Importance has been attached to the compiling of the civil code to provide a stable legal framework for resolving disputes since not long after the People's Republic of China was founded. And China has bits of one, such as laws on inheritance, contracts and property. But there are gaps and inconsistencies. The compilation of a unified code was launched four times, in 1954, 1962, 1979 and 2001, but a complete code never came to fruition for various reasons.

To compile a complete civil code that meets the needs of the times is obviously no easy task. As a result, the process that is now coming to fruition has proceeded piecemeal since the middle of the last decade, with the initial step, the general provisions of the civil code, completed and adopted at the 5th session of the 12th NPC in 2017.

Preliminary deliberation of the six other sections on property, contracts, personality rights, marriage and family, inheritance, and torts was done at the 5th session of the 13th NPC



Standing Committee in 2018, which marked the second step of the process.

Public opinions were then extensively solicited from people in different walks of life, and suggestions from different government departments were also taken into consideration. Fact-finding missions were also conducted for the fixing of specific articles before the draft civil code was completed.

The draft has been deliberated by lawmakers at the bi-monthly session of the NPC Standing Committee held from December 23 to 28. Their deliberations will lead to draft code being submitted to the third annual session of the 13th NPC in March. It will not be far for Chinese people to have recourse to the law to protect their rights in any civil dispute. (China Daily) ■



The Hongqiao community grassroots legislative contact office in Shanghai holds a symposium to collect opinions and suggestions on the draft civil code among residents, property management companies and members of owners' committee on December 6, 2017. Gong Li



Staff members from local banks distribute pamphlets to promote anti-fraud knowledge among youngsters in Qionghai, South China's Hainan Province on June 28, 2019. The draft civil code stipulates clearly to prohibit high-interest lending. Meng Zhongde



A picture taken on December 7, 2019 shows ships sailing on the waters of Zigui county in Central China's Hubei Province, which is part of the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River. Zheng Jiayu

New law to better protect 'mother river' Yangtze

Lawmakers on December 23 started deliberating a draft law on Yangtze River conservation aimed at protecting the ecological environment of the Yangtze River basin and facilitating green development.

The draft was submitted for the first reading at the 15th bimonthly session of the 13th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

Consisting of nine chapters with 84 provisions, the draft is China's first legislation on a specific river basin.

The draft is expected to address prominent problems damaging the ecological system of the Yangtze River basin, prevent and rectify various disruptive behaviors and boost the high-quality development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, said Gao Hucheng, chairman of the NPC Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee, while briefing lawmakers on the draft on December 23.

Boasting rich biodiversity and mineral and water resources in its basin and stretching over 6,300 km, the Yangtze River is seen as the "mother river" of the Chinese Nation.

Urgent need

But the “mother river” has “fallen ill,” said Gao at the plenary meeting of the 15th session on December 23.

Drought conditions are now frequently seen at some of the lakes of the basin. Some of the regions along the river are rife with desertified lands and soil pollution. And more polluting industries are moving upstream.

A binding mechanism for the protection of the Yangtze’s ecological environment is lacking and legal protection is lagging behind, said Gao.

The grim situation has aroused growing public concern. In the first and second annual sessions of the 13th NPC, a total of 214 lawmakers have submitted motions concerning legislation on the protection of the Yangtze River basin.

“Formulating a Yangtze River protection law and better protecting our ‘mother river’ is our historical responsibility and will make a difference for future generations and the future of the Chinese Nation,” said Gao, citing remarks by chairman Li Zhanshu of the NPC Standing Committee.

Legally binding

A coordination mechanism will be set up by the State Council to make overall plans for, coordinate, guide and supervise Yangtze River protection work, which will involve both State Council departments and provincial-level governments along the river, according to the draft.

The State Council will report to the NPC Standing Committee every five years on the development of the ecological situation of the basin and ecological restoration and protection work, said the draft.

The draft stipulated responsibilities and penalties in an entire chapter to give it teeth.

Both fines and criminal penalties are proposed for violators in the chapter.

The draft also makes specific stipulations to ban illegal sand mining in the basin.

Those whose sand mining activities seriously damage the ecological environment and constitute crimes will face criminal penalties, it said. (Xinhua) ■



Workers recycle the materials after dismantling fishing boats by the Ziyang River in Ziyang, Central China’s Hunan Province on December 24, 2019. Xue Yuge



A fishery law-enforcement vessel cruises the Yangtze River on January 8, 2020. Cao Yaxuan

China starts 10-year fishing ban on Yangtze River

China on January 3 began a 10-year fishing ban on key areas of the Yangtze River to protect biodiversity in the country’s longest river, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Starting from this year, the ban will be observed in 332 conservation areas in the Yangtze River basin, which will also be expanded to all natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries from no later than January 1, 2021. Fishing will also be prohibited on natural waterways of large lakes connected to the Yangtze such as the Dongting Lake and Poyang Lake for 10 years starting from no later than January 1, 2021.

Fishing bans will be further imposed on other natural waterways in the Yangtze River basin, the scale and length of which will be subject to the decision of provincial-level fishing authorities.

The fishing moratorium is regarded as a key move fighting depleting biological resources and degrading biodiversity in the Yangtze River, which has long been suffering from human activities such as overfishing, pollution and damming, said Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Yu Kangzhen.

Biological deterioration has reduced fishing activities along the Yangtze as well, which now only produces 0.32 percent of China’s total freshwater aquatic products. In recent years, annual catch from the Yangtze has fallen to less than 100,000 tonnes from more than 420,000 tonnes in the 1950s.

The 10-year ban is estimated to affect more than 110,000 fishing boats and nearly 280,000 fishermen in 10 provincial regions along the river. The ministry has promised to provide social security services, financial support and vocational trainings for fishermen who have to find new ways of living.

Efforts will also be made to protect rare species and enhance monitoring over aquatic life in the Yangtze, and to improve protection and management strategies in accordance with biological resource restoration progress, according to Yu.

Yang Zhiming, a fisherman in Yanwanghu Township, central China’s Hunan Province, has come ashore and now manages business such as killing chicken and goose for customers at a local market.

“My family fished when there was fish in the river and picked and sold cress and Chinese tarragon when there was fishing ban in spring, and we were able to make a living,” he said. “Now, the 10-year fishing ban has started, my family don’t have to worry too much because we can do some business in the market,” he said. “The Dongting Lake is home to us fishermen. We stop fishing to protect our home,” he added. (Global Times)



Shen Chunyao, director of the Legislative Affairs Commission speaks during a bimonthly session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, in December 25, 2019. Shu Ying

Nearly 1,500 regulations filed with NPC for review

A total of 1,485 administrative regulations, local regulations and judicial interpretations were filed with China's top legislature for recording and review in the past year.

The figure was made public during an ongoing bimonthly session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. The Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee Wednesday submitted a report on its recording and review work in 2019 to the session for deliberation.

The Legislative Affairs Commission can conduct its recording and review work through three mechanisms to make sure legislation is in line with the Constitution and national laws.

It can conduct the work on its own initiative based on chartered duties, conduct the work in response to applications submitted by state organs, citizens or organizations, or launch

a special aggregate review of normative documents in a specific area.

The commission conducted research on 138 applications for review submitted by citizens and organizations, giving feedback to the applicants, said Shen Chunyao, director of the Legislative Affairs Commission, when briefing lawmakers on the report.

The commission urged local legislatures to modify 300 local regulations and abolish 44 in the past year.

The commission is also wrapping up a special aggregate review of normative documents on ecological and environmental protection to improve regulations in the area, said Shen.

Lawmakers deliberated the report in panel discussions December 26. The legislative session will run until December 28. (Xinhua) ■

Further tackling social relief system misconduct, helping combat absolute poverty

By Li Lei

Civil Affairs Minister Li Jiheng pledged on December 25 to strengthen supervision to curb misconduct within the social relief system, which is considered a crucial bottom-line buffer that could be used to help the last remnant of China's have-nots escape dire poverty before 2021.

Li made the remarks in a report delivered at a bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, which opened in Beijing on December 23.

The 16-page report focused on the relief system's role in helping combat absolute poverty—defined as a family living on less than 2,300 yuan (\$328) a year, set in 2010 and adjusted annually for inflation. The central authorities have pledged to eradicate absolute poverty by the end of next year.

China allocated 562 billion yuan as subsidy funds to help people in need from 2016 to 2019, he said.

The funds were used to help people in extreme poverty, orphans, the homeless and beggars, among others.

In his report, Li said his ministry will work with relevant authorities to iron out details, including the targets, measures and standards of social relief, and accelerate the process to codify them in laws.

"We'll strive to lay a solid legal basis for social relief work, coordinated urban-rural development, poverty reduction and rural revitalization," he said.

China has seen a rapid decline of its impoverished population over the last few years. China's rural poor, which stood at almost 100 million in 2012, plummeted to 16.6 million by the end of 2018. Poverty relief authorities estimate another 10 million or more will shake off poverty this year.

The remnants of the impoverished Chinese are mainly from a mosaic of ethnic communities scattered across western regions, commonly referred to as the Three Areas and Three Prefectures, which are deeply impoverished, officials said.

A large percentage of the impoverished Chinese are sick, frail with age or have disabilities, which has made it difficult for authorities to lift them out of poverty through conventional means such as fostering local industries or developing tourism.

Basic living allowances and other State benefits are considered the last approaches to be adopted by the government to help them ward off the "Two Worries", the lack of food and sufficient clothing—that are the threshold requirement for



Lawmakers review the reports on the results of the proposals submitted by the deputies of the presidium of the second annual session of the 13th NPC, at the panel discussion at the bimonthly session of the NPC Standing Committee in Beijing on December 26, 2019. Tao Honglin

needy families to cast off the poverty label.

But a few cases of fraud involving such benefits have emerged in recent years, in which recipients were usually relatives and associates of village officials rather than those really in need.

In taking up the issue, Li said the ministry has reviewed hundreds of millions of applications nationwide over the last five years and found about 8 percent of them were fraudulent.

He added that breakthroughs have been made in the sharing of data among different departments, including applicants' insurance status, bank savings and property ownership, in an effort to curb fraud and save on government spending.

Despite the fraud, the minister stressed in his report that much progress has been made in social relief, which over the years has expanded to include cash benefits and a string of other temporary assistance measures ranging from health-care to housing programs, all aimed at helping needy people survive during difficult times.

The progress includes a steady increase of fiscal input in the system, improved identification of potential beneficiaries and a further streamlined application process. A price subsidy mechanism has also been created to curb the impact of price hikes on benefit recipients, he said. (China Daily) ■

A typical double standard on counter-terrorism issues

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, on December 4 issued a statement, expressing strong indignation over and firm opposition to the passing of a bill on Xinjiang-related issues by the US House of Representatives.

The US House of Representatives passed the so-called "Uygur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" on December 3 local time, maliciously attacking the human rights conditions in Xinjiang, slandering China's de-radicalization and anti-terrorism efforts, making groundless accusations against the Chinese government's Xinjiang policies and grossly interfering in China's internal affairs, said the statement.

In China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, vocational education and training centers have been established and education and training work is carried out in line with the National Security Law of the People's Republic of China, Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China, Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, Counterterrorism Law of the People's Republic of China, Regulations on Religious Affairs, and two local regulations -- the Measures of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Counter-terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China, and the Regulations of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Deradicalization.

Vocational education and training centers are established and run in Xinjiang with an aim to prevent the breeding and spread of terrorism and religious extremism and effectively curb frequent terrorist incidents and protecting the rights to life, health, and development of the people of all ethnic groups, the statement said.

"In doing so, this serves as the best protection of human rights of all the people and proves a major contribution to the cause of international counter-terrorism," it said.

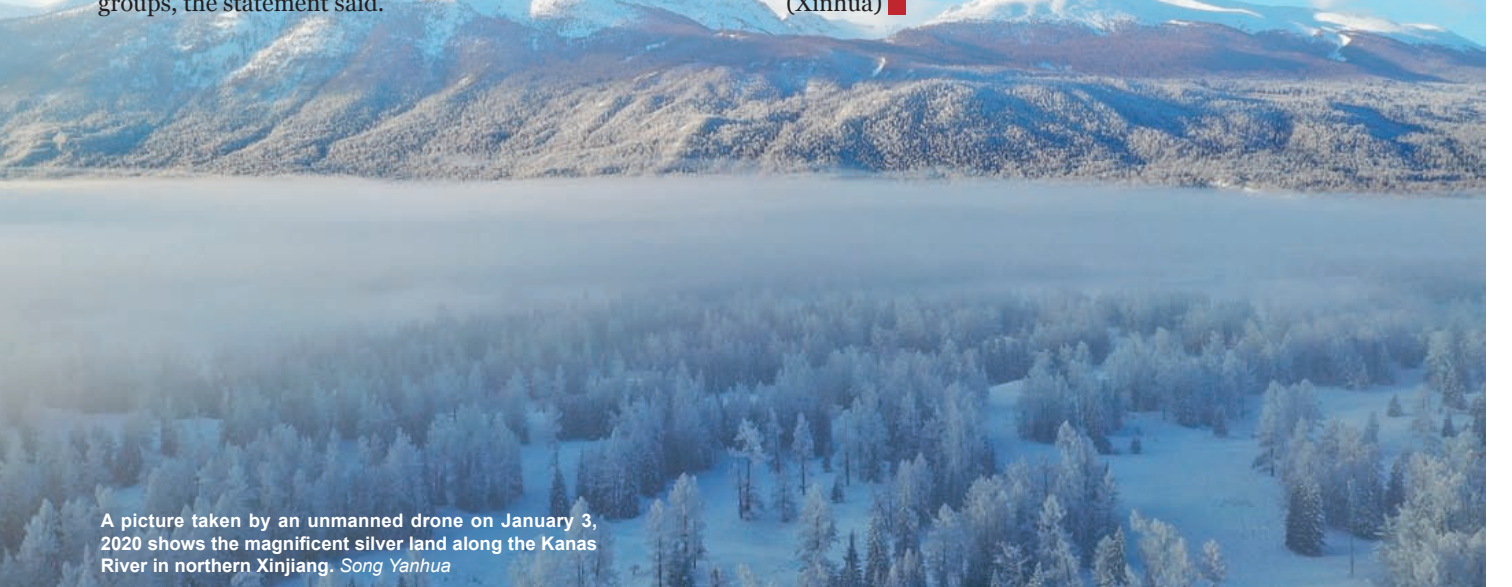
Terrorism and extremism are the common enemies of humanity, and the fight against terrorism and extremism is the shared responsibility of the international community, the statement noted.

"Facts have proved that the measures taken by the Chinese side are effective, and security situation has improved markedly in Xinjiang where there have been no violent, terrorist incidents in the past three years," it said.

Regrettably, however, the US has not only turned a blind eye to Xinjiang's efforts to fight terrorism and protect human rights in accordance with the law, turned a blind eye to Xinjiang's economic growth, social stability, ethnic solidarity, and harmony among religions, but also opted to fabricate facts and smear China's efforts in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, the statement said.

"This is a typical double standard on counter-terrorism issues and exposes its hypocrisy on human rights issues," the statement said.

"We firmly oppose interference in China's domestic affairs under the pretext of human rights by any external force," the statement said, urging the US to abandon its political bias, abandon its erroneous practice of pressuring China, stop making baseless accusations against China, stop interfering in China's internal affairs, and stop putting obstacles in the way of the development of China-US relations and the cooperation between the two sides for counter-terrorism, it said. (Xinhua) ■



A picture taken by an unmanned drone on January 3, 2020 shows the magnificent silver land along the Kanas River in northern Xinjiang. Song Yanhua

Stop interfering in China's internal affairs

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), on November 20 firmly opposed to and strongly condemned the passing of the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 by the US Senate.

The US Senate passed the bill on November 19 local time despite stern representations and strong opposition from China.

The move “grossly interfered in China's internal affairs,” according to a statement issued by the NPC committee.

Over the past five months or so, a series of violent crimes in Hong Kong have seriously trampled the rule of law and social order, undermined Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, and challenged the bottom line of the “one country, two systems” principle, the statement read.

Violent criminals in Hong Kong have continuously escalated their activities of beating people, smashing facilities and setting fires recently, with some even hurting ordinary citizens, said the statement, noting that they acted with no bottom line and showed no sign of respect to morality or fear of the law.

“This is closely related to the US intervention in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs,” it said.


The committee pointed out that the most pressing task for Hong Kong at present is to bring violence and chaos to an end and restore order, which represents the broadest will of Hong Kong people and the largest human rights in Hong Kong.

Instead of condemning heinous violent crimes in Hong Kong, the US Senate, at the urging of a handful of anti-China lawmakers, continued to bolster violent criminals in the name of “human rights” and “democracy,” fully exposing the US Congress' extreme hypocrisy, stark double standards and its evil intentions to oppose China and create turmoil in Hong Kong, it read.

“Safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests is essential to fully and faithfully implementing the ‘one country, two systems’ policy,” it said.

“The affairs of Hong Kong are China's internal affairs and must be handled within the framework of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,” it noted.

The committee reiterated that Hong Kong belongs to China and its affairs brook no interference from any outside forces. (Xinhua) ■



Five-star red flags and bauhinia flags fly high at the Golden Bauhinia Square in Hong Kong on January 3, 2020. Wu Xiaochu



A Tibetan delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress, led by Norbu Dondrup, a member of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress and vice-chairman of the regional government, meet with Andre Flahaut, the vice-president of the Chamber of Representatives of Belgium on December 12. The delegation also held discussions with Belgian lawmakers including the Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, Els Van Hoof, and exchanged ideas with local officials and scholars. *Zhang Cheng*

Show a real Tibet to the world

NPC Tibet delegation pays visit to Belgium, Latvia, Lithuania

A Tibetan delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress, led by Norbu Dondrup, a member of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress and vice-chairman of the regional government, visited Belgium, Latvia and Lithuania on December 12-21, 2019.

The delegation met with local political, academic and religious figures, and introduced the system of NPC and the achievement of Tibet since the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Brilliant achievements have been made in the fields of economic development, social undertakings, ecological protection and freedom of religious belief. Foreigners appreciated Tibet's progress, expressed their willingness to deepen exchanges in various fields, and reaffirmed their support for China's consistent position on Tibet-related issues.

NPC Tibet delegation pays visit to Belgium

In Belgium, the delegation met with Andre Flahaut, the vice-president of the Chamber of Representatives of Belgium, held discussions with Belgian lawmakers including the Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, Els Van Hoof, and exchanged ideas with local officials and scholars.

Norbu Dondrup introduced the Chinese government's Tibet policy and the major changes in Tibet in the past 60 years since the start of democratic reforms.

At present, Tibet's various sectors are continuing to thrive, and people of all ethnic groups live and work in peace and contentment, he said.

Emphasizing that Tibet-related issues involve China's

core interests and the national feelings of nearly 1.4 billion Chinese people, he said it is hoped that the Belgian side will prudently and properly handle Tibet-related issues.

Chinese NPC Tibetan delegation visits Latvia

In Latvia, the delegation met with Dagmara Beitnere-Le Galla, deputy speaker of the Saeima, the parliament of Latvia on December 16.

Noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of Tibet's democratic reform, Norbu Dondrup said that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and with tremendous efforts of the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, Tibet has made a historic leap from backwardness to progress, from poverty to prosperity and from being closed to openness.

He said that currently, Tibet is harmonious and stable, and enjoys rapid economic development. Tibetans all enjoy basic public services, and the environment has been effectively protected.

Freedom of religious belief has been fully respected, and all ethnic groups in Tibet have a strongest ever feeling of happiness, fulfillment and security, he added.

Norbu Dondrup welcomed Latvians to visit Tibet and witness its development and changes, so that they can have a better knowledge of the real situation in Tibet and treat Tibet-related issues in an objective and fair way.

Beitnere-Le Galla said that Latvia will, as always, adhere to the one-China policy, continue to strengthen exchanges between the legislatures of the two countries, and expand practical cooperation under such frameworks as the Belt and Road Initiative and "17+1" cooperation, so as to further promote Latvia-China relations.

During its stay in Latvia, the delegation also met separately with Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Latvian parliament Rihards Kols, and Vjaceslavs Dombrovskis, chairman of the parliament's group for promoting cooperation with China.

The delegation also held discussions with Latvian scholars and representatives of overseas Chinese.

NPC Tibetan delegation holds media workshop in Lithuania

In Lithuania on December 19, the delegation held a media workshop attended by some 20 guests, including journalists from Lithuania's mainstream media, experts, scholars and Tibetans living in the Baltic State.

Norbu Dondrup, said that the delegation is comprised of Tibetan and Han public servants who have all contributed to and witnessed Tibet's great development.

Knowing Tibet well, they are more competent to represent Tibetan people, Norbu Dondrup said, adding that he expected an increasing number of Lithuanian tourists to visit Tibet and see the social progress happening there.

In response to a question raised by the Lithuanian side on the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama, Norbu Dondrup said that the reincarnation of Living Buddhas, including the Dalai Lama, should abide by national laws and regulations, religious rituals and historical traditions.

Norbu Dondrup said that the Tibetan people cherish their



Norbu Dondrup (right), a member of the Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress and vice chairman of the regional government, meet with Dagmara Beitnere-Le Galla, deputy speaker of the Saeima, the Parliament of Latvia on December 16, 2019. *Guo Qun*



A Tibetan delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress hold a symposium with local media in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania on December 19, 2019. About 20 mainstream media journalists, scholars and representatives of overseas Tibetans attended the symposium. *Guo Mingfang*

current happy life, firmly support the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the central government, sincerely love Chinese President Xi Jinping, and firmly oppose all attempts to undermine Tibet's unity and stability.

During their visit on December 18-20, the delegation also met with Deputy Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) Jonas Liesys and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Neris Germanas.

Both sides spoke highly of the prospects of bilateral relations and expressed their willingness to continue to strengthen practical cooperation in such fields as economy and trade, culture, tourism and sports so as to benefit the two peoples. (Xinhua) ■

From the people, for the people

Legal consultations in grassroots reflect China's democratic process

By Yu Xi, Li Lei and Zhang Dan

From the people and for the people, China's whole-process democracy places emphasis on executing decisions, supervision and evaluation with the participation of common people, which experts hailed that for the present day China, their interests are the maximum.

"We discussed and solicited different opinions on a legal draft from people from different walks of life and finally reached an agreement. The whole process is a good reflection of President Xi Jinping's remarks that China's democracy is a type of whole-process democracy," said Liu Zhengdong, a deputy to the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and chief partner of the MHP Law Firm in Shanghai.

On November 2, Liu and 10 representatives from different fields, including law enforcement, local enterprises, ordinary residents, media and legal professionals, held a discussion in Shanghai on the draft administrative penalty law, with each of them offering their suggestions.

This was a regular consultation meeting held in the local community on legislative matters in the Hongqiao sub-district.

At the end of July 2015, the Hongqiao sub-district and Xiangyang, Central China's Hubei Province, Jingdezhen, East China's Jiangxi Province and Lintao, Northwest China's Gansu Province were chosen as four grassroots communities on legislative matters by the Commission of Legislative Af-

From the people and for the people, China's whole-process democracy places emphasis on executing decisions, supervision and evaluation with the participation of common people.

fairs of the National People's Congress.

When he visited the Gubei civic center of Hongqiao sub-district on November 2, President Xi also attended the meeting. He said China is on the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics, where all major legislative decisions are made after going through procedures and democratic deliberations to make sure the decision-making is sound and democratic.

Mechanism for suggestions

Legislative coordinators gather people's opinions via door-to-door visits, interviews and seminars. These "voices" are compiled in a report and submitted to the Commission of Legislative Affairs of the NPC Standing Committee by the lo-



Members of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the 13th NPC Standing Committee attend a symposium at the Hongqiao Community grassroots legislative contact office (Gubei citizen's center) in Shanghai on November 27, 2019, to hear the views on the draft amendments to a few laws. Sun Mengshuang



The Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Jingdezhen in Jiangxi Province hold a symposium in March 2018, on the amendment (draft) of the Rural Land Contract Law to hear the views of people from all walks of life. Zhao Xin

cal community on legislative matters.

The suggestion collection procedure is completed in 20 days in Lintao county of Dingxi, Gansu Province, before a report is sent to the national legislative body.

“Local communities on legislative matters are the centers of democratic legislation,” said Yu Mei, head of the Lishuyuan community in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province.

To integrate local legal resources, the Lishuyuan community also invited people with legal experience to discuss the amendment suggestions together, including local lawyer Zhu Xixin.

“We are from all walks of life, so we are very clear about common people’s lives. We can also invite the grassroots people to participate in the legislation,” Zhu said, adding this can reflect how China’s democratic legislation works.

Sun Xiaoru, director of the People’s Congress Standing Committee of Lintao’s Taoyang township, who also works as a legislative coordinator, said that the major challenge is local residents’ relatively weak legal awareness and understanding of legal articles.

A legislative coordinator should be able to explain legal articles to the people in plain language and make them aware of how these articles influence their daily lives, and that their own opinions can change an article in the law, which helps them become aware of their own status in legislation, Sun said.

Different characteristics

The four local communities on legislative matters have their own characteristics.

For example, over 80,000 residents live in the Hongqiao sub-district, and about 18,000 residents are foreigners. The authorities worked with 10 consultant units and established eight talent pools to make sure the process was legal, and also improved residents’ knowledge about the law.

By the end of September this year, consultations on over 30 laws were undertaken in the sub-district. Over 490 suggestions were solicited during the meeting, with 25 having

been adopted to varying degrees by the Commission of Legislative Affairs of the NPC Standing Committee, according to Hu Yu’ang, secretary of the Party Working Committee, Hongqiao sub-district, Changning district.

“Ordinary residents feel honored when their suggestions are adopted,” said Hu. “Even if some of their suggestions will not be used, they still feel happy as they have participated in the legislative activity.”

As an international residential community, “we work as a window through which foreigners can see how we work,” Hu noted. “It’s meaningful.”

Tang Yalin, a professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs of Fudan University, said China’s whole-process democracy places emphasis on executing decisions, supervision and evaluation with the participation of common people, while the electoral democracy in the Western world finishes its work right after the election.

China’s democracy has different manifestations, which invites common people to participate in the economic and cultural management. “Before big decisions are made, we have extensive consultations,” he told the reporter.

Tang said Western democracy moves to “mutual veto” instead of “mutual supervision.” “Originally, it should work on the interests of the people, but has become a battle between the interests of different parties and the interests of different capital groups. Such electoral democracy only cares about the here and now, not the long term, which is irresponsible.”

“Democracy has many forms, and the Western style of democracy is not the only type... What the Western world has not seen is how the Communist Party of China has achieved restricting the power by itself,” Tang said. China’s rapid development in the past 40 years is obvious to all.

“No system is perfect. State governing is meant to achieve the best interest and lower the harm to the lowest. For China, the interest of the ordinary people is the maximum. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the country has boosted development, achieved social prosperity, promoted national reunification and world peace,” he said. (Global Times) ■



People take part in a symposium at the Lintao legislative contact office in Gansu Province to collect views on the amendments (draft) to the Forestry Law and to the Law on Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste. *Shang Qingyun*

Achieving moderately prosperous society in 2020

By Liu Xin, Shan Jie, Li Xuanmin and Yuan Yuan



Top: A picture taken in January 2013 shows a shabby farmer's house in Shibadong village in Huayuan county, Hunan Province before lifting out of poverty. *Xinhua*

Above: A picture taken in September 2019 shows a newly built farmer's house in Shibadong village in Huayuan county, Hunan Province after being lifted out of poverty. *Chen Zeguo*

The just-concluded annual Central Economic Work Conference has sent signals nationwide on mobilizing people to realize the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and achieve its first centenary goal in 2020. Many people and experts shared their prospects for life in a well-off society and confidence in overcoming problems in the process.

“Xiaokang” or “moderately prosperous society” has become a buzzword in China. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012 proposed the idea of completing “the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects” in 2020, with doubling China’s 2010 levels of GDP and per capita income for urban and rural residents as one of the main criteria.

The annual Central Economic Work Conference, a closed-door gathering of top leaders and policymakers held from December 10-12, set goals for 2020 on making sure the building of a moderately prosperous society is achieved and gets the approval of the people.

People’s Daily overseas edition released an article on December 13, saying that China has favorable conditions to achieve the 2020 goals, including a solid social and economic basis - people’s average life span of 77 years old, the Engel’s coefficient of 28.4 percent, the rural-urban disparity of less than 3 percent and the national income per capita reaching \$9,732 and surpassing the level of middle-income countries.

“At the end of 2019, the annual Central Economic Work Conference sent mobilizing signals in facing of the coming 2020 to remind us that our dream is near at hand,” read the article.

“Moderately prosperous society means the number of middle-income families in China will increase, and the GDP and per capita income for urban and rural residents will be improved with a better social insurance system. Society will also better adapt to potential economic setbacks,” Zhang Yiwu, a Peking University professor, told the reporter.

Chinese people are getting more open, gentle and confident with the quality of their lives expected to be improved in the next few years, Zhang said, noting that the number of overseas tourists and students studying abroad will continue to rise in the next few years.

Chinese people from different social walks of life also

shared their wishes for a new year and their prospects of living in the moderately prosperous society.

A 50-year-old resident surnamed Li from East China's Fujian Province said that his wish for the moderately prosperous society is that he could have two overseas visits in a year.

A white collar working in Beijing surnamed Chen said that he hopes China will have more maglev trains with the speed of 600 kilometers per hour in 2020, which will shorten the time of going back to his hometown in Central China's Henan from four hours to two hours.

A young man working in Beijing said that he hopes the government could put forward policies to regulate and control the housing prices.

No small task

China's poverty alleviation efforts started a few years after it adopted the reform and opening-up policy in 1978.

The first regions targeted as the poorest areas were Gansu Province and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China. In 1982, the government started to allocate 200 million yuan (\$28.56 million) per year to these regions, marking the beginning of planned, organized and large-scale poverty alleviation efforts nationwide.

Over the following decades, China has carried out a series of large-scale development-oriented poverty eradication programs and made concerted efforts to reduce and alleviate poverty.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping first put forward the idea of targeted poverty alleviation during a visit to remote Huayuan County in central China's Hunan Province. Since then, the Chinese Government has overhauled poverty alleviation methods by adopting a targeted approach, which requires officials to identify actual impoverished people and the factors that caused their poverty.

Under the targeted poverty relief campaign, officials are forbidden from merely handing out relief funds without finding ways of attaining sustainable income for the people. Instead, officials are asked to carry out a thorough assessment of resources, environmental conditions and other local characteristics, and draw up tailored relief plans.

Liu Yongfu, director of the State Council Leading Group Office on Poverty Alleviation and Development, disclosed on December 15, 2019, that for the year, the country helped more than 10 million people and about 340 counties out of poverty. "We have made great progress in helping people living in extreme poverty in Tibet Autonomous Region, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and parts of Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu provinces," he said.

Problems to be solved

"China has already built a basic-level moderately prosperous society at the end of 2018. The next crucial step is to eradicate poverty in 2020 and let all people in China, especially those living in remote areas, share the fruits of development," Cong Yi, a professor at the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, told the reporter.

China has a remarkable record of lifting about 700 million people out of poverty in nearly 40 years since reform and opening-up began, a figure that represents about 70 percent

of global poverty eradication during the period.

By the end of 2019, more than 90 percent of impoverished counties in the country will be relieved, and about 95 percent of the poor population will be lifted out of poverty, said the People's Daily.

Rebiyemu Mehmet has worked in the Cool Camel Walnut Company in Wushi county, Aksu of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region for three months. She can peel around 20 kilograms of walnuts a day and earns at least 1,500 yuan a month. She said that she is very satisfied and grateful now. Her family income has reached 24,000 yuan this year.

Rebiyemu used to farm and herd sheep at home and the income of her family was very low. The family of five shook off poverty in 2017.

"In 2020, I hope my salary could increase, our company could develop and family in harmony," Rebiyenu said. She added that she does not have any worries to be solved, as "the government has arranged everything well."

The country's target to relieve poverty has entered a critical period in 2019, though it is a tough battle - the remaining 5 percent of the poor will be lifted out of poverty in 2020. Social factors such as inequality of education and medical resources are major reasons to cause poverty in the country and that would be addressed in the next year by more financial support, Cong said.

"There are few problems to be solved in the process of building the moderately prosperous society, including improving the modern market economy and pushing forward the economic restructuring in China," Bai Ming, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, told the reporter.

Bai noted that China should continue the reform and opening-up of the capital market, readjust the industrial structure, create employments and pushing forward more reasonable income distribution. (Global Times, Beijing Review) ■

2019 anti-poverty target achieved

China has achieved its annual poverty reduction target for 2019, the country's national anti-poverty work conference said.

Over 10 million people are estimated to have been lifted out of poverty in 2019, while some 340 counties have rid themselves of the label of being impoverished, the meeting said.

The registered poor population in the country's poorest areas shrank from 2018's 1.72 million to about 430,000 by end-2019.

The meeting called for enhanced efforts to lift the entire population out of poverty by the end of 2020.

The monitoring mechanism will be improved to avoid the return of poverty, while poverty alleviation via consumption and entrepreneurship will be encouraged, the meeting said. (Xinhua)

Seeds of change

Farmers in east China show the way to self-reliance by growing locally and selling globally

By Li Xiaoyang

In November, when over 300 delegates from political parties from 60 countries toured Jiangxi Province in east China, they met Deng Daqing, a 62-year-old farmer from Ruijin, a revolutionary base of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in the early 1930s. Deng is now a household name in the area because of his efforts to reduce poverty, not only for his own family but for the village where he lives.

It is a long way from Ruijin to Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, but Ancil Antoine, a member of parliament from the island nation, bridged the gap during the visit. In addition to the usual things that impress first-time visitors to China, Antoine was also struck by the orange planting industry in the city and Deng's story. He's a hero, Antoine concluded about the Chinese farmer.

A new start

Ruijin is recognized as a red capital and a cradle of the Chinese revolution because the forerunner of the People's Republic of China, the Provisional Central Government of the Chinese Soviet Republic, was founded there in 1931. Located in the mountains, its inaccessibility, which was an advantage during wartime, became a bottleneck for economic development after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

A decade ago, Deng was struggling to make ends meet. A string of diseases left him mired in debt and his attempt to grow green plums and Valencia oranges, sweet summer oranges deriving their name from the city in Spain, ended up in losses.

When he was at his wits' end, local officials advised him to try a new crop: navel oranges, seedless winter oranges that are better suited to the local soil and humid climate. They also helped him apply for a loan and receive free training.

In 2014, his first navel orange trees bore fruit and to his delight, fetched him around 30,000 yuan (\$4,268). He began to focus on the fruit and today, is growing it on 2 hectares.

Three years ago, aided by his son, Deng opened a store on Taobao, a popular online marketplace created by tech giant Alibaba, to promote the sale of the oranges. He also started an association for orange growers in his village to pool information and resources and promote local products. Now navel oranges from the little village are also sold outside China, in the countries along the route of the China-Europe freight train that connects Jiangxi with Uzbekistan, widening sales channels.

In 2017, all households in Deng's village shook off poverty as their per-capita income reached 13,000 yuan (\$1,848).

Mass participation

More and more farmers like Deng have switched to the industry and orange groves with plump fruit have become a common landscape in Ruijin. By 2018, the entire city had cast off poverty by developing industries suited to local conditions, notably orange planting.

Chen Fobao, secretary of the CPC Committee of Huangbai Township in Ruijin, said a 1,000-hectare navel orange orchard, the largest in China, has been established in the area, where over 1,000 households from five villages work. Last year, it produced 16,000 tons of oranges with an output value of 110 million yuan (\$15.6 million). "We expect 18,000 tons this year, fetching around 120 million yuan (\$17 million)," he said.

There are two more large orchards in Ruijin that have helped more than 30,000 people cast off poverty.

"For better sales, we have formed cooperatives of orange growers and are providing training and marketing services to link farmers with enterprises and strengthen the supply chain," Chen said.

Ruijin's success story is only part of China's poverty alleviation drive. The national aim is to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020.

Despite current progress, the battle against poverty is not yet over. According to official data, 16.6 million rural residents were still living below the national poverty line by the end of 2018. More than half of them are from the less-developed western regions.

As the countdown starts, authorities are focusing on supporting the poorest who reside in remote and mountainous regions with tough natural environments and inadequate infrastructure. For sustainable economic growth of poor regions, distinctive industries are being encouraged to enhance local self-reliance, such as leisure agriculture and rural homestays.

Online marketing

Currently, many other regions in Ganzhou, the city that Ruijin is part of, are also eyeing the industry for a more prosperous life.

In Xunwu County, another major navel orange production



Top: Villagers in Dongtan village in Rong'an county, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region carry newly picked golden oranges on December 30, 2019. *Huang Bangxiao*

Rong'an Golden Orange is a traditional fruit in Rong'an with a history of more than 200 years. In recent years, Rong'an has encouraged and supported the local people to develop golden orange cultivation by providing subsidies, technical training, production and marketing support to help the poor people increase income. In 2019, the area of orange cultivation reached 167,000 mu, the output is expected to be 150,000 tons, the output value of 1.5 billion yuan.

As of November 2019, more than 23,000 farmers in Rong'an county have planted golden oranges, including 8,820 poor households. The plantation of golden orange helps more than 28,000 poor people to shake off poverty, create more than 50,000 jobs.

Middle: An old and shabby house photographed on November 21, 2018 in the village of Longbang, Silin township, Tiandong county in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. *Courtesy of the Publicity Department of the CPC Party Committee of Silin Township*

Below: The picture taken on August 28, 2019 shows the new buildings in the Silin township, Tiandong county, which is a relocation settlement project. *Cao Yiming*

Longbang village is located in the Dashi Mountain area with the per capita arable land area of 0.46 mu. The living environment is bad, and the incidence of poverty in village surpassed 90%.

Since the start of precision poverty alleviation work, the local government relocated all the 327 households with 1,615 people to the town of Silin. In the new settlement, kindergartens, primary schools, clinics, leisure squares and other public service facilities are readily available. In addition, the local government organized skills training, created work posts and adopted other measures to help the masses increase income and live a new life.



base in Ganzhou, Dongyuan Fruit, a company established in 2008, has developed a complete industrial chain covering planting, sorting, packaging and warehousing.

Chen Wei, a manager at Dongyuan, said the company sold over 300,000 kg of oranges on Tmall, Alibaba's business-to-consumer online marketplace, in 2015. Last year, its online sales volume exceeded 1 million kg. Since early November, when its oranges hit the market, it has sold over 250,000 kg on Tmall and other platforms, sending out 2,000 packages on average daily.

With the rise of New Retail that blends online and offline experiences, a growing number of orange growers have turned to e-commerce platforms and seen substantial sales growth. In 2018, the online trading value of navel oranges was 5 billion yuan (\$723 million) in Ganzhou, accounting for

42.2 percent of its total sales volume.

The value of the navel orange industry in south Jiangxi, where many orchards are located, reached 12.2 billion yuan (\$1.7 billion), improving the income of around 250,000 households and providing jobs for 1 million people, according to official data.

However, the reputation of the region's oranges has also led to other regions trying to cash in on their fame. "Some online sellers from other regions pretend that their oranges are from Ganzhou, which is adversely impacting the local orange industry," Chen Wei said.

Liu Limin, an official with the fruit industry bureau in Ruijin, suggested that a quality control mechanism should be employed to increase the market share of Ganzhou's navel oranges and nurture brand recognition. (Beijing Review) ■



A villager in Sangjiashuang village in Matun township, Hebei Province shows off the harvested millet on September 19, 2019. Li Xiaoguo

In recent years, the county has adopted an precision poverty alleviation project by encouraging farmers to plant millet. Under the direction of a hosting company, farmers followed the unified technology, seeding, harvesting and acquisition from seeding to harvest.

The county has planted 3,500 mu of "poverty-relief millet", helping more than 100 farmers to increase income.

Anti-poverty officials and employees speak to local residents in Liangzhai village, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on November 5, 2019. Huang Xiaobang

Rongshui Miao Autonomous County, which administers the Liangzhai township, is poverty-stricken county due to its poor transportation and poor natural environment. In recent years, the county has continuously improved its working style, sending a large number of cadres to conduct poverty alleviation and strengthen the implementation of policies, measures, projects, funds in the field of poverty alleviation.





A villager produces handcraft decorations for the upcoming Springs Festival in Xinzhang village, Hebei Province on November 18, 2019. Yanjiatun township, which administers the village, launched the anti-poverty courtyard project to assist more than 200 people to increase income through handicrafting and planting flowers. China sets up the target to establish an overall well-off society in 2020 and to help all its poverty population to shake off poverty, Xinhua

Ningbo



A Modern Sunshine City

