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1921-2021 PATH TO GLORY



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Representatives of the Chinese Communist Youth League members and Young Pioneers salute the Communist Party of China (CPC) and express commitment to the Party's cause at a ceremony marking the CPC centenary at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, July 1. Zhai Jianlan



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COVER: An art performance titled The Great Journey marking the centenary of the founding of the CPC was held at the National Stadium in Beijing on the evening of June 28, 2021. *Pang Xinglei*



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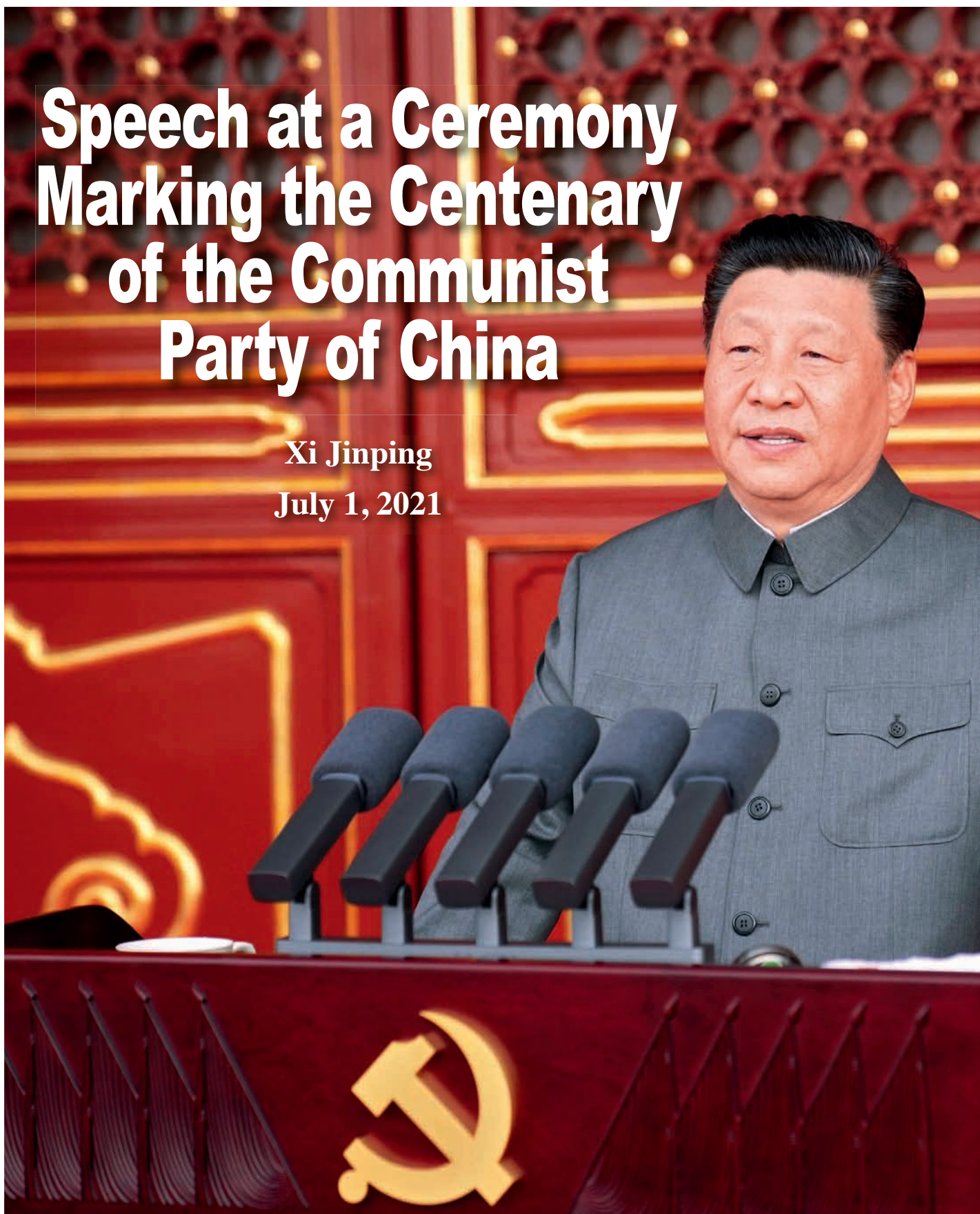
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Speech at a Ceremony Marking the Centenary of the Communist Party of China

Xi Jinping
July 1, 2021





President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at a grand gathering celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on July 1. *Xie Huanchi*

Comrades and friends,

Today, the first of July, is a great and solemn day in the history of both the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese nation. We gather here to join all Party members and Chinese people of all ethnic groups around the country in celebrating the centenary of the Party, looking back on the glorious journey the Party has traveled over 100 years of struggle, and looking ahead to the bright prospects for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

To begin, let me extend warm congratulations to all Party members on behalf of the CPC Central Committee.

On this special occasion, it is my honor to declare on behalf of the Party and the people that through the continued efforts of the whole Party and the entire nation, we have realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This means that we have brought about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China, and we are now marching in confident strides toward the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects. This is a great and glorious accomplishment for the Chinese nation, for the Chinese people, and for the Communist Party of China!

Comrades and friends,

The Chinese nation is a great nation. With a history of more than 5,000 years, China has made indelible contributions to the progress of human civilization. After the Opium War of 1840, however, China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society and suffered greater ravages than ever before. The country endured intense humiliation, the people were subjected to great pain, and the Chinese civilization was plunged into darkness. Since that time, national rejuvenation has been the greatest dream of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation.

To save the nation from peril, the Chinese people put up a courageous fight. As noble-minded patriots sought to pull the nation together, the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Movement, the Reform Movement of 1898, the Yihetuan Movement, and the Revolution of 1911 rose one after the other, and a variety of plans were devised to ensure national survival, but all of these ended in failure. China was in urgent need of new ideas to lead the movement to save the nation and a new organization to rally revolutionary forces.

With the salvoes of Russia's October Revolution in 1917, Marxism-Leninism was brought to China. Then in 1921, as the Chinese people and the Chinese nation were undergoing a great awakening and Marxism-Leninism was becoming closely integrated with the Chinese workers' movement, the Communist Party of China was born. The founding of a communist party in China was an epoch-making event, which profoundly changed the course of Chinese history in modern times, transformed the future of the Chinese people and nation, and altered the landscape of world development.

Since the very day of its founding, the Party has made seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation its aspiration and mission. All the struggle, sacrifice, and creation through which the Party has united and led the Chinese people over the past hundred years has been tied together by one ultimate theme—bringing about the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

To realize national rejuvenation, the Party united and led the Chinese people in fighting bloody battles with unyielding determination, achieving great success in the new-democratic revolution.

Through the Northern Expedition, the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, and the War of Liberation, we fought armed counter-revolution with armed revolution, toppling the three mountains of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism and establishing the People's Republic of China, which made the people masters of the country. We thus secured our nation's independence and liberated our people.

The victory of the new-democratic revolution put an end to China's history as a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society, to the state of total disunity that existed in old China, and to all the unequal treaties imposed on our country by foreign powers and all the privileges that imperialist powers enjoyed in China. It created the fundamental social conditions for realizing national rejuvenation.

Through tenacious struggle, the Party and the Chinese people showed the world that the Chinese people had stood up, and that the time in which the Chinese nation could be bullied and abused by others was gone forever.

To realize national rejuvenation, the Party united and led the Chinese people in endeavoring to build a stronger China with a spirit of self-reliance, achieving great success in socialist revolution and construction.

By carrying out socialist revolution, we eliminated the exploitative and repressive feudal system that had persisted in China for thousands of years, and established socialism as our basic system. In the process of socialist construction, we overcame subversion, sabotage, and armed provocation by imperialist and hegemonic powers, and brought about the most extensive and profound social changes in the history of the Chinese nation. This great transformation of China from a poor and backward country in the East with a large population into a socialist country laid down the fundamental political conditions and the institutional foundations necessary for realizing national rejuvenation.

Through tenacious struggle, the Party and the Chinese people showed the world that the Chinese people were capable of not only dismantling the old world, but also building a new one, that only socialism could save China, and that only socialism could develop China.

To realize national rejuvenation, the Party united and led the Chinese people in freeing the mind and forging ahead, achieving great success in reform, opening up, and socialist modernization.

We established the Party's basic line for the primary stage of socialism, resolutely advanced reform and opening up, overcame risks and challenges from every direction, and founded, upheld, safeguarded, and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics, thus bringing about a major turn with far-reaching significance in the history of the Party since the founding of the People's Republic of China. This enabled China to transform itself from a highly centralized planned economy to a socialist market economy brimming with vitality, and from a country that was largely isolated to one that is open to the outside world across the board. It also enabled China to achieve the historic leap from a country with relatively backward productive forces to the world's second larg-

est economy, and to make the historic transformation of raising the living standards of its people from bare subsistence to an overall level of moderate prosperity, and then ultimately to moderate prosperity in all respects. These achievements fueled the push toward national rejuvenation by providing institutional guarantees imbued with new energy as well as the material conditions for rapid development.

Through tenacious struggle, the Party and the Chinese people showed the world that by pursuing reform and opening up, a crucial move in making China what it is today, China had caught up with the times in great strides.

To realize national rejuvenation, the Party has united and led the Chinese people in pursuing a great struggle, a great project, a great cause, and a great dream through a spirit of self-confidence, self-reliance, and innovation, achieving great success for socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Following the Party's 18th National Congress, socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era. In this new era, we have upheld and strengthened the Party's overall leadership, ensured coordinated implementation of the five-sphere integrated plan and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy, upheld and improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, modernized China's system and capacity for governance, remained committed to exercising rule-based governance over the Party, and developed a sound system of intraparty regulations. We have overcome a long list of major risks and challenges, fulfilled the first centenary goal, and set out strategic steps for achieving the second centenary goal. All the historic achievements and changes in the cause of the Party and the country have provided the cause of national rejuvenation with more robust institutions, stronger material foundations, and a source of inspiration for taking greater initiative.

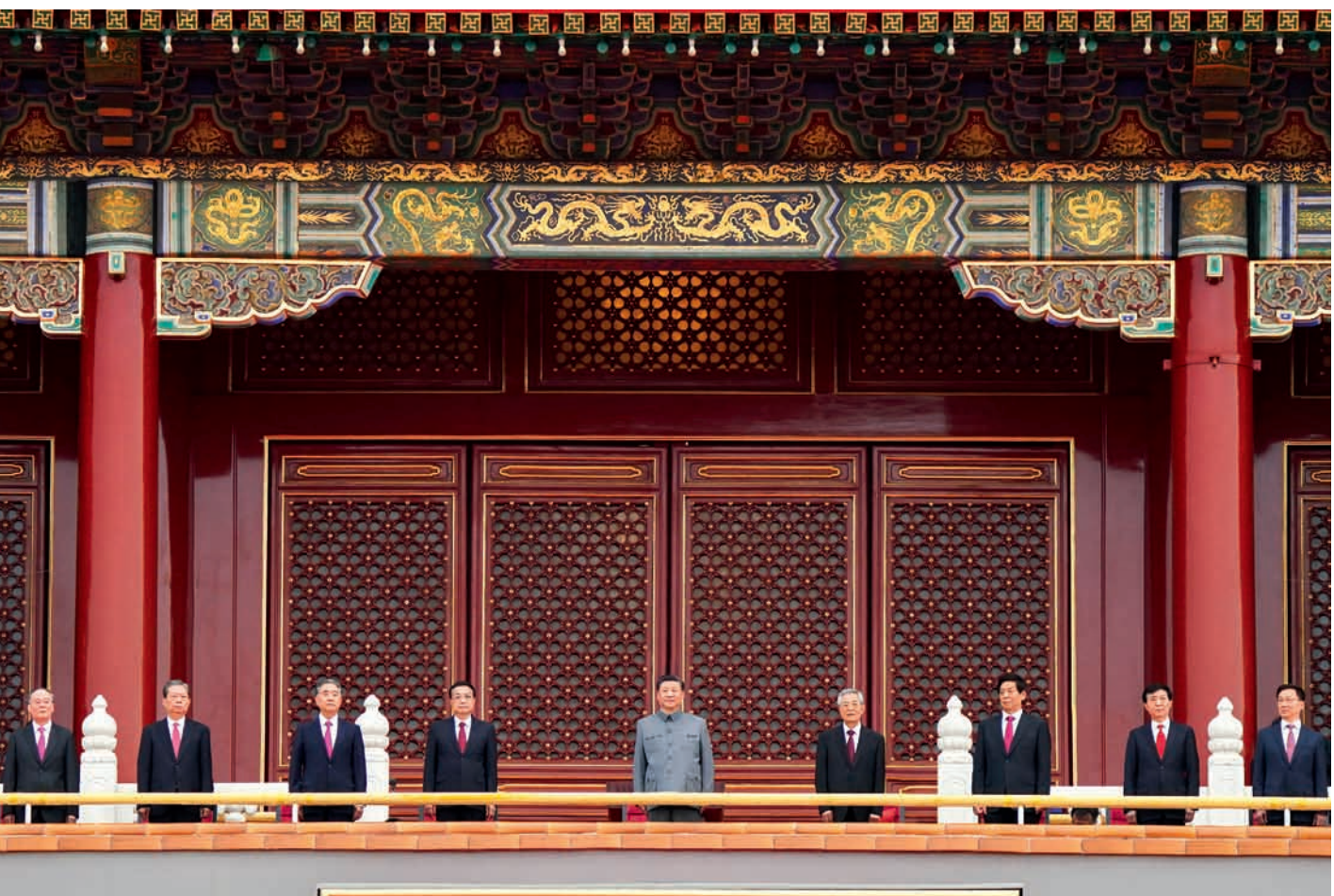
Through tenacious struggle, the Party and the Chinese people have shown the world that the Chinese nation has achieved the tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong, and that China's national rejuvenation has become a historical inevitability.

Over the past hundred years, the Party has united and led the Chinese people in writing the most magnificent chapter in the millennia-long history of the Chinese nation, embodying the dauntless spirit that Mao Zedong expressed when he wrote, "Our minds grow stronger for the martyrs' sacrifice, daring to make the sun and the moon shine in the new sky." The great path we have pioneered, the great cause we have undertaken, and the great achievements we have made over the past century will go down in the annals of the development of the Chinese nation and of human civilization.

Comrades and friends,

A hundred years ago, the pioneers of Communism in China established the Communist Party of China and developed the great founding spirit of the Party, which is comprised of the following principles: upholding truth and ideals, staying true to our original aspiration and founding mission, fighting bravely without fear of sacrifice, and remaining loyal to the Party and faithful to the people. This spirit is the Party's source of strength.

Over the past hundred years, the Party has carried forward this great founding spirit. Through its protracted struggles, it



Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng, Wang Qishan, Hu Jintao and other current and former state leaders attend a ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Party of China at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on July 1. *Yin Bogu*

has developed a long line of inspiring principles for Chinese Communists and tempered a distinct political character. As history has kept moving forward, the spirit of the Party has been passed on from generation to generation. We will continue to promote our glorious traditions and sustain our revolutionary legacy, so that the great founding spirit of the Party will always be kept alive and carried forward.

Comrades and friends,

We owe all that we have achieved over the past hundred years to the concerted efforts of the Chinese Communists, the Chinese people, and the Chinese nation. Chinese Communists, with comrades Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao as their chief representatives, have made tremendous and historic contributions to the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. To them, we express our highest respect.

Let us take this moment to cherish the memory of comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yun, and other veteran revolutionaries who contributed greatly to China's revolution, construction, and reform, and to the founding, consolidation, and development of the Communist Party of China; let us cherish the memory of the revolutionary martyrs who bravely laid down their lives to establish, defend, and develop the People's Republic;

let us cherish the memory of those who dedicated their lives to reform, opening up, and socialist modernization; and let us cherish the memory of all the men and women who fought tenaciously for national independence and the liberation of the people in modern times. Their great contributions to our motherland and our nation will be immortalized in the annals of history, and their noble spirit will live on forever in the hearts of the Chinese people.

The people are the true heroes, for it is they who create history. On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, I would like to pay my highest respects to workers, farmers, and intellectuals across the country; to other political parties, public figures without party affiliation, people's organizations, and patriotic figures from all sectors of society; to all members of the People's Liberation Army, the People's Armed Police Force, the public security police, and the fire and rescue services; to all socialist working people; and to all members of the united front. I would like to extend my sincere greetings to compatriots in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and in Taiwan as well as overseas Chinese. And I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to people and friends from around the world who have shown friendship to the Chinese people and understanding and support for China's endeavors in revolution,



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at the ceremony to present the July 1 Medal, the Party's highest honor, to outstanding Party members at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, June 29. *Ding Lin*

development, and reform.

Comrades and friends,

Though our Party's founding mission is easy to define, ensuring that we stay true to this mission is a more difficult task. By learning from history, we can understand why powers rise and fall. Through the mirror of history, we can find where we currently stand and gain foresight into the future. Looking back on the Party's 100-year history, we can see why we were successful in the past and how we can continue to succeed in the future. This will ensure that we act with greater resolve and purpose in staying true to our founding mission and pursuing a better future on the new journey that lies before us.

As we put conscious effort into learning from history to create a bright future, we must bear the following in mind:

We must uphold the firm leadership of the Party. China's success hinges on the Party. The more than 180-year-long modern history of the Chinese nation, the 100-year-long history of the Party, and the more than 70-year-long history of the People's Republic of China all provide ample evidence that without the Communist Party of China, there would be no new China and no national rejuvenation. The Party was chosen by history and the people. The leadership of the Party is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese character-

istics and constitutes the greatest strength of this system. It is the foundation and lifeblood of the Party and the country, and the crux upon which the interests and wellbeing of all Chinese people depend.

On the journey ahead, we must uphold the Party's overall leadership and continue to enhance its leadership. We must be deeply conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership. We must stay confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must uphold the core position of the General Secretary on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership. Bearing in mind the country's most fundamental interests, we must enhance the Party's capacity to conduct sound, democratic, and law-based governance, and ensure that it fully exerts its core role in providing overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all sides.

We must unite and lead the Chinese people in working ceaselessly for a better life. This country is its people; the people are the country. As we have fought to establish and consolidate our leadership over the country, we have in fact been fighting to earn and keep the people's support. The Party has in the people its roots, its lifeblood, and its source of

strength. The Party has always represented the fundamental interests of all Chinese people; it stands with them through thick and thin and shares a common fate with them. The Party has no special interests of its own—it has never represented any individual interest group, power group, or privileged stratum. Any attempt to divide the Party from the Chinese people or to set the people against the Party is bound to fail. The more than 95 million Party members and the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people will never allow such a scenario to come to pass.

On the journey ahead, we must rely closely on the people to create history. Upholding the Party's fundamental purpose of wholeheartedly serving the people, we will stand firmly with the people, implement the Party's mass line, respect the people's creativity, and practice a people-centered philosophy of development. We will develop whole-process people's democracy, safeguard social fairness and justice, and resolve the imbalances and inadequacies in development and the most pressing difficulties and problems that are of great concern to the people. In doing so, we will make more notable and substantive progress toward achieving well-rounded human development and common prosperity for all.

We must continue to adapt Marxism to the Chinese context. Marxism is the fundamental guiding ideology upon which our Party and country are founded; it is the very soul of our Party and the banner under which it strives. The Communist Party of China upholds the basic tenets of Marxism and the principle of seeking truth from facts. Based on China's realities, we have developed keen insights into the trends of the day, seized the initiative in history, and made painstaking explorations. We have thus been able to keep adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of our times, and to guide the Chinese people in advancing our great social revolution. At the fundamental level, the capability of our Party and the strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics are attributable to the fact that Marxism works.

On the journey ahead, we must continue to uphold Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development, and fully implement the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must continue to adapt the basic tenets of Marxism to China's specific realities and its fine traditional culture. We will use Marxism to observe, understand, and steer the trends of our times, and continue to develop the Marxism of contemporary China and in the 21st century.

We must uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must follow our own path—this is the bedrock that underpins all the theories and practices of our Party. More than that, it is the historical conclusion our Party has drawn from its struggles over the past century. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a fundamental achievement of the Party and the people, forged through innumerable hardships and great sacrifices, and it is the right path for us to achieve national rejuvenation. As we have upheld and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics and driven coordinated progress in material, political, cultural-ethical, social, and ecological terms, we have pioneered a new and uniquely Chinese path to modernization, and created a new model for human advancement.

On the journey ahead, we must adhere to the Party's basic

theory, line, and policy, and implement the five-sphere integrated plan and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. We must deepen reform and opening up across the board, ground our work in this new stage of development, fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy, and foster a new pattern of development. We must promote high-quality development and build up our country's strength in science and technology. We must ensure it is our people who run the country, continue to govern based on the rule of law, and uphold the core socialist values. We must ensure and enhance public wellbeing in the course of development, promote harmony between humanity and nature, and take well-coordinated steps toward making our people prosperous, our nation strong, and our country beautiful.

The Chinese nation has fostered a splendid civilization over more than 5,000 years of history. The Party has also acquired a wealth of experience through its endeavors over the past 100 years and during more than 70 years of governance. At the same time, we are also eager to learn what lessons we can from the achievements of other cultures, and welcome helpful suggestions and constructive criticism. We will not, however, accept sanctimonious preaching from those who feel they have the right to lecture us. The Party and the Chinese people will keep moving confidently forward in broad strides along the path that we have chosen for ourselves, and we will make sure the destiny of China's development and progress remains firmly in our own hands.

We must accelerate the modernization of national defense and the armed forces. A strong country must have a strong military, as only then can it guarantee the security of the nation. At the point that it was engaged in violent struggle, the Party came to recognize the irrefutable truth that it must command the gun and build a people's military of its own. The people's military has made indelible achievements on behalf of the Party and the people. It is a strong pillar for safeguarding our socialist country and preserving national dignity, and a powerful force for protecting peace in our region and beyond.

On the journey ahead, we must fully implement the Party's thinking on strengthening the military in the new era as well as our military strategy for the new era, maintain the Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces, and follow a Chinese path to military development. We will take comprehensive measures to enhance the political loyalty of the armed forces, to strengthen them through reform and technology and the training of competent personnel, and to run them in accordance with the law. We will elevate our people's armed forces to world-class standards so that we are equipped with greater capacity and more reliable means for safeguarding our national sovereignty, security, and development interests.

We must continue working to promote the building of a human community with a shared future. Peace, concord, and harmony are ideas the Chinese nation has pursued and carried forward for more than 5,000 years. The Chinese nation does not carry aggressive or hegemonic traits in its genes. The Party cares about the future of humanity, and wishes to move forward in tandem with all progressive forces around the world. China has always worked to safeguard world peace, contribute to global development, and preserve international order.

On the journey ahead, we will remain committed to promoting peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, to an independent foreign policy of peace, and to the path of peaceful development. We will work to build a new type of international relations and a human community with a shared future, promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative through joint efforts, and use China's new achievements in development to provide the world with new opportunities. The Party will continue to work with all peace-loving countries and peoples to promote the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom. We will continue to champion cooperation over confrontation, to open up rather than closing our doors, and to focus on mutual benefits instead of zero-sum games. We will oppose hegemony and power politics, and strive to keep the wheels of history rolling toward bright horizons.

We Chinese are a people who uphold justice and are not intimidated by threats of force. As a nation, we have a strong sense of pride and confidence. We have never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other country, and we never will. By the same token, we will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate us. Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people.

We must carry out a great struggle with many contemporary features. Having the courage to fight and the fortitude to win is what has made our Party invincible. Realizing our

great dream will require hard work and persistence. Today, we are closer, more confident, and more capable than ever before of making the goal of national rejuvenation a reality. But we must be prepared to work harder than ever to get there.

On the journey ahead, we must demonstrate stronger vigilance and always be prepared for potential danger, even in times of calm. We must adopt a holistic approach to national security that balances development and security imperatives, and implement the national rejuvenation strategy within a wider context of the once-in-a-century changes taking place in the world. We need to acquire a full understanding of the new features and requirements arising from the change to the principal contradiction in Chinese society and the new issues and challenges stemming from a complicated international environment. We must be both brave and adept in carrying out our struggle, forging new paths and building new bridges wherever necessary to take us past all risks and challenges.

We must strengthen the great unity of the Chinese people. In the course of our struggles over the past century, the Party has always placed the united front in a position of importance. We have constantly consolidated and developed the broadest possible united front, united all the forces that can be united, mobilized all positive factors that can be mobilized, and pooled as much strength as possible for collective endeavors. The patriotic united front is an important means for the Party to unite all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, both at home and abroad, behind the goal of national rejuvenation.



A ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Party of China is held at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on July 1. *Chen Zhonghao*

On the journey ahead, we must ensure great unity and solidarity and balance commonality and diversity. We should strengthen theoretical and political guidance, build broad consensus, bring together the brightest minds, and expand common ground and the convergence of interests, so that all Chinese people, both at home and overseas, can focus their ingenuity and energy on the same goal and come together as a mighty force for realizing national rejuvenation.

We must continue to advance the great new project of Party building. A hallmark that distinguishes the Communist Party of China from other political parties is its courage in undertaking self-reform. An important reason why the Party remains so vital and vibrant despite having undergone so many trials and tribulations is that it practices effective self-supervision and full and rigorous self-governance. It has thus been able to respond appropriately to the risks and tests of different historical periods, to ensure that it always remains at the forefront of the times even as profound changes sweep the global landscape, and to stand firm as the backbone of the nation throughout the process of meeting various risks and challenges at home and abroad.

On the journey ahead, we must keep firmly in mind the old adage that it takes a good blacksmith to make good steel. We must demonstrate greater political awareness of the fact that full and rigorous self-governance is a never-ending journey. With strengthening the Party politically as our overarching principle, we must continue advancing the great new project of Party building in the new era. We must tighten the Party's organizational system, work hard to train high-caliber officials who have both moral integrity and professional competence, remain committed to improving Party conduct, upholding integrity, and combating corruption, and root out any elements that would harm the Party's advanced nature and purity and any viruses that would erode its health. We must ensure that the Party preserves its essence, color, and character, and see that it always serves as the strong leadership core in the course of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Comrades and friends,

We will stay true to the letter and spirit of the principle of One Country, Two Systems, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong, and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy. We will ensure that the central government exercises overall jurisdiction over Hong Kong and Macao, and implement the legal systems and enforcement mechanisms for the two special administrative regions to safeguard national security. While protecting China's sovereignty, security, and development interests, we will ensure social stability in Hong Kong and Macao, and maintain lasting prosperity and stability in the two special administrative regions.

Resolving the Taiwan question and realizing China's complete reunification is a historic mission and an unshakable commitment of the Communist Party of China. It is also a shared aspiration of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation. We will uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, and advance peaceful national reunification. All of us, compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, must come together and move forward in unison. We must take

resolute action to utterly defeat any attempt toward "Taiwan independence," and work together to create a bright future for national rejuvenation. No one should underestimate the resolve, the will, and the ability of the Chinese people to defend their national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Comrades and friends,

The future belongs to the young people, and our hopes also rest with them. A century ago, a group of young progressives held aloft the torch of Marxism and searched assiduously in those dark years for ways to rejuvenate the Chinese nation. Since then, under the banner of the Communist Party of China, generation after generation of young Chinese have devoted their youth to the cause of the Party and the people, and remained in the vanguard of the drive to rejuvenate the nation.

In the new era, our young people should make it their mission to contribute to national rejuvenation and aspire to become more proud, confident, and assured in their identity as Chinese people so that they can live up to the promise of their youth and the expectations of our times, our Party, and our people.

Comrades and friends,

A century ago, at the time of its founding, the Communist Party of China had just over 50 members. Today, with more than 95 million members in a country of more than 1.4 billion people, it is the largest governing party in the world and enjoys tremendous international influence.

A century ago, China was in decline and withering away in the eyes of the world. Today, the image it presents to the world is one of a thriving nation that is advancing with unstoppable momentum toward rejuvenation.

Over the past century, the Communist Party of China has secured extraordinary historical achievements on behalf of the people. Today, it is rallying and leading the Chinese people on a new journey toward realizing the second centenary goal.

To all Party members,

The Central Committee calls on every one of you to stay true to our Party's founding mission and stand firm in your ideals and convictions. Acting on the purpose of the Party, you should always maintain close ties with the people, empathize and work with them, stand with them through good times and bad, and continue working tirelessly to realize their aspirations for a better life and to bring still greater glory to the Party and the people.

Comrades and friends,

Today, a hundred years on from its founding, the Communist Party of China is still in its prime, and remains as determined as ever to achieve lasting greatness for the Chinese nation. Looking back on the path we have travelled and forward to the journey that lies ahead, it is certain that with the firm leadership of the Party and the great unity of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, we will achieve the goal of building a great modern socialist country in all respects and fulfill the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Long live our great, glorious, and correct Party!

Long live our great, glorious, and heroic people! ■

Path to Glory

Founded in 1921, the Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrates its centenary this year. Established in a poor and weak semi-colonial China, the CPC has created a unique path of development over the past 100 years. Under the leadership of the Party, China has realized its first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects, erased destitution by the end of 2020 and achieved its space dreams step by step.

A series of events were held or scheduled to celebrate the Party's 100th anniversary. A national ceremony and rally of 70,000 took place in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on July 1 this year. President Xi Jinping, also secretary general of the CPC Central Committee, conferred July 1 Medal on outstanding CPC members and met with county-level Party secretaries who were awarded for remarkable achievements in their posts. A major theatrical performance and theme exhibitions were held to showcase the CPC's history and achievements.

The activities also included an ongoing Party-wide learning campaign on CPC history. Documentaries, special programs, TV dramas, music, dances and films were created and promoted. Major publications, including a book on the CPC's 100-year history, was compiled and released. Party-themed activities were carried out for the public.

Celebrations also heated up across China to commemorate the centenary of the Party with light shows, performances and flag-raising ceremonies, creating a celebratory atmosphere nationwide.



China celebrates success and prosperity

A grand gathering celebrating the 100th anniversary of the CPC was held at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, capital of China on July 1, 2021. An aerial performance by military aircraft marked the grand opening of the ceremony before the Chinese flag was raised to the sound of national anthem. Representatives of the Chinese Communist Youth League and Young Pioneers read a message of congratulations and expressed commitment to the Party's cause. Premier Li Keqiang presided over the ceremony. President Xi delivered a speech, hailing the Party's success over the past 100 years and calling on the whole Party to strive for national rejuvenation.





CPC centenary celebrations take place at Tiananmen Square on July 1. *Li He*



Flag-raising ceremony takes place at Tiananmen Square on July 1. *Shen Hon*



National flag guards march during the flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square on July 1. *Li Xin*



Grand gathering is held in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on July 1. *Li Ga*



Doves symbolizing peace fly over Tiananmen Square on July 1. *Sun Fei*

Highest Party honor awarded

As part of the celebrations, the July 1 Medal celebration was held on June 29, 2021 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xi conferred the medal on CPC members who have made outstanding contributions to the Party and the people. The July 1 Medal, established by the CPC Central Committee as the highest honor within the Party, was awarded for the first time this year. The 29 CPC members who received the honor come from different backgrounds including war heroes, scientists, educators and police officers.

President Xi Jinping walks with July 1 Medal recipients on June 29. *Liu Weibing*

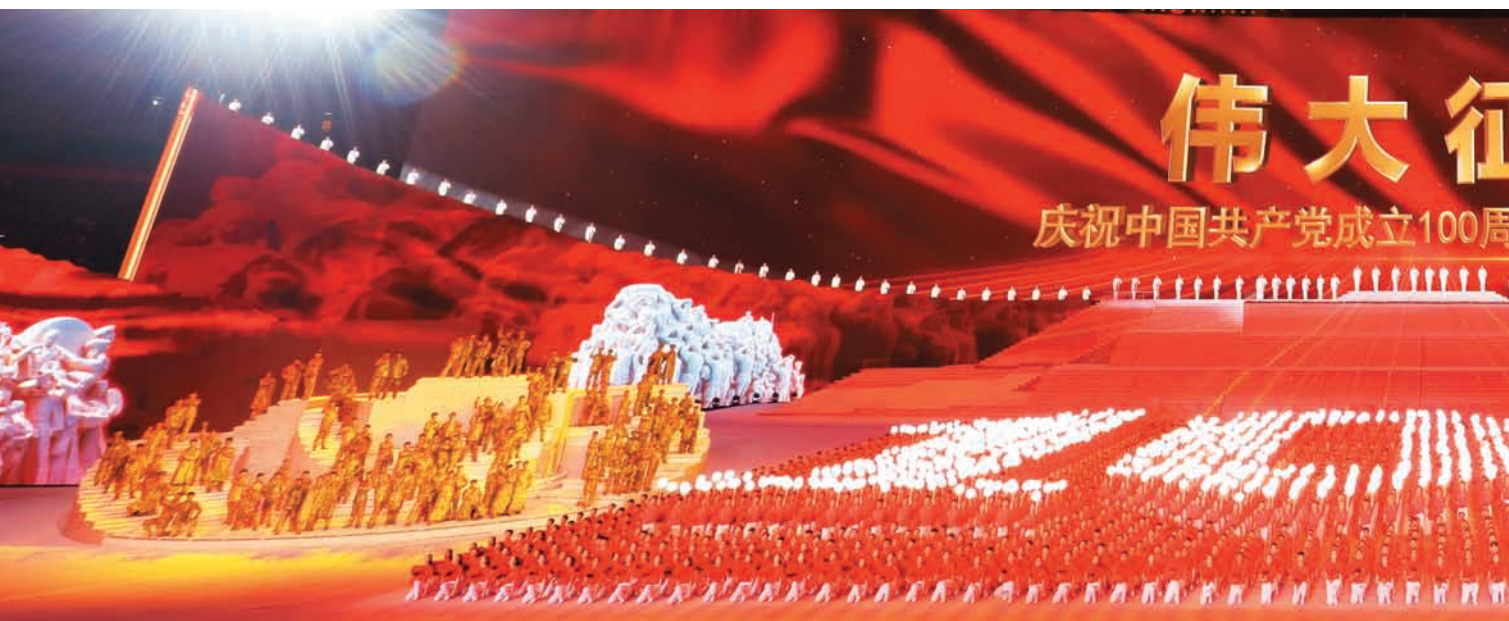




Photo by Li Xueren

The Great Journey art performance held at National Stadium

An art performance titled The Great Journey marking the centenary of the founding of the CPC was held at the National Stadium in Beijing on the evening of June 28, 2021. The four-part epic show depicted how the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC, have revolutionized and reformed the country over the past 100 years. The spectacular show touched about 20,000 spectators with stories of the ups and downs in the Party's history. Gorgeous fireworks were set off above the National Stadium during the show to celebrate the Party's centenary.

Xi meets with outstanding Party secretaries of county-level CPC committees

On June 29, 2021, Xi met in Beijing with outstanding Party secretaries of county-level CPC committees selected from across China. Xi congratulated the awardees and took pictures with them. Approved by the CPC Central Committee, 103 county-level Party secretaries were awarded for remarkable achievements in their posts. Ding Xuexiang, director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, and Chen Xi, head of the CPC Central Committee's Organization Department, were also present at the event.



Pang Xinglei



Music and light show are seen at a pop-up flower bed in Shanghai People's Square on June 30. Wang Gang/For China Daily



Students take part in a themed activity in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, on June 28. Zhai Huiyong/For China Daily

CPC centenary celebrated all over China

The CPC centenary has sparked celebrations across China to mark the Party's rich history and achievements. Extensive activities including spectacular light shows, flag-raising ceremonies and a variety of performances have been carried out nationwide. Beijing decorated its streets, and Shanghai and Guangzhou lit up the night sky with light shows. Hong Kong held flag-raising ceremonies to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Party as well as the 24th anniversary of its return to the motherland. The celebratory atmosphere was also observed other parts of the country.

Exhibit on The Communist Manifesto kicks off in Beijing

An exhibition about The Communist Manifesto by the great German thinkers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels kicked off in the National Museum of Classic Books in Beijing on July 8, 2021. The exhibition is made up of four parts, elaborating on the birth of the book, its spread in China and around the world, and pictures about the book. Visitors can see 306 versions of The Communist Manifesto in 55 languages including German, Russian, English and French. Important exhibits include the 1883 German version, the 1888 English version and some of Marx and Engels' original manuscripts.

Chen Yihua



Highest Party honor awarded to role models ahead of CPC centenary



Members of the Chinese Young Pioneers present flowers and salute recipients of the July 1 Medal at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on June 29. Gao Jie

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on June 29 conferred the July 1 Medal, the Party's highest honor, on model CPC members.

A total of 29 CPC members who have made "outstanding contributions to the Party and the people" received the honor, some posthumously.

This is the first time the medal has been awarded as the CPC is set to celebrate its centenary on July 1.

Over the past 100 years, the Party "has written a splendid chapter in the history of the Chinese nation's development and that of humanity's progress," said Xi, also president and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

In the Great Hall of the People, Xi draped the medals around the necks of the recipients, shook their hands and congratulated them.

Xi addressed the attendees after presenting the medals.

Role models

Over the past 100 years, generations of CPC members have worked hard and made selfless contributions in the pursuit of national independence and the liberation of the people, as well as in striving for a prosperous and strong country and the people's well-being, said Xi.

Noting that the awardees have been outstanding representatives of CPC members on all fronts, Xi said they embody Party members' staunch faith, fighting and dedicated spirit, integrity and devotion, and loyalty to the Party's fundamental tenet – putting the people at the very center of their hearts, and wholeheartedly serving the people.

To maintain staunch faith is to stay true to the Party's orig-

inal aspiration and dedicate everything, even one's precious life, to the cause of the Party and the people, said Xi.

All Party members should trust, love and devote themselves to the Party, he said.

Xi also told CPC members to work diligently, maintain high morale, tackle challenges and continue the fine traditions of hard work and plain living, and to put public interests above personal interests.

The ceremony was presided over by Wang Huning, and attended by Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng – all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, as well as Vice President Wang Qishan.

Wang Huning read a decision of the CPC Central Committee on conferring the medals.

Everyday heroes

The recipients of the medals all come from the people and are rooted in the people. They are everyday heroes who have fulfilled their duties and made contributions, said Xi.

They include a veteran of the Red Army and those who fought in the War of Liberation and the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea. They also include a volunteer who has spent decades serving her community, a Uygur village official resolutely fighting ethnic separatist activities, a welder, a weaver, a veteran diplomat and a police detective.

A battalion commander who sacrificed his life defending the Chinese border, a Party official who was sent to a village to fight poverty and died on the front line, and a war hero who worked in obscurity after retiring from the military were awarded the honor posthumously.

Zhang Guimei, the principal of a senior high school that offers free education to girls from impoverished families, called herself an "ordinary teacher" when she delivered a speech on behalf of the honorees after receiving her medal.

"The honor belongs to every CPC member working on different fronts," said Zhang. "What we've done is just what many CPC members are doing every day."

According to figures released, the CPC has more than 95 million members.

Xi called on the Party to follow the example set by the awardees, saying every CPC member can make accomplishments for the Party and the people in the great cause of national rejuvenation.

"The new era needs heroes and can give birth to heroes," he said.

At the end of the speech, Xi called on CPC members and officials to boldly advance toward the second centenary goal of fully building a modern socialist country, as well as the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. (Xinhua) ■

National Heroes

By Lu Yan

The award ceremony for the July 1 Medal, the highest honor of the Communist Party of China (CPC), was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on June 29. President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, presented the medals to outstanding CPC members.

A total of 29 people received the honor, including three who were awarded the medal posthumously, with 22 of them attending the ceremony. Three of them are featured in this article: Wang Shumao, a role model in safeguarding the country's rights and interests in the South China Sea; Zhoigar, a guardian of the country's borders on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau; and Shi Guangyin, an individual who leads efforts in afforestation and combating desertification.



Wang Shumao, a deputy to the National People's Congress from Hainan Province. *Guo Cheng*

Marine rights protection vanguard

Born in Qionghai in south China's island province of Hainan, Wang Shumao has been safeguarding China's territorial sovereignty and marine rights and interests in the South China Sea for decades.

Since 1985, Wang has been deputy head of the militia in Tanmen, a port township among the nearest to Nansha in the

South China Sea. For years, the militia has been driving away foreign vessels entering the region.

The militia has over 100 members and its ships are equipped with the BeiDou navigation system and maritime satellite phones. It provides hundreds of pieces of intelligence information from the South China Sea every year.

The Tanmen militia has about 60 days

of training a year, including a month of regular offshore training and nine days of live-fire training, which include rescue courses, first-aid treatment and sessions such as intercepting entering vehicles. "Local fishermen have been safeguarding the waters for generations," the 65-year-old veteran fisherman said.

Wang, also a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), always keeps a notebook and pen at hand to take notes when he hears suggestions from fishermen. Their work is the inspiration for the suggestions he submits to the annual NPC sessions, covering topics like promoting recreational fishery and how to increase fishermen's income.

"Community-based NPC deputies like me must listen to the voice of the people. This is my duty," Wang said, adding that now as Hainan has ushered in a new era by building itself into a free trade port, he will pay closer attention to the protection of marine resources, the development of the recreational fishery industry, and the countryside vitalization. He will strive to play a pioneering role and perform his duties as an NPC deputy to seek benefits and development for locals in Hainan, as well as making Tanmen more beautiful.



Zhoigar, an NPC deputy from Tibet Autonomous Region. *Xie Huanchi*

Border guardian

As an ordinary Tibetan villager, Zhoigar and her family have been guarding China's borders on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau for over three decades. Sitting at the southern foot of the Himalayas at an altitude of over 3,600 meters where steep slopes and rugged paths make it difficult to access, Yumai was once the least populated town in China.

It experienced tremendous changes during the past several decades, and Zhoigar has witnessed it all. Due to the lack of infrastructure, medical services and educational resources, most residents moved to the inland parts of the country. For many years, Zhoigar's family, including her sister Yangzom and their father, were the only residents in town, and the family herded livestock for a living.

"My father used to say that despite a total of three residents, this was still China's Yumai town. We must safeguard

our country's territory and never lose it to anyone," Zhoigar said. "We have tried our best to guard the border area as our father told us. Once the roads were connected, our life would get better and better."

In 1995, water, power, roads, as well as the Internet, were gradually accessible. Now, the population of Yumai has increased to more than 200. The town has become a moderately prosperous border area, with an average annual income of more than 34,000 yuan (\$5,300) per person in 2020. Over the years, tourism has developed, too, with restaurants and stores selling arts and crafts with local features and attracting an increasing number of tourists nationwide.

"Yumai has changed drastically compared to what it was. We're getting old now, but I believe our future generations will make this place thrive even more," the 60-year-old Zhoigar said.



Shi Guangyin, an NPC deputy from Shaanxi Province. *Liu Xiao*

Sand tamer

More than six decades ago, a sandstorm blew Shi Guangyin some 15 km away while he was on his way to herd goats. Shi was lucky enough to be rescued by local herdsman but his friend lost his life.

Hailing from the city of Yulin, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, located on the edges of the Maowusu Desert, Shi, now 69, shares wearily familiar grief with many others living in the area. Maowusu, one of China's major deserts, stretches from

Ordos in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to Yulin in Shaanxi Province. Climate change and human activity had led to the desertification of Maowusu. According to local chronicles, in June 1949, the forest and grass coverage rate in Yulin was only about 1.8 percent.

In the 1950s, China began to promote forest conservation nationwide and started large-scale afforestation. In 1981, the local government of Yulin allocated wasteland including barren hills, sandy areas, slopes and ditches to individuals for long-term use

and promised that the trees they planted on the wasteland belonged to them. Shi was in the prime of his life and took the lead in becoming China's first contractor to plant trees in the barren desert to curb sandstorms and possibly make a fortune if he got lucky.

After selling almost all of his properties to raise money for his planting career, Shi also encouraged more than 300 fellow villagers to move to Maowusu for a greener future. In the spring of 1988, more than 80 percent of his trees survived the harsh environment in Maowusu. In a few years, Maowusu saw its first oasis.

By the end of 2004, more than 16,000 hectares of sand and alkali areas that Shi had leased were brought under control, with the total afforestation area exceeding 23,000 hectares. Statistics show that about 440,000 farmers in Yulin have leased more than 600,000 hectares of wasteland over the decades. After these desertification prevention and control efforts, the city's forest coverage has increased from 0.9 percent to 34.8 percent. Over 570,000 hectares of quicksand have been fixed or semi-fixed, while large areas of exposed sand can barely be spotted now.

"By following scientific forestation plans, we will see a more beautiful countryside decorated in green all year round," Shi said. ■



Hong Kong and Macao SARs mark centenary celebration

Hong Kong residents wave the Chinese national flags and the regional flags of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on a tour bus in south China's Hong Kong. *Lo Ping Fai*

The Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions (SARs) have joined the national celebrations for the Communist Party of China's (CPC) centenary with several events, such as lion dances, light shows, seminars, exhibitions and the issuance of commemorative stamps, highlighting the Party's role in the SARs' development and the CPC's achievements over the past century.

Upholding the principle

On July 1, Hong Kong held various events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC and the 24th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

China's national flag and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) were hoisted and the national anthem was played at Golden Bauhinia Square in a flag-raising ceremony held by the HKSAR government in the morning. Helicopters flew over Victoria Harbor and a fireboat sprayed a water salute.

Hong Kong's smooth return to the motherland is an important part of the CPC's great achievements over the past 100 years, Acting HKSAR Chief Executive John Lee said during the celebratory events at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center.

Lee vowed continued efforts to safeguard national security, improve the implementation of One Country, Two Systems and forge ahead with a pragmatic approach and the spirit of rising to the challenge.

With CPC leadership, the strong support of the nation and the success in implementing One Country, Two Systems, Hong Kong compatriots will be able to share the glory of a prosperous and strong nation, said Chen Dong, deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR.

Chuang Tze-cheung from the Hong Kong Celebrations Association said Hong Kong will continue to give full play to its unique advantages under One Country, Two Systems and make greater achievements with the effective administration of the

HKSAR government and society's concerted efforts.

In Macao, a high-level seminar was held to study the speech delivered by the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping at the CPC centenary celebration on July 1. In the speech, Xi, who is also President of the PRC and chairman of the Central Military Commission, pledged that the central government will continue to uphold the One Country, Two Systems principle in Hong Kong and Macao and will maintain the lasting prosperity and stability of the two SARs.

Addressing the seminar, Macao Chief Executive Ho Iat-seng said that a stable and prosperous Macao wouldn't exist without the Party's leadership.

The Macao SAR will continue to steadfastly uphold the leadership of the CPC and will not allow any activities that challenge the authority of the central government, the Constitution or the Basic Law, Ho pledged.

Edmund Ho Hau-wah, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political advisory body, said the CPC is the inventor, pioneer, leader, practitioner and defender of the cause of One Country, Two Systems, which guarantees Macao's development.

Ho Hau-wah, who was Macao's first chief executive, called on civil society in Macao to maximize its unique strength in the country's development and share the dividends through deeper cooperation with the mainland.

Fu Ziyang, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, noted that the principle of "patriots administering Macao" is key to the long-term success of Macao's implementation of One Country, Two Systems. He said he hopes that the SAR will firmly uphold the principle and further improve the mechanism. The seminar was attended by about 140 guests, including principal officials, social dignitaries and association representatives.

Close bonds

Other celebrations were organized across Hong Kong, including parades of buses and fishing vessels, and festive decorations could be seen in many places from stores along the streets to landmark buildings. In Victoria Harbor, fishing vessels sailed in a procession and were greeted by Hong Kong residents on the bank.

A torch relay race was held to mark the centenary of the CPC and the 24th anniversary of Hong Kong's return. A participant born in 1997 said this year's July 1 is a meaningful day and he felt the responsibility on him and also the young generation at large to carry on the success of Hong Kong.

A week-long exhibition showcased the CPC's achievements and its close bonds with the Hong Kong SAR. The exhibition, which covers a wide range of dimensions of the CPC's development, attracted a large number of local residents. A mother surnamed Xie, who took her 11-year-old son to the exhibition, said the exhibition is worthwhile as it helps to enrich the younger generation's knowledge of the nation's history.

A 12-year-old girl, who came with her father, said she was excited and eager to know more about China's past, especial-

ly the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression from 1931 to 1945.

The exhibition also attracted various local officials and people from all walks of life. During its opening ceremony, Secretary for Food and Health Sophia Chan Siu-chee said she was grateful for the motherland's support in Hong Kong's fight against COVID-19.

Gordon Lam Chi-wing, chairman of the Hong Kong Technology Association, said that without the Party's help, Hong Kong would have encountered many difficulties, including shortage of food and water supply.

Hongkong Post issued commemorative stamps for the big day, its first release on the theme of the CPC. Long queues were spotted outside post offices in the morning even before opening hour. Likewise, the Macao Post issued a set of commemorative stamps featuring the symbolic sites of the CPC's development during the past century.

At the iconic Golden Lotus Square in Macao, a flag-raising ceremony was held on the morning of July to mark the occasion. A number of social groups organized their members to watch the live broadcast of a ceremony at Tiananmen Square in Beijing marking the important occasion.

At a health center for the elderly located in the northeastern part of Macao, dozens of local residents gathered in front of the television early in the morning to watch the ceremony that began at 8 a.m.

Poon Siu Beng, one of the seniors, said that she was very excited after watching the ceremony. "It's a rare opportunity for us to witness the centenary celebrations. We must unite and build a more prosperous country," she said.

In the evening, a light show was staged at the center of Macao, presenting the symbolic sites of the CPC's development and Macao's landmark buildings. ■



Children visit a picture exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China in Macao, south China, on July 12.
Zhang Jinjia

CPC's 100-year-old governing code: do right things, be right choice

By Huang Yinjiazi, Guo Yage



tourists visit a vinegar brewery on July 10 in Yumo, Bijie of Guizhou Province in southwest China, where the time-honored vinegar brewing process has been listed as a provincial intangible cultural heritage. Fan Hui

Two scholars from Cornell University in the United States recently observed that over the last two decades, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has built contacts with more than 400 political parties in over 160 countries, and that such exchanges reflect pull factors rather than an outward push by the century-old party. In a joint article in June published in *Foreign Affairs*, a leading U.S. magazine on international relations, governance experts Thomas Pepinsky and Jessica Chen Weiss noted that there are ruling parties seeking CPC counsel on governance issues.

Among the enormous successes of the CPC, which celebrated its centenary on July 1, the one that has perhaps provoked the most thought is the unparalleled support it enjoys from the Chinese people. In a Harvard University survey published in July of last year, as many as 93.1 percent of Chinese citizens expressed approval of the central government. Therefore, for representatives of political parties and organizations worldwide, one of the most riveting questions is: What correct things has the CPC done to make itself the invariable choice of the Chinese people?

People centered

During a meeting with visiting President Xi Jinping in Rome two years ago, Italian Lower House Speaker Roberto Fico raised a question, "How did you feel when you were elected president of China?" Governing such a huge country requires a strong sense of responsibility and hard work, replied Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. "For the good of my people, I will put aside my

own wellbeing."

"The Party has always represented the fundamental interests of all Chinese people; it stands with them through thick and thin, and shares a common fate with them," Xi said at the July 1 centenary ceremony at Tiananmen Square, the symbolic political heart of China. "The Party has no special interests of its own; it has never represented any individual interest group, power group or privileged stratum," he added.

"Looking back over its 100 years of history, always staying with the people has been the secret of the CPC's great achievements in the annals of history," said former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama. "China has suffered many misfortunes and difficulties, including the aggression caused by Japan, but the CPC has always worked with the people to overcome difficulties," he added.

The latest of such misfortunes struck at the end of 2019, when the deadly COVID-19 epidemic broke out, claiming lives and sinking many economies around the world. It was the CPC's people-centered philosophy that enabled the Chinese leadership to carry out what the World Health Organization called "perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment efforts in history" and led China to be the first country to control the pandemic.

"We are willing to save lives at all costs," Xi said. "No matter how old the patients are and how serious their conditions have become, we never give up." In China's central Hubei Province alone, where the disease was first reported, more than 3,600 COVID-19 patients over 80 years old escaped the clutches of death.

Development oriented

"Though our Party's founding mission is easy to define, ensuring that we stay true to this mission is a more difficult task," Xi remarked at the CPC centenary ceremony. In May 2019, the CPC launched a campaign among all its members themed "Staying True to the Original Aspiration and Founding Mission," which is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.

Committed to promoting people's wellbeing, the CPC has led China to make remarkable economic leaps in a very short period of time, said Fabien Roussel, national secretary of the French Communist Party. In 1978, the policy of reform and opening up was adopted under the leadership of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, unleashing the creativity and entrepreneurial potential of the Chinese people and laying the foundation for what has now become a vibrant socialist market economy open to the whole world.

Tej Bunnag, former Thai foreign minister and ambassador

to China from 1986 to 1990, bore witness to China's transformation from an impoverished backwater to a major contributor to the world economy. He recalled his first trip to China in 1973, when Shenzhen was just a small fishing village. "Now it's an international city of more than 10 million residents and a hi-tech hub," the 77-year-old China observer said.

From 1978 to 2020, China's GDP rocketed from 367.9 billion yuan (\$56.67 billion) to 101.6 trillion yuan (\$15.7 trillion), upgrading from a low-income to a middle-income country. Fast economic growth lifted most people in China out of poverty, yet the CPC was not content. It vowed to eliminate poverty and complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

"This is a society to be enjoyed by each and every one of us," Xi once said. "On the march toward common prosperity, no one must be left behind." Since 2012, the Chinese leadership has made poverty alleviation a major priority, with new thoughts and ideas, and new policies and arrangements. Eight years later, the number of Chinese people living under the poverty line was reduced from 100 million to 0, with more than 10 million people lifted out of poverty every year on average or one person every three seconds.

"Through the continued efforts of the whole Party and the entire nation, we have realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects," Xi declared at the July 1 ceremony. "This means that we have brought about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China."

Self-reform

"The rise of something may be fast, but its downfall is equally swift," educator Huang Yanpei said to late Chinese leader Mao Zedong during a visit to Yan'an, the CPC's revolutionary base, in 1945. "Has any person, family, community, place, or even nation ever manage to break free of this cycle?" Huang asked. This conversation has been repeatedly invoked by Xi as a warning of complicated and long-term risks faced by the CPC. For him, a common denominator that leads to the decay of political power is internal erosion, especially corruption.

He highlighted "self-reform," or "turning the blade inward and scraping the poison off the bones," as a prime means to forestall this vicious circle and maintain good Party health and strong vitality. "The ones who can defeat us are ourselves, no one else," Xi warned while addressing senior officials at a seminar at the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC in January 2018.

Accordingly, it has been made a priority to crack down on malpractice by Party officials, particularly those who have no faith in the Party, take bribes, lead extravagant lives or are autocratic. Since 2012, the CPC has created comprehensive and zero-tolerance policies to fight corruption, noted Dmitry Novikov, deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Russia. "It is important that the very conditions leading to corruption are destroyed," Novikov said.

Serbian president Aleksandar Vucic pointed out that anti-corruption creates the precondition for development and is essential to leading the world's biggest political party. The CPC's battle against corruption, he added, has given

significant strength to the Party's leadership to show the nation and the world that "China is very resolute" in the rule of law and in bringing higher living standards to the people.

Fitting shoes

"Only the wearer of the shoes knows if they fit or not," Xi said at Russia's Moscow State Institute of International Relations in March 2013 on his first overseas trip as Chinese head of state. "Only the people can best tell if the development path they have chosen for their country suits or not," he added.

Through decades of painstaking explorations and tough struggle, China, under the leadership of the CPC, has established that socialism with Chinese characteristics is the only path to rejuvenation and prosperity. The CPC, Tej observed, has been firmly marching on that path, adapting to changes and improving its policies. This is a source of the party's strengths, he noted.

Jessie Duarte, deputy secretary-general of South Africa's ruling African National Congress, said "It is important that nations adopt ideologies and developmental paths which are true to their own history, national identity and unique circumstances instead of just following what others are doing." China never copies others' models, or urges other countries to copy its own. Instead, China has consistently advocated that each country should choose a development path in accordance with its own circumstances and its people's needs, while all countries should respect and learn from each other.

"The world would be lifeless and dull if there were only one single model and one single civilization," Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi once said. "Democracy is not Coca-Cola, which, with the syrup produced by the United States, tastes the same across the world," he said.

People have been told time and again that the Western system of democracy is the best way to social progress, yet what the CPC has achieved proves that there is another feasible model, said Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan, who is also chairman of the country's ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. (Xinhua) ■



An aerial photo taken of Xiajiang Village in Chun'an County, Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province in east China, which was once plagued with poverty but is now thriving with rural tourism and private entrepreneurship. Huang Zongzhi



A villager from the Yi ethnic group smiles as he moves into his new home in a resettlement site in Sanhe, Zhaojue County of Sichuan Province in southwest China, thanks to a poverty alleviation relocation program. *Jiang Hongjing*

Xi Jinping: the CPC to strive for a better world for all

During a high-level dialogue in 2017, with over 600 representatives of political parties from over 120 countries, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and president of China, laid out the historic mission of the world's largest political party. "What we Chinese communists are doing is improving the lives of the Chinese people, rejuvenating the Chinese nation, and promoting peace and development for humanity." Committed to the Party's original aspiration, Xi is leading the CPC not only in building China into a modern socialist country but also in creating a better shared future for the world.

Development for all

A day before the official centenary of the CPC on July 1, China was officially declared malaria-free by the World Health Organization. After a 70-year fight, it marked the lat-

est of numerous achievements it has made under the CPC's leadership. In February, Xi announced that China, with a population over 1.4 billion, had secured a complete victory over poverty, which was widely acclaimed as a miracle in the human history of poverty reduction.

While striving to improve the wellbeing of its own people, the CPC has also been committed to promoting the world's common development. In his 2017 New Year's speech, Xi said the Chinese people "hope for a better life for people in other countries as well as for themselves." And he has been leading China to make that wish come true. Whether in the fight against malaria or poverty alleviation, China has extended a helping hand to others over the past decades, especially developing countries.

Back in 2000, Xi, then governor of southeastern China's Fujian Province, helped launch a pilot Juncao project to help improve the livelihood of the people of Papua New Guinea. Juncao, known as "magic grass" and discovered by Chinese

scientists, is an economical and environmentally-friendly substitute for timber, which can be used as a substrate for growing mushrooms. Eighteen years later, during Xi's state visit to the Oceanian country, the two countries signed another aid project using the grass technology. By 2023, the aid program is expected to lift 30,000 local people out of poverty. Today, the Juncao project has taken root in over 100 countries, helping combat poverty in Africa, Asia and the South Pacific region.

Meanwhile, from the decades-old Canton Fair to the 3-year-old China International Import Expo to the newly launched China International Consumer Products Expo, high-end international expos have repeatedly demonstrated China's commitment to wider opening up and shared opportunities.

Force for peace

When he visited the United Nations headquarters in the fall of 2015, Xi brought a gift for the UN's 70th birthday: the Zun of Peace, a red bronze bottle decorated with traditional Chinese auspicious patterns. It showed the aspiration and faith of the Chinese people in seeking peace, development, cooperation and win-win results, which are also in the spirit of the UN Charter, Xi explained.

Under the CPC's leadership, China is marching toward its second centenary goal: to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful by 2049, the centenary of the People's Republic of China. "China the lion has awakened, but it is a peaceful, amicable and civilized lion," Xi said in 2014 at a gathering marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of China-France diplomatic relations, stressing that the Chinese Dream is about pursuing peace and happiness, and contributing to the common good of the world.

Today, China is the second largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget, and has sent more peacekeepers to UN missions than any other permanent member of the UN Security Council. "Countries, whether big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, should all contribute their share to maintaining and enhancing peace," Xi said in April 2013 at the opening plenary of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, the first multilateral diplomatic event he hosted as Chinese president. As the world faces changes unseen in a century, Xi has led China to become a staunch champion of genuine multilateralism, defending the international order against such challenges as unilateralism and bullying. There is no better choice for countries around the world than strengthening multilateral cooperation in the face of one global challenge after another, Xi told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the Group of 20 Summit held in Buenos Aires in November 2018.

Shared future for humanity

Humanity is in an era of major development as well as profound transformation and change, and numerous challenges and increasing risks, Xi noted in his 2017 speech at the UN Office at Geneva. Xi offered China's proposition: build a community with a shared future for humanity, a concept that

"What we Chinese Communists are doing is improving the lives of the Chinese people, rejuvenating the Chinese nation, and promoting peace and development for humanity."

has been enshrined in the CPC's constitution and has also been guiding China's interaction with the rest of the world.

In face of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, China, the world's largest developing country, has effectively brought the disease under control at home, and has also spared no effort in helping other countries. In 2020, Xi promised that Chinese vaccines against COVID-19, when available, "will be made a global public good." Now, despite a tight supply and huge domestic demand, China has provided over 450 million vaccine doses to the international community, and is continuing to help ensure vaccine accessibility and affordability worldwide.

Xi's vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity offers both a new solution to global challenges and a new perspective on world civilizations. While there has been such rhetoric as the clash of civilizations or the superiority of one civilization over another in the West, in Xi's eyes, the development of a civilization is sustained by exchanges and mutual learning. This is in line with the future world he has been leading the CPC to strive for: an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful one that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity. "Countries may have differences and even encounter problems with each other," Xi said. "But we should not forget that we all live under the same sky, share one and the same home planet and belong to one and the same family." (Xinhua) ■



An organic vegetable farm, part of a China-Laos poverty reduction cooperation project in northern Vientiane, Laos, on February 28, 2019. Zhang Jianhua



Strengthening Cooperation Among Political Parties to Jointly Pursue the People's Wellbeing

Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping
General Secretary of the Central Committee of
The Communist Party of China
And President of the People's Republic of China
At the CPC and World Political Parties Summit
Beijing, 6 July 2021

Your Excellencies leaders of political parties,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,
It gives me great pleasure to join you, leaders of more
than 500 political parties, political and other organisations

from over 160 countries as well as the ten thousand and more
representatives of political parties and various circles, at this
cloud event to discuss the important question of “working
for the people’s wellbeing and the responsibility of political
parties”, just as the Communist Party of China (CPC) reaches



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPC), delivers a keynote speech via video from Beijing at the CPC and World Political Parties Summit on July 6. Li Xiang

its one hundredth anniversary. Over the past weeks, more than 600 political parties, political and other organisations from over 170 countries have sent 1500-plus congratulatory messages and letters on the CPC's centenary conveying their goodwill and best wishes. I wish to take this opportunity to express to all of you, on behalf of the Communist Party of China, our heartfelt thanks!

A few days ago, we celebrated the CPC's centenary with a grand gathering. Over the past hundred years, the CPC has united and led the Chinese people in working ceaselessly towards the tremendous transformation of the Chinese nation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong. Over the past hundred years, the CPC has persisted in closely associating the future of the Chinese people with that of other peoples of the world and steered the course of China's development amid the general trend of the world and the currents of the times to promote common development and prosperity of all countries.

The historic achievements the CPC and the Chinese people have made would not have been possible without the generous support of world peoples.

Here, on behalf of the CPC and the Chinese people, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to political parties, peoples and friends of all countries who have cared about, supported and helped the CPC and the cause of revo-

lution, development and reform in China.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

The world today is undergoing profound transformation unseen in a century, amid which the trend of multi-polarity and economic globalisation is experiencing a sea change, and countries are becoming increasingly intertwined, interdependent and interconnected. To cope with COVID-19, restart the economy, and safeguard world stability, the international community has made strenuous efforts. Political parties in various countries have also exhibited a strong sense of responsibility by making active explorations. Meanwhile, in some places, wars and conflicts are still raging, famine and diseases remain prevalent, and estrangement and confrontation grow even deeper. The call for a better life from people of all countries is becoming all the more loud and clear.

Today, human society has once again found itself at a historic crossroads. It is about hostile confrontation or mutual respect, seclusiveness and decoupling or openness and cooperation, zero-sum game or win-win results. The choice is in our hands and the responsibility falls on our shoulders.

The human race is an integral community and the planet Earth its homeland. In the face of common challenges, no person or country can remain insulated. The only way out is to work together in harmony with one accord. Political parties, as an important force behind human progress, need to set the right course forward and shoulder their historic responsibility to ensure the people's wellbeing and pursue human progress. In my view, political parties need to work even harder on the following:

First, we need to shoulder the responsibility to steer the course by seizing and shaping the shared future for mankind. People aspire to affluence and contentment. They yearn for fairness and justice. Great times call for grand architecture, and grand architecture calls for great vision. Viewed from the perspective of "my own country first", the world is a cramped and crowded place perpetuated in fierce competition. Viewed from the perspective of "a global community with a shared future", the world is a vast and broad place full of cooperation opportunities. We need to heed the voices of the people, follow the trend of the times and strengthen coordination and cooperation. By doing so, the interests of the people of one country will be kept in line with those of all others and humanity will move forward towards a shared future.

Second, we need to shoulder the responsibility to build consensus by upholding and promoting the common values of humanity. Despite differences among countries in history, culture, institution and level of development, their peoples do subscribe to the common values of humanity for peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom. With a strong sense of responsibility for the future of all mankind, we need to champion the common values of humanity, foster broad-minded tolerance toward the understanding of values by different civilisations, and respect the explorations of different peoples to turn values into reality. By doing so, the common values of humanity will be translated into the practice of individual countries to serve the interests of their own people in a concrete and realistic way.

Third, we need to shoulder the responsibility to promote development by bringing greater benefits to all peoples in a fairer manner. Development holds the key to the people's

wellbeing. On the road to the wellbeing of all mankind, no country or nation should be left behind. All countries and nations are equally entitled to development opportunities and rights to development. We need to face squarely up to major problems such as wealth gap and development divide, with particular attention and care given to underdeveloped countries and regions, and impoverished people so that hope prevails in every corner of the world. As an ancient Chinese adage goes, “Those who only seek comfort for themselves will ultimately be rejected and those who sacrifice their own interests for the success of others will be supported”. Development is the right of all countries, rather than an exclusive privilege of the few. We need to enable all countries to step up development cooperation, and see to it that the fruits of development are shared by all. We need to bring greater equity, higher efficiency and stronger synergy to global development, and jointly oppose the practice of seeking technology blockade and divide as well as decoupling. I believe that, in the final analysis, any political manipulation for the purpose of sabotaging the development of other countries and undercutting the livelihood of other peoples will receive little support and prove to be futile.

Fourth, we need to shoulder the responsibility to enhance cooperation by working together to address global risks and challenges. In the face of the on-going COVID-19, we need to continue with a science-based response approach and advocate solidarity and cooperation so as to close the “immunization gap”. We must oppose the practice of politicising the pandemic or attaching a geographical label to the virus. We need to work together to build a global community of health for all. In the face of terrorism and other common enemies of mankind, we need to pursue security and stability through cooperation so as to tighten the security fences together. In the face of the fragile ecological environment, we need to respect Mother Nature, follow the laws of Nature and protect her so as to build a green homeland together. In the face of

The historic achievements the CPC and the Chinese people have made would not have been possible without the generous support of world peoples.

the severe challenges to human existence and development brought about by climate change, we need to be brave enough to take responsibilities and work as one to find a way of harmonious co-existence between man and Nature.

Fifth, we need to shoulder the responsibility to improve governance by enhancing our capacity to ensure the people’s wellbeing. There are different pathways toward wellbeing. People of all countries are entitled to choose their own development paths and institutional models. This, in itself, is what wellbeing entails. In the same vein, democracy is the right of all peoples, rather than an exclusive privilege of the few. There are multiple ways and means to realise democracy, instead of a single stereotype. The judgment on whether a country is democratic or not should be made by their people, not by the handful of others. To advance political democracy in a way that suits the national conditions of a country, we need to strengthen exchanges and mutual-learning, improve mechanisms for communication, be fully aware of the public opinion, put into place well-fledged institutions and enhance our governance capacity. By doing so, our capacity and efficacy to ensure the people’s wellbeing will be elevated continuously.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

Working for the people’s wellbeing has been the original aspiration the Communist Party of China cherishes all the way. With the goal of moderate prosperity in all respects



An online session titled Media Exchanges on International Poverty Reduction takes place during the International Forum on Sharing Poverty Reduction Experience 2020 on December 15, 2020. The forum ran on December 14-15 and was attended by more than 200 representatives from over 60 countries and regions, as well as over 20 international organizations. Jin Liangkui



The 2020 Global Energy Interconnection (Asia) Conference, themed Green, Low-carbon, and Sustainable Development, takes place in Beijing in November 2020. The conference aimed to deepen Asian and global energy and power cooperation, accelerate energy transition, promote China's initiative of Global Energy Interconnection, and facilitate the Belt and Road Initiative and a community with a shared future for humanity. *Xing Guangli*

achieved, China has embarked on a new journey towards building a modern socialist country. The Chinese people are brimming with a greater sense of fulfillment, happiness and security with each passing day. It is the unswerving goal of the CPC to run our own house well, ensure a happy life for the 1.4 billion plus Chinese people, and advance the lofty cause of promoting peace and development of all mankind. The CPC will continue to uphold the people-centred development philosophy, reflect upon the overarching issues of national rejuvenation and human progress in the greater context of time and space and lead the entire Chinese people in creating an even better tomorrow through ceaseless pursuit and in an enterprising spirit.

As history has taught us, we can only embrace the future when we embrace the world, and can only travel safe and sound when we walk together. The CPC stands ready to work with world political parties to live our dreams and act to create a better future. Let us always be builders of world peace, advocates for global development, and guardians of the international order.

--The CPC will unite and lead the Chinese people in pressing ahead with the Chinese-style modernisation to make new contributions to humanity's search for ways to modernise. Proceeding from reality in all it does, the CPC has led the Chinese people in finding, through trial and error, the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. History and practice have proven and will continue to prove that this is not only

the correct path that works, but also the sure path that pays off. We will unswervingly follow the path leading to a bright future to ensure that development is pursued for both our own good and the benefit of the world. There doesn't exist a fixed model for the path to modernisation, and the one that suits you well will serve you well. Cutting one's feet to fit the shoes will lead nowhere. All efforts of individual countries to independently explore the path to modernisation in light of their specific national conditions are worthy of respect. The CPC is willing to share with political parties of all countries modernisation experience to enrich each other's toolbox to modernisation for better ensuring the wellbeing of their own people and all other peoples.

--The CPC will unite and lead the Chinese people in taking comprehensive steps to deepen reform and opening up to make new contributions to shared development and prosperity of all countries of the world. Currently, economic globalisation, despite facing considerable headwinds, has in storage even greater impetus to move forward. On the whole, the impetus prevails over the headwinds and the trend towards opening-up and cooperation in all countries remains unchanged, and will not change. The CPC is ready to enhance communication with world political parties in steering economic globalisation towards greater openness, inclusiveness, balance and win-win results. We stand ready to work with the international community to improve global connectivity and further promote high quality Belt and Road cooperation,

so that more countries and peoples will be able to share the fruits of development.

---The CPC will shoulder its responsibilities as a major political party in a major country to make new contributions to improving the wellbeing of mankind. The eradication of poverty has been a common aspiration of people of all countries and an important objective that all political parties strive to achieve. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, all the 98.99 million rural residents living below the current poverty line in China have been lifted out of poverty, enabling China to meet the poverty reduction target set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. The CPC is willing to contribute more Chinese solutions and Chinese strength to the poverty reduction process worldwide. It will spare no effort to support international cooperation against COVID-19 and to enhance the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries. China will make extremely arduous efforts in delivering its promise of achieving carbon peak and carbon neutrality and contribute more to the global fight against climate change. China is going to host the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, where parties will consult with one another on new strategies for biodiversity and embark on a new journey of global biodiversity governance.

--The CPC will actively improve global governance to make new contributions to humanity's joint response to common challenges. Multilateralism has been the core concept of the current international system and order. The better multilateralism is practiced, the faster humanity's common problems will be resolved. International rules should be based on universally-recognised norms rather than rules of the few. Cooperation among countries should aim at serving all mankind instead of seeking hegemony by way of group politics. We should stand opposed to the practice of unilateralism disguised as multilateralism and say no to hegemony and power politics. Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, China is of the view that matters concerning all shall be handled through joint consultation so that the international order and system will be more just and equitable. I wish to reiterate that China will always be a member of the developing world, and is committed to enhancing their representation and voice in the global governance system. China will never seek hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence. The CPC will work with political parties of all countries to promote state-to-state coordination and cooperation through party-to-party consultation and cooperation and bring into better play the due role of political parties in global governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

Our journey ahead will be a long and arduous one. But as long as we press ahead with a sense of perseverance, there will be much to expect. There will be twists and turns down the road, but hopes abound. The CPC stands ready to continue to work with political parties and political organisations of all countries to stand on the right side of history and the progressive side of mankind. Let us make even greater contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and that of a better world!

I thank you all. ■



Advancing people's democracy in China

A special symposium hosted by President Xi Jinping on September 17, 2020, has remained an inspiring experience for Pan Jiuren, a deputy headmaster of a primary school in central China's Hunan Province.

Pan, a rural teacher for 28 years, raised several problems facing rural education, including the shortage of teachers, particularly well-trained ones, during the symposium held in Hunan's provincial capital Changsha.

"General secretary (Xi) listened attentively as we raised the problems. Even now when I recall the meeting, it induces a feeling of warmth," Pan told Xinhua News Agency. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called the meeting to solicit ideas from people at the grassroots for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) on the country's economic and social development, which was being drafted at the time. From July to September 2020, he hosted seven symposiums, meeting ordinary citizens from various walks of life, including migrant workers, farmers, truck drivers and restaurant owners.

Other people also contributed their wisdom to the drafting through more than 1 million online comments in August of last year. It has been one of the many examples of how the CPC Central Committee, with Xi at its core, tries to make people's democracy more extensive and adequate. "The very purpose of the CPC's leadership of the people in developing people's democracy is to guarantee and support their position



Wang Junli, a street chief, explains the access ramp upgrade to local residents in front of No.28 Xiheyangjie Street in Xicheng District in Beijing on April 2, 2018. Luo Xiaoguang

as masters of the country,” Xi said at a key gathering in 2014.

Whole-process democracy

Liu Zhengdong, senior partner of the Shanghai-based MHP Law Firm, still has fresh memories from the day Xi visited the Gubei civic center in the city’s Changning District on November 2, 2019.

“We were having a heated discussion about a draft law,” Liu recalled. The civic center is one of the community-level contact stations set up by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC). Draft laws are sent there so that ordinary citizens can discuss and share their opinions with lawmakers. Over 1,300 opinions were collected through these offices last year, contributing to 16 pieces of legislation, said Tong Weidong, a legislative official with the NPC Standing Committee.

“People’s democracy is a type of whole-process democracy. All major legislative decisions are made through due procedure and after democratic deliberation. It is a scientific and democratic decision-making process,” Xi said. The compilation of the Civil Code is a vivid example of “open-door legislation” and democratic legislation. During the compilation process, the NPC Standing Committee deliberated the draft 10 times, solicited 10 rounds of public opinion, and organized three sessions for NPC deputies to discuss the draft. At the NPC Annual Session in 2020, over 100 amendments were made in light of opinions from various parties. Xi chaired three high-level Party meetings from 2016 to 2019 to hear the reports on the compilation of the code and gave instructions.

The NPC, China’s national legislature, has a broad representation of the people. Among the nearly 3,000 deputies to the 13th NPC, 15.7 percent are workers and farmers, up 2.28 percentage points over the previous NPC. At the 2021 NPC Annual Session, the deputies put forward 473 motions and nearly 9,000 proposals and opinions.

People’s democracy is a type of whole-process democracy. All major legislative decisions are made through due procedure and after democratic deliberation.

People’s creative vitality

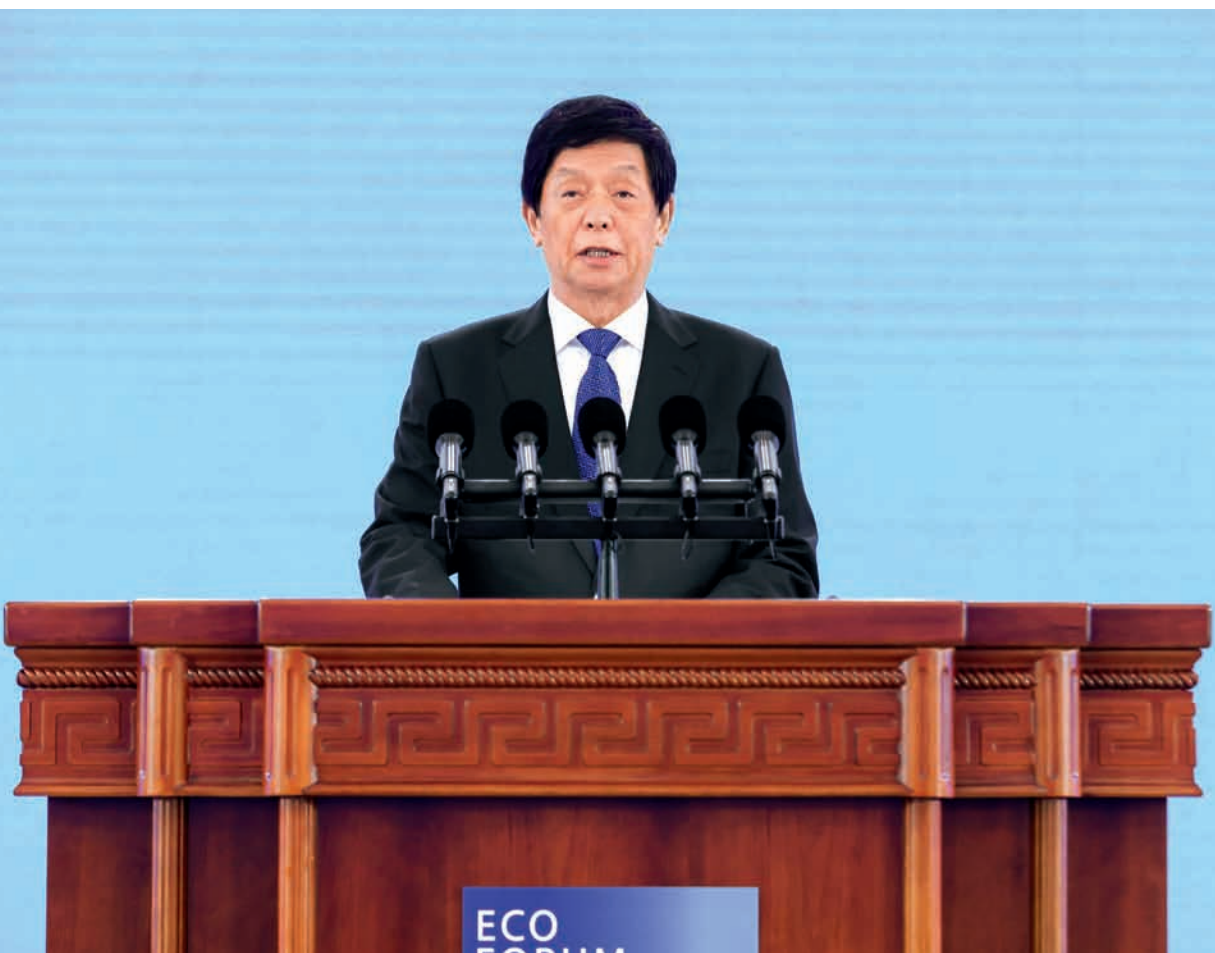
On February 1, 2019, when Xi walked into a “courtyard meeting hall” in a neighborhood in downtown Beijing, community workers and resident representatives were having a talk on renovating courtyards in hutongs, Beijing’s traditional alleys. Xi joined the discussion, hailing the courtyard meetings as a mechanism that enabled community members to discuss and decide their own affairs. It is conducive to enhancing a sense of belonging and ownership among the residents, as well as improving the precision and refinement of community governance and services, he said.

In order to better manage community affairs, provide services and help people decide their own affairs, capable and willing residents were elected to participate in community governance. Currently, Beijing has more than 3,100 such courtyard meeting halls. Two downtown districts--Dongcheng and Xicheng--have thousands of elected residents running community affairs. The “courtyard meeting hall” in Beijing has several similar models in other parts of the country, for instance, “a village chat booth” in east China’s Zhejiang Province. These effective mechanisms have empowered ordinary people and served as a pillar of people’s democracy. The essence of people’s democracy is that people get to discuss their own affairs to reach the greatest common ground based on the wishes and needs of the entire society, Xi said.

Laurence J. Brahm, a senior international fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, noted that Chinese democracy is different from that in the West. “It is a system of consensus-building. It is quiet, and in many ways, like Tai Chi,” Brahm said. (Xinhua) ■



Deputies to the local people’s congress, village representatives, village council members and locals enquire about the government’s work and raise suggestions at a local consultation meeting on June 2. Xu Yu



Li Zhanshu, member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, delivers a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2021 on July 12. *Pang Xinglei*

China goes full throttle to achieve carbon neutrality

Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2021, a global forum on ecological civilization, opened on July 12 in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province. The forum included a range of online and offline activities. Many guests joined the online event, while about 500 people attended the on-site forum. It aims to evolve into a global campaign aimed at dramatically reducing the world's carbon footprint, said Peter Koenig, former senior economist with the World Bank, who attended the event via video.

China is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of energy, with fossil fuels making up about 85 percent of the energy structure. It has vowed to attain CO₂ peak emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

The country is going full throttle to develop new energy resources and increase its proportion in energy consumption nationwide, which is expected to lighten the burden on the environment and ecosystems and provide practical solutions to mitigating soil, water and air pollution, said Lei Yizhu, head of Guizhou's carbon neutrality research institute. "Such efforts can also greatly reduce China's CO₂ emissions, slowing down global warming and improving global climate conditions," Lei said.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), as the country strives for low-carbon transition, relevant eco-friendly industries such as clean energy are going to cash in on the bonanza, said Zhao Weidong, head of the Institute of Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection affiliated with



Singers perform the Grand Song, the most representative public chorus of the Dong ethnic group at the opening ceremony of the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2021 in southwest China's Guizhou Province on July 12. *Liu Xu*

Striving for the country's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, provinces in western China, including Guizhou, have stepped up their low-carbon transition and pooled resources into the clean energy market.

the Center for Information and Industry Development, under China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

China's geography features high altitudes in its western areas, where harsh geographical conditions and a poor foundation of transportation infrastructure used to hamper economic development. Nowadays, however, the highlands with strong winds and sunny weather are turning into a flourishing clean energy market. "Guizhou is a newcomer in developing new energy resources since it has to grapple with mountainous terrains, low wind speeds and rainy weather," said Shi Shaogui, director of the new energy and renewable energy department of the provincial energy bureau.

A decade ago, Guizhou had no installed power capacity of wind and photovoltaic energy. In 2011, the mountainous

province pooled over 800 million yuan (\$124 million) to build its first wind power plant in Jiucaiping. When colossal wind turbines arrived, Li Xu, a local resident in Hongxing Village, Hezhang County, was startled. He witnessed the difficult transport of bulky wind turbines up the large mountain. The development of new energy has since quickened in Guizhou, Shi said. By the end of 2020, the province had installed more than 5.8 million kWh of wind power capacity.

Guizhou's first photovoltaic power station started operation in 2015, and by the end of 2020, the province's installed photovoltaic power capacity had exceeded 10.57 million kWh. The Xianshuiwo photovoltaic power plant in Yina Township of Bijie City is built at an elevation of around 2,200 meters. The power plant, with rows of solar panels glittering in the sun, has helped local households make good use of their wastelands and photovoltaic resources. It is estimated that the power plant will generate about 504 million kWh of electricity with an average of 1,231 hours of solar power utilization in 2021.

At the Wujiangyuan wind power plant, 198 generator units rotate in the wind. "Though wind farm locations are demanding, they can bring huge economic and social benefits to local residents. The wind power plants are conducive to adjusting the regional energy structure and cutting carbon and harmful

In the future, China plans to promote the eco-friendly transformation of thermal power enterprises with long-term heavy pollution and further explore renewable energy alternatives in the construction of new infrastructure.

gas emissions,” said Xu Chaohua, vice general manager of the Guizhou clean energy branch of China Huaneng Group. The Wujiangyuan wind farm has generated over 4.2 billion kilowatts of power since it started operation, which is equivalent to saving 1.33 million tons of standard coal. A total of 3.65 million tons of carbon dioxide and 119,900 tons of sulfur dioxide have been slashed annually thanks to the wind turbines.

By the end of 2020, more than 40 percent of China’s installed power generation capacity came from renewable resources, supporting nearly a third of the country’s electricity consumption, National Energy Administration (NEA) data showed. As a result, 15.9 percent of China’s primary energy consumption came from non-fossil energy, surpassing the target of 15 percent set for 2020.

In 2018, the NEA launched a three-year action plan to improve the utilization rate of renewable energy in power generation. Last year, the average utilization rate of wind power and photovoltaic power reached 97 and 98 percent,

respectively. Nevertheless, China’s goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 is still an uphill battle.

Gao Jinshan, vice president of Goldwind, a leading renewable energy company located in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, assessed the existing gap between China’s current energy structure and its promise of carbon neutrality at the forum. The country’s overall installed capacity of wind power and photovoltaic power generation was 280 million kWh and about 260 million kWh, respectively by the end of 2020. However, to peak CO₂ emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, a capacity to generate around 1.2 billion kWh of electricity from wind and photovoltaic energy is needed.

Since the total installed capacity of the two energy sectors is expected to reach 540 million kWh by the end of 2021, there is still a gulf of about 700 million kWh to fill, Gao explained. To bridge the gap, China has stepped up its green transition and made comprehensive plans. Guizhou plans to slash 40.55 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually by 2025 and reduce a whopping 71.56 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually by 2030 through the use of new energy. Moreover, the province’s overall output of shale gas and coal bed gas is expected to surpass 100 million cubic meters in 2021, while 10 more waste power plants will be built this year.

Guanling Buyi and Miao Autonomous County in Guizhou, known for its soil erosion and desertification, faced numerous challenges on the road to prosperity, but now it has found golden opportunities in the recent renewable energy boom. “We will have wind farms on the mountains, photovoltaic power plants halfway up the mountain top, and hydropower stations down the mountains in the future,” said Wei Chaohu, local county secretary of the Communist Party of China.

Currently, the county has an installed power generation capacity of over 4 million kWh from renewable resources, and the figure is expected to rise to 5.3 million kWh by the end of 2025. “The photovoltaic power plants need human labor. It is expected to create thousands of job opportunities for local residents and 3 billion yuan (\$4.62 million) of output value when the projects are fully implemented,” Wei said.

A report published in July by the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University, noted that the green reform of the energy industry and its transition to renewable energy plays an important role in realizing China’s ambitious goal of carbon neutrality. In the future, China plans to promote the eco-friendly transformation of thermal power enterprises with long-term heavy pollution and further explore renewable energy alternatives in the construction of new infrastructure.

“With its low-carbon commitment to the world, China is buckling down to developing new energy resources to replace conventional fossil fuels, which demonstrates its sense of responsibility as a major country and its firm determination to build a community with a shared future for humanity,” Lei said. (Xinhua) ■



Booths showcase green products at the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2021 on July 12. Yang Wenbin



Learn CPC history by visiting revolutionary sites

A photo of the site of the First National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which is now preserved as a museum at No. 76, Xingye Road in Shanghai. *Liu Ying*

Founded in 1921, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has grown into the world's biggest Marxist ruling party with over 95 million members nowadays. It has been in power for over 70 years in the world's largest socialist country. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, described the CPC's revolutionary history as "the best textbook" for all Chinese communists to learn from.

Xi, also President and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has visited many places bearing milestone significance in Party history over the past eight years. The visits represent the CPC's efforts to rediscover the strength it needs in its unwavering quest for national rejuvenation.

Shanghai & Zhejiang: where it all started

In October 2017, the CPC leadership led by Xi, visited a boat replica in east China of where the Party's dream set sail. In 1921, CPC founders attending the Party's first national congress had to suspend the meeting in a building in Shanghai due to police search. They boarded a boat on Nanhu Lake in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province to continue congress proceedings.

During a visit to the Shanghai and Jiaxing sites, Xi said the aim of the tour was to review the Party's history, particularly its founding, to follow the lofty ideals of these predecessors. "The original aspiration of CPC members must never



Shi Xiajia (far right), member of a local children's volunteer docent group, leads a tour of school students at the Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs in Jinggangshan of Jiangxi Province on May 12. Peng Zhaozhi

change,” Xi reminded CPC cadres. He added that only in this way could the Party maintain popular support and accomplish its deeds with an indomitable will.

Jiangxi: where the epic Long March began

In 2019, Xi went to east China's Jiangxi Province, where the Central Red Army began the Long March in the 1930s, and called for a “new Long March.” In October 1934, Red Army soldiers launched the most epic military maneuver in China's modern history, trekking about 12,500 km across the country. Describing Jiangxi as a land full of revolutionary history and memories, Xi called for a deep understanding of the hard-earned establishment of the political power of the CPC, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and socialism with Chinese characteristics. He demanded more efforts to carry forward the revolutionary spirit and traditions.

As he paid tribute to a monument in Yudu County marking the start of the Long March, Xi noted that China is on a “new Long March.” He said the country must rely on the firm faith and strong will of the whole Party and all people to overcome significant challenges at home and abroad and secure new victories in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.



Guizhou: where the Party was saved at the most perilous moment

In June 2015, Xi visited Zunyi in southwest China's Guizhou Province, where the Zunyi Meeting, known as "a watershed event in the history of the CPC," took place. The CPC convened the meeting in January 1935, when the Party, the Red Army and the Chinese revolution--in Xi's words--were "saved at the most perilous moment."

Amid severe setbacks at the early stage of the Long March, the meeting established Comrade Mao Zedong as the leader of the CPC Central Committee and the Red Army, heralding a new chapter in history in which the CPC independently solved problems arising in the Chinese revolution.

Xi visited Guizhou again this year, just ahead of the Chinese New Year, where he reiterated the Party's revolutionary past. Of all the places the Red Army reached, it spent the longest time and had the most extensive presence in Guizhou, leaving later generations an enduring spiritual legacy, Xi said. The Zunyi Meeting's distinct features, including the establishment of the correct CPC Central Committee leadership, as well as innovative formulation and implementation of strategies that suited the Chinese revolution's characteristics, still have significance today, he added.

Shaanxi: where the Party legacy shines

Before the 2015 Chinese New Year, Xi revisited old revolutionary base areas in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. The trip included Yan'an, the CPC base during the 1930s and

A view of a sculpture in a memorial park dedicated to the Xiangjiang River Battle during the Long March in the 1930s in Quanzhou County of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on April 26. Lu Boan



40s after the Long March. Xi called Yan'an a shrine of the Chinese revolution. There, the CPC-led revolution went from its low ebb to high tide.

He noted that the older generation of revolutionaries and Chinese communists in Yan'an have left a precious legacy for the Party. The Yan'an Spirit entails sticking to the correct political orientation, whole-heartedly serving the people and working hard in a spirit of self-reliance, among others. Xi said strength should be drawn from the Yan'an Spirit to ensure full and strict governance over the Party.

Beijing: where the Party emerged victoriously

In September 2019, Xi visited a revolutionary memorial site in the Fragrant Hills in suburban Beijing ahead of the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC.

In March 1949, the CPC Central Committee made the Fragrant Hills its headquarters for half a year, leading the Chinese People's War of Liberation to a countrywide victory. It marked the shift of the Chinese revolution's focus from the countryside to urban areas, Xi said.

Xi added that commemorating this part of history is to inherit the spirit of carrying through reforms, being devoted to the people and public service, guarding against arrogance and impetuosity, and working hard. "We must be clear-headed and determined while preparing for tough tests to deliver performances that can withstand the test of time in the new era," Xi said. (Xinhua) ■

A view of the exhibition hall that commemorates the story of the halved quilt cut by three young female Red Army soldiers as a gift to a countrywoman in Shazhou, Rucheng County of central China's Hunan Province from September 17, 2020. Chen Sihan



Big moments in 100 years



The Communist Party of China is founded.



The first countryside revolutionary base is established in Jinggangshan, East China's Jiangxi province..jpg



The Red Army starts the Long March.



The whole-of-nation resistance war against Japanese aggression begins.



The People's Republic of China is established.



Chinese mountaineers ascend Mount Qomolangma.



China successfully explodes its first atomic bomb.



China's first satellite Dongfanghong I is launched.



China's first nuclear-powered submarine is commissioned.



The 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China holds its third plenary session, marking the start of reform and opening-up.



Beijing holds the 29th Olympic Games.



Expo 2010 Shanghai is held.



China's first aircraft carrier is commissioned.



The Belt and Road Initiative is put forward.



Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) begins operation.



Land reform is carried out in liberated areas.



The Chinese People's Volunteers enter the DPRK to fight in the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea.



China's first large oil field is discovered in Karamay after the founding of the new China.



China's first home-made fighter jet makes its maiden flight.



New China's first truck rolls off the assembly line.



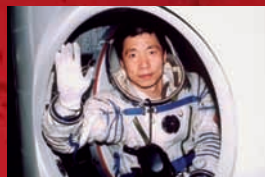
The Chinese government resumes exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong.



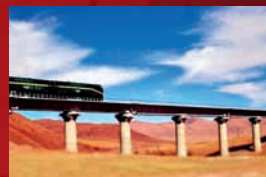
The Chinese government resumes exercise of sovereignty over Macao.



China joins the World Trade Organization.



The first Chinese person is sent into space.



Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the highest railroad in the world, is put into use.



China sets up the Xiong'an New Area.



Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge opens to traffic.



The Beidou Navigation Satellite System is completed and starts providing full-scale global services.



China secures major strategic achievements in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.



The last 832 poor counties are lifted out of poverty.

(China Daily)



Residents dine with families and friends at a cafe in a shopping mall in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, on July 7.
Wang Shen

National security law restores confidence in Hong Kong

It has been a year since Chan Tze-chin, a Hong Kong lawyer in his 40s, was chased down the street by an angry mob. The scars are still prominent on his neck and hands. He had berated a gang of black-clad rioters for their disorderly behavior as shops were trashed and fires lit in a busy shopping area. In a recent interview, Chan told Xinhua News Agency that while the memories remained, he no longer lived in fear.

“Now, I don’t worry about being assaulted every day. A year ago, I could not leave my home alone,” he said. “The national security law in Hong Kong is definitely good for me.” The law took effect on June 30, 2020, following prolonged

Hong Kong will move in a more positive direction, and society must come together, heal divisions and focus on the future.

social unrest in 2019, restoring freedom from fear for the vast majority of Hong Kong residents. According to University of Hong Kong law professor Richard Cullen, this has been one of the core elements of change in the city over the past year.

Cullen was there and saw for himself “a very violent and terrifyingly damaging and destructive insurrection” in 2019. Renowned for the safety and freedom of its residents, the metropolis was gripped by chaos a year and a half ago with protesters hurling petrol bombs and besieging police stations being almost a daily routine. In the fallout, society was divided and the economy went into recession. The law has played a major role in bringing stability back to Hong Kong and it is without question a very positive improvement, Cullen said.

According to a survey by local think-tank Bauhinia Institute in April, close to 80 percent of residents believe Hong Kong is more peaceful since the national security law took effect. In the first quarter of this year, crime was down about 10 percent. The central and local authorities also improved Hong Kong’s electoral system earlier this year following the new law.

Paul Chan, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government, said that restoration of stability by the enactment of the national security law and improvements to the electoral system have created a safe and secure environment for international businesses and investments. Fabrizio Goldoni, an Italian expatriate in Hong Kong, expects his investment and trade company to bounce back this year from the double whammy of social unrest and COVID-19.

He witnessed the 2019 chaos, where his business was threatened. “Traffic was often paralyzed by rioters; I could not even go to work. My office was sometimes closed due to the riots.” While the instability once made him pessimistic, Goldoni’s confidence has returned along with peaceful streets, and optimism now reigns in business.

The economy got off to a good start in the first quarter with a 7.9 percent year-on-year GDP increase, ending six quarters of contraction. Finance performed even better than the wider economy. Despite lingering rumors of fund outflows, about \$50 billion flowed to the banking system as of the end of 2020. In the first quarter, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) ranked as the world’s number three IPO venue. Hong Kong remains a highly competitive and attractive global financial center, HKEX Chief Executive Nicolas Aguzin said. Last year, 1,500 of Hong Kong’s 9,000 overseas and mainland companies had their regional headquarters in the city.

On July 1, various celebrations--from flag-raising ceremonies to bus and fishing vessel parades--were held across Hong Kong to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and the 24th anniversary of the global financial hub’s return to the motherland.

Observers said its unique advantages under the One Country, Two Systems policy, including the free flow of information, people and capital, keep Hong Kong thriving as a bridge between East and West 24 years after returning to the motherland. As the world struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong has benefited from the resilience of mainland markets and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future, Liang Haiming, a Hong Kong-based economist, said.

The 14th Five-Year Plan for national economic and social development encourages Hong Kong to sharpen its financial edge, and do more in terms of innovation and technology and intellectual property trading. “It is as if the expressway leading to sustained success has been paved and Hong Kong just needs to drive along it,” Liang said.

In less than a year, there will be three major elections for the Election Committee, the Legislative Council and the chief executive. Professor Cullen said he expects the process to proceed smoothly and efficiently. “I hope Hong Kong will get back on track and start addressing and solving some major social problems, particularly housing,” he said.

Meanwhile, battered, but not broken, Chan said he believes that with the national security law and an improved electoral system, Hong Kong will move in a more positive direction, and society must come together, heal divisions and focus on the future. “I’m a father. I want my children to grow up in a safe, peaceful environment,” he said. (Xinhua) ■



Residents take group photos at a National Security Education Day event at Hong Kong Police College on April 15. *Li Gang*



Citizens queue at the entrance of an exhibition about Chinese scientists over the past century in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on July 2. *Wu Xiaochu*



A herd of 15 elephants have become Internet celebrities

By Yuan Yuan

A member of the monitoring team is using the unmanned aerial vehicle to track the herd in Yuanjiang of Yunnan Province, June 1. Hu Chao

The past two months have seen some stand-out moments for one herd of 15 Asian elephants. Without any clue as to why, this herd of nine adults, three juveniles and three calves embarked on a mysterious trek in April, leaving their regular habitat bordering Myanmar in Yunnan Province. After traveling over 500 km northward, they reached the vicinity of Yunnan's capital, Kunming.

It's rare for these giant animals to undertake such a journey. The towns along the elephants' route were caught unprepared, with experts and local officials scrambling to protect both elephants and humans using any means possible. Residents in villages in the elephants' potential path were either moved elsewhere in advance or were required to remain on higher floors in buildings. Hundreds of people have been mobilized to ensure the elephants' security and a 24-hour command center has been set up to monitor the giants around the clock.

As members of a species under top-level protection in China, the elephants were welcomed with a green light during each leg of their journey. They swaggered into villages, broke into houses, turned taps on to drink their fill and were even

suspected of breaking into kitchens and getting drunk on residents' rice wine. At mealtimes, they plundered farmlands, stuffing themselves with corn, bananas or dragon fruit, leaving a mess behind. On June 2, they arrived to the outskirts of the heavily-populated city of Kunming.

A mysterious trek

In March 2020, the herd, originally of 16, was observed leaving its usual habitat inside a national nature reserve in Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and headed for another habitat in neighboring Pu'er region. It is usual for Yunnan's elephants to move between the two habitats, so their movements were barely noticed. The herd remained in Pu'er for over a year, while the birth of a new calf in December 2020 brought their number to 17.

On April 16, the 17 elephants lumbered north into the area of Yuxi, which neighbors Pu'er and was never visited by the elephants before, putting the herd in the spotlight. After eight days, two of the elephants returned to Pu'er and the remaining 15 began their long journey further north.

The reason for this trek and its final destination are still

Local police have been sent to escort the herd; roads have been evacuated to facilitate their passage; tons of food, including bananas, pineapples and corn, have been delivered by a line of trucks as a way to both feed and distract the herd from entering densely populated areas.

unclear. Experts have put forward several explanations, including that the increasing population of China's Asian elephants, from 193 in the 1980s to about 300 currently, has led to overcrowding, or that the elephants simply got lost.

This wandering team of giants caused misery for populations in their path, and also triggered the curiosity of many online spectators, both in China and abroad. "Where are the elephants heading?" has been a trending hashtag in China since April 16.

As this brigade wanders at ease, humans have made great efforts to monitor their movements. Around 20 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) hover 300 meters above the herd, following every step of their journey. There are also dedicated staff in place specifically to count the elephants every few minutes to ensure they remain within the monitored areas.

Since the elephants have undertaken their expedition during Yunnan's rainy season, there have been times when the rain is too heavy for the UAVs to fly. During these times, members of the monitoring team take the risk of following the animals as closely as possible with cameras.

Local police have been sent to escort the herd; roads have been evacuated to facilitate their passage; tons of food, including bananas, pineapples and corn, have been delivered by a line of trucks as a way to both feed and distract the herd from entering densely populated areas. Fire engines have also been on hand to ensure they have enough water.

Throughout this adventure, the herd has never hesitated to make trouble. They've stomped through farmland and squashed village houses with their enormous bulk. They're estimated to have caused over 6.8 million yuan (\$1 million) in property damage, with local governments following in their wake, offering compensation to residents.

Those responsible for monitoring the elephants are beginning to see signs that their pampering may be spoiling them. Elephants have grown increasingly picky about their diet, giving up the cornstalks they once liked for fresh corn.

Jin Zhaoxin, a college student in Beijing, has been following the news about the el-

ephants closely. She said that the first thing she does when she wakes up every morning is to look for updates on the elephants, and she has learned more about this animal. Elephants are good swimmers; they can live up to 120 years; they are very smart and have long memories. "Even Aristotle said over 2,000 years ago that the elephant was 'the animal which surpasses all others in wit and mind'," she said.

The long road home

The efforts of authorities in Yunnan to safely guide the elephants back home began to show signs of success in early June. After arriving in the area near Kunming, the elephants finally turned around and began to move southward. "Asian elephants need to live in warm areas and the further north they travel, the less hospitable the climate will be for them," said Chen Mingyong, a professor of ecology and the environment at Yunnan University. "We need to guide them toward their proper habitat before the temperature begins to drop."

The elephants' return journey has not been much different than their journey north, adding more episodes to the elephant family drama. On June 6, a bull elephant under 10 years old suddenly broke away from the herd and made off on its own. Shen Qingzhong, head of the Institute of Ecology of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, guessed the act may have occurred because the young elephant is in its rebellious puberty phase.

Professor Chen said that the command center's intention is to guide the elephants back to Pu'er or Xishuangbanna. "For that to happen, they must pass through the Honghe River," Chen said. "The river's water level is currently higher due to the rains so the elephants may have to wait in Yuxi for some time."

On the 8th of August, the herd finally crossed the Yuanjiang River bridge and are now on the final stage of their journey home. ■



An aerial photo of the herd of elephants sleeping in Shijie, Yuxi of Yunnan Province in southwest China on June 13. *Xinhua*

China does its best to combat global warming

If some good is to come from the novel coronavirus that has swept the world since the beginning of 2020, it is that unprecedented lockdowns have resulted in a significant drop in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Data released by the Carbon Monitor program on Nature in January, co-led by Zhu Liu, an Earth-system scientist at Tsinghua University in Beijing, revealed that carbon emissions fell by an unprecedented 6.4 percent in 2020. But, just as some optimists were beginning to spot a silver lining in the disastrous pandemic, delusions were swiftly checked by 2020's soaring temperature.

2020: the hottest year on record

According to NASA, 2020 was the warmest year ever on record. The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) reported that 2020 tied 2016 as the warmest year. While the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration said that 2020 was slightly cooler than 2016. However, in contrast to 2016 when the strong weather pattern warming the planet El Niño contributed to the exceptionally high temperatures, 2020 tied 2016 as the warmest year despite the presence of a La Niña, which had a cooling effect on the temperature. "This actually testifies to the faster speed of global warming," Huang Gang, a climate scientist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences told China Focus.

Despite the plunge in GHG emissions in 2020, "CO₂ long remains in the atmosphere and warming is related to cumulative emissions, which means the GHG already emitted will be destined to contribute to global warming," Huang explained. "Anyway, the forced emissions reduction is not sustainable." In the final analysis, however, Huang noted that it was insignificant whether 2020 was the warmest or not. "The point is the perilous trend," he warned.

Both the C3S and the World Meteorological Organization reported that the last six years have been the warmest on record and that 2020 capped the warmest decade. Joint assessments by these institutions reported that the Earth was about 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial revolution levels, which put us a step closer to the limit stipulated by the Paris Agreement of keeping global warming well below 2, or preferably 1.5 degree Celsius. "There has been a consensus among global climate institutions that the planet is still heating up," Huang said.

Not only is the global surface temperature soaring, but the oceans, which absorb more than 90 percent of global heat, are warming as well. According to a recent study co-authored by climate scientist Cheng Lijiang from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of China, the temperature of world oceans hit a new record high in 2020. The team also noted that the five warmest years on record all occurred in

the last five years. "Without any doubt, the planet will keep warming in this century. The thing that perplexes climate scientists is how much the temperature will rise by 2100," Huang said.

Act now, before it's too late

With all the climate data pointing in one direction--and the scientific community adamant that warming is a direct result of rising carbon emissions--to deny global warming is to deny reality. It is encouraging that, despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, China has not reneged on its climate commitments. Instead, the biggest emitter of GHG in the world doubled down. In a speech at the UN General Assembly on September 22, 2020, President Xi Jinping announced that China would peak emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Much of the world appreciates China for its monumental commitment to fighting global warming, but some cynics viewed it as a political stunt or an empty pledge. In response to the latter group, let's review China's actions.

In 2009, leaders in Beijing pledged that China would cut carbon intensity (CO₂ emissions per unit) by 40-45 percent based on 2005 levels by 2020. According to China's top climate change negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, China achieved this goal by the end of 2017, having cut emissions by 46 percent. China's latest white paper on energy consumption showed that China's energy intensity in 2019 had decreased by 48.1 percent since 2005, beating its Copenhagen targets.

China committed itself to expanding the share of non-fossil fuels to 15 percent of the total in 2009. By the end of 2019, China had achieved its goal, with non-fossil energy accounting for 15.3 percent of total energy consumption. Such records are cogent examples that when China sets a target, it follows through.

Now, China is striving to meet its National Determined Contributions (NDC) target. It even updated the target. In his speech at the Climate Ambition Summit in mid-December 2020, Xi announced that China would lower its carbon intensity by 65 percent by 2030 compared to 2005, and raise the non-fossil fuels' share to 25 percent.

It should be recognized, however, that to peak CO₂ emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060, formidable challenges do exist.

"The peak of CO₂ emissions in Europe occurred by the early 1980s, and the continent aims to reach carbon neutrality in 2050. U.S. emissions peaked in 2005 and it aims to become carbon neutral by 2050," said He Jiankun, vice chairman of China's National Experts Panel on Climate Change. "But for China, the time span between the peak and neutrality is only 30 years." The limited-time makes the mission more demanding. (Beijing Review) ■

2021 Trans-Century Tour of Chinese Environmental Protection Launched in Shaanxi

The Trans-Century Tour of Chinese Environmental Protection, a campaign focused on news about environmental law enforcement, launched its 2021 tour in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province on July 20. The theme of this year's tour is "Implementing Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law and Improving Legislation on Yellow River Conservation," with an aim to producing quality coverage through field interviews and surveys to promote Yellow River conservation.

Wang Tiemin, Deputy Secretary General of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, delivered a speech at the launching symposium, while members from the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress, the Provincial Government and Shaanxi NPC members briefed attendees on details related to the Yellow River Basin's conservation and restoration.

The NPC General Office will lead the tour and will be joined by members from the NPC Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Water Resources, among others. A press corps consisting of 15 media entities will cover the event. The inspection team will visit four cities in Shaanxi Province--Xi'an, Weinan, Hancheng and Yan'an--to inspect the ecology of the Yellow River and relevant lawmaking progress.

The Yellow River is revered as China's Mother River. However, the basin suffers from soil erosion, desertification, water shortage and frequent floods in different reaches. As more than half of the river's sediment is from Shaanxi, the province has been under tremendous pressure and stepped up efforts to protect its ecosystem over the past few years. Since 2018, the Provincial People's Congress has passed and amended 32 local regulations covering the river's ecological conservation and restoration, watercourse management, soil and water conservation, pollution control, high-quality development and cultural preservation. In addition, the Provincial People's Congress has carried out law enforcement inspections regarding Yellow River conservation for four consecutive years.

Legal efforts have delivered impressive results. The Shaanxi reaches of the Yellow River Basin have gone from yellow to green, with vegetation coverage rising to 60.68 percent. Moreover, the volume of sediment entering the river per year has dropped to 270 million tons from over 800 million tons prior to 2000.

Founded in 1993, the Trans-Century Tour of Chinese Environmental Protection is dedicated to covering China's legal efforts on environmental protection and resource conservation, making contributions to the country's ecological and environmental protection course. (By Zhang Meijuan)



RUIJIN

江西·瑞金



Chinese historical and cultural city