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National People's Congress of China

XI STRESSES ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SUPPORTING SCI-TECH, TALENT DEVELOPMENT



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哈尔滨2025年 The 9th Asian Winter Games



第九届亚洲冬季运动会 Winter Games Harbin 2025



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a group photo with international dignitaries in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, Feb 7, 2025. Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan hosted a welcome banquet in China's northeastern city of Harbin for international dignitaries who are here to attend the opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games. *Ding Haitao*

第十四届全国人民代表大会第三次会议 江苏省代表团全体会议



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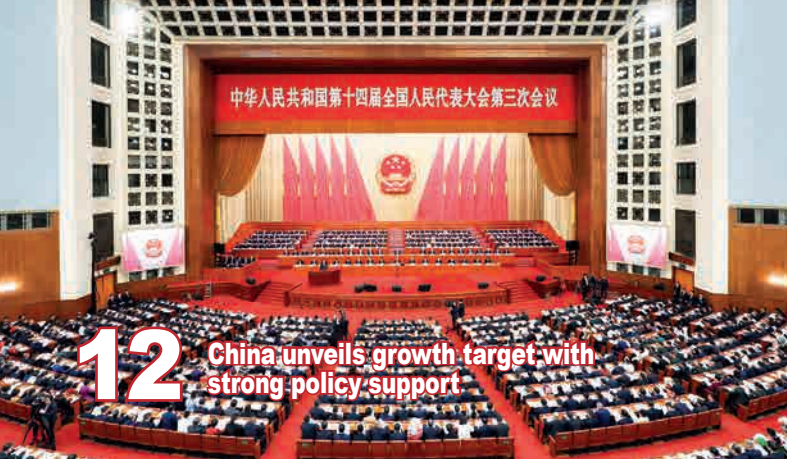
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COVER: The opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2025. Yue Yuewei



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Xi urges Jiangsu to play major role in national development



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, takes part in a deliberation with fellow lawmakers from Jiangsu during the third session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, March 5, 2025. Yan Yan



Chinese President Xi Jinping urged east China's Jiangsu province, an economic powerhouse, to play a major role in the country's overall development on March 5.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while taking part in a deliberation with his fellow lawmakers from Jiangsu during the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

Jiangsu should take the lead in integrating technological and industrial innovation, advancing in-depth reform and high-standard opening up, and implementing major national development strategies, Xi said, adding that it should set an example in pursuing common prosperity.

After listening to several NPC deputies' presentations, Xi said technological innovation and industrial innovation constitute the fundamental pathways for developing new quality productive forces.

To advance technological innovation, it is essential to modernize the industrial system and coordinate education, science and technology, and talent cultivation, Xi said, urging more sci-tech advancements to be achieved and transformed into concrete productive forces.

Technological innovation and industrial innovation constitute the fundamental pathways for developing new quality productive forces.

Xi called on the province to further deepen reform and opening up. It is necessary to keep in mind both domestic and international imperatives, promote urban-rural integration and regional coordination, optimize the allocation of productive forces and strive to promote high-quality development, he said.

He added that equal treatment must be ensured for enterprises with all forms of ownership and that sustained efforts must be made to improve the business environment.

Xi urged the province to make proactive and coordinated efforts in the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the implementation of other development strategies.

Jiangsu should strengthen its alignment with strategies such as the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and have a deep involvement in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said.

He also stressed continuous efforts in promoting all-around rural revitalization and integrated urban-rural development, as well as in consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation. (Xinhua) ■

Xi stresses role of education in supporting sci-tech, talent development



Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed strengthening the role of education in supporting scientific and technological advancement, as well as talent development, on March 6.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, called for a deep understanding of the needs of Chinese modernization for education, science and technology, and talent.

The goal is to cultivate a steady stream of talent, unlock their full potential and ensure their abilities are fully utilized, Xi said while attending a joint group meeting during the third session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body.

The meeting was attended by national political advisors from the China Democratic League, the China Association for Promoting Democracy and the education sector.

Xi stressed the importance of maintaining a correct orientation in running schools in the process of building China into a leading country in education, science and technology, and talent.

He called for nurturing a new generation of capable young people with the moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic sensibility and work skills needed to join and carry on the socialist cause.

To develop a high-quality educational system that

Xi called for a deep understanding of the needs of Chinese modernization for education, science and technology, and talent.

meets the people's expectations, the key lies in deepening comprehensive reform of education, said Xi.

It is important to refine the school management system, grant schools greater autonomy in decision-making and continuously advance law-based school administration, he added.

To achieve a sound interaction between independent sci-tech innovation and self-reliant talent training, education must further play its fundamental and leading role in supporting this cause, Xi noted.

He stressed the need to refine the mechanism for aligning talent cultivation with the needs of economic and social development to enhance the quality and efficiency of self-reliant talent training.


Noting that boosting education, sci-tech and talent development is a shared responsibility of the entire Party and society, Xi urged the CPPCC to fully leverage its role as a specialized consultative body. (Xinhua) ■

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits national political advisors from the China Democratic League, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, and the sector of education, who are attending the third session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in Beijing, March 6, 2025. Xi attended their joint group meeting, and heard their comments and suggestions. *Xie Huanchi*

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits national political advisors from the China Democratic League, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, and the sector of education, who are attending the third session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), in Beijing, March 6, 2025. Xi attended their joint group meeting, and heard their comments and suggestions. *Ding Lin*



Xi calls for successful conclusion of five-year plan for military development

A photograph of President Xi Jinping speaking at a plenary meeting of the 14th National People's Congress. He is wearing a dark green Mao suit and is seated at a table with two microphones in front of him. A red nameplate with the Chinese characters '习近平' (Xi Jinping) is visible on the table. The background is a light-colored wooden panel.

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attends a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force at the third session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, March 7, 2025. Xi delivered an important speech at the meeting. *Li Gang*

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for reaching a successful conclusion of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for military development on March 7.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force at the third session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

Xi called for efforts to strengthen confidence, face challenges head-on and implement the requirements for high-quality development to achieve the established goals and tasks on schedule.

Over the past four plus years since the implementation of the plan, a series of significant achievements have been made, while there are also many challenges and issues that need to be addressed, he said.

Xi called for pursuing a high-quality, highly efficient, cost-effective and sustainable path of military development to ensure that its outcomes withstand the test of time and real combat.

Xi highlighted the importance of using modern management concepts and methods, and continuously improving

Xi urged efforts to improve a swift response and rapid transformation mechanism for advanced technologies.

strategic management systems and mechanisms to implement the plan in a more systematic, holistic and coordinated manner.

Stressing intensified joint civil-military endeavors, Xi urged efforts to effectively leverage the strengths and resources of civilian sectors to enhance the quality and efficiency of military development.

Calling for the accelerated development of new quality combat capabilities, Xi urged efforts to improve a swift response and rapid transformation mechanism for advanced technologies.

He also demanded the establishment of a sound and effective oversight system to thoroughly investigate and address corruption. (Xinhua) ■

Highlights of the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for national economic and social development and the long-range objectives through the year 2035

- China to develop Fujian, Xinjiang as Belt and Road core areas
- China to promote development of "Silk Road in the Air"
- China's disposable income per capita to grow in line with GDP during 2021-2025
- China to keep surveyed urban unemployment rate within 5.5 pct during 2021-2025
- China to actively participate in international cooperation on major infectious disease prevention, control
- China pledges efforts to foster world-leading business environment
- China to put economic development focus on real economy
- China to promote diverse industrial, supply chains
- China to make efforts to build its strength in the transportation sector
- China to speed up expanding 5G networks
- China to accelerate construction of new infrastructure
- China to expand opening of service sector
- China to actively promote international sci-tech cooperation
- China to accelerate legislation for IPR protection in new areas
- China will improve punitive damages system for IPR infringements
- China will make plans for and incubate future industries
- China will further promote the application of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System
- China will explore the introduction of an immigration policy for foreign talents
- China will make greater efforts to achieve breakthroughs in key and core technologies
- China will pursue innovation-driven development and create new strengths for development
- China will promote its eastern areas to first realize high-quality development
- China will promote the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in an active and prudent manner
- China will take self-reliance in science and technology as strategic underpinning for national development
- China will accelerate the integrated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region
- China will stick to the strictest farmland protection system (China Daily)

China unveils growth target with strong policy support

China has set an economic growth target of about 5 percent for 2025, reflecting a sound economic outlook despite increasing global uncertainties, as policymakers are determined to secure steady recovery through decisive and effective measures.

Premier Li Qiang announced the goal on March 5 while delivering the government work report to the annual session of the National People's Congress for deliberation. The report outlines an array of other key development goals for this year, including a surveyed urban unemployment rate of about 5.5 percent, over 12 million new urban jobs and about a 2 percent increase in the consumer price index.

The country achieved economic growth of 5 percent in 2024, after an effective policy package, along with other pro-growth measures helped fuel strong economic momentum.

“Achieving this year’s targets will not be easy, and we must make arduous efforts to meet them,” the premier said.

As 2025 marks the final year of China’s 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period and is crucial for crafting the next five-year blueprint, observers believe that the government policies will not only drive growth this year but also lay the groundwork for the country’s modernization effort in the long run.

Reasonable and achievable goal

Why has the Chinese government maintained the growth target at about 5 percent?

Premier Li explained that the goal, backed by growth po-



The opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2025. *Ding Haitao*



tential and favorable conditions, meets the need to stabilize employment, prevent risks and improve people's wellbeing, while also being well aligned with the country's mid- and long-term objectives.

Huang Qunhui, a national political advisor from the Institute of Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, described this year's economic growth target as scientifically grounded and realistic.

"In the face of a challenging global environment, the proactive and resilient goal suggests that China is braving uncertainties with a clear, determined approach to growth," he said.

On a global scale, a growth rate of 5 percent places China among the world's fastest-growing major economies, with the economic increment equating to the annual output of a mid-sized nation.

"Achieving this year's targets will not be easy, and we must make arduous efforts to meet them," the premier said, citing challenges from an increasingly complex and severe external environment, including rising unilateralism and protectionism, and domestic difficulties, such as insufficient demand. The premier called for facing difficulties head-on with stronger confidence in development.

According to the report, China will adopt a more proactive

New quality productive forces will be nurtured in line with local conditions, according to the report.

fiscal policy and a moderately accommodative monetary policy. Specific measures include a new government debt increase to enable a notably higher level of spending, with 5.66 trillion yuan (\$790 billion) of government deficit, up 1.6 trillion yuan (\$221 billion) from a year ago, and the issuance of 4.4 trillion yuan (\$608 billion) of local government special-purpose bonds, an increase of 500 billion yuan (\$69 billion) over last year.

The monetary policy will ensure adequate liquidity by making timely cuts to required reserve ratios and interest rates, and offering more support for innovation, green development, consumption, private businesses and small firms, as well as the real estate and stock markets.

The policy mix will play a crucial role in ensuring that the strong economic momentum seen in the fourth quarter of



Tasks listed in the Government Work Report respond to public concerns and are intended to improve the people's livelihoods. Zhu Huiqing

2024 will be sustained this year, said Tian Xuan, a national lawmaker and president of the National Institute of Financial Research of Tsinghua University.

Recently, the International Monetary Fund, Nomura and other global institutions raised their growth forecasts for China.

Lu Ting, chief China economist at Nomura, said the forecast upgrade was due to the better-than-expected economic performance in the fourth quarter of 2024, growing investment in emerging sectors from artificial intelligence to cloud computing, a stock market rally and the improving real estate market.

China's mid-March economic data will show a solid start for 2025, a Citi Research report said, highlighting a rebound in consumer confidence.

More dynamic and sustainable

Fostering high-quality development is a key focus of this year's government agenda, with priorities ranging from stimulating domestic demand to developing new quality productive forces.

"We will take a people-centered approach and place a stronger economic policy focus on improving living standards and boosting consumer spending," the premier said.

Domestic demand will be made the main engine and anchor of economic growth, the report said. Ultra-long special treasury bonds totaling 300 billion yuan (about 41 billion U.S. dollars) will be issued to support consumer goods trade-in programs.

New quality productive forces will be nurtured in line with local conditions, according to the report. China aims to foster emerging and future industries, such as quantum technology and the low-altitude economy; accelerate the upgrading of traditional industries; and combine digital technologies such as AI with manufacturing and market strengths.

The pursuit of new momentum has led to renewed vitality in the Chinese economy since the start of the year, with a vibrant consumer market mirrored by Chinese animated blockbuster "Ne Zha 2" and major breakthroughs in cutting-edge technology, including the rise of DeepSeek.

Analysts highlighted the resilience of China's tech industry amid a complex international landscape and the vast potential of the domestic market.

The new economic trend is also creating fresh opportunities for foreign investors and businesses. Reaffirming China's commitment to opening up, the report laid out a series of initiatives, including expanding trials to open telecom, medical services and education; supporting foreign enterprises in joining industrial chain collaboration; and ensuring national treatment in fields such as government procurement. Foreign-funded businesses actively embraced these measures.

The report sent a strong signal that the country will continue to expand opening up and improve its business environment, said Nancy Liu, president of DFS China, the luxury travel retailer.

China's opening up has created enormous opportunities for the company, which has made its largest single investment in 60 years in the country's southern Hainan province, Liu said. "We are fully confident in the long-term development of the Chinese market," she added. (Xinhua) ■



Highlights of 2025 Government Work Report

Premier Li Qiang delivered the Government Work Report at the opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing on March 5. Here are some highlights from the report.

Main targets for 2025:

- China targets economic growth at around 5 percent in 2025
 - China aims to create over 12 million new urban jobs in 2025
 - China sets CPI growth target of around 2 percent for 2025
 - China sets deficit-to-GDP ratio at around 4 percent for 2025
 - China to earmark 735 billion yuan in central govt budget for investment in 2025
 - China to issue more local government special-purpose bonds in 2025
 - China to cut required reserve ratios, interest rates when appropriate in 2025
 - China to issue more ultra-long special treasury bonds in 2025
 - China to encourage long- and medium-term capital flow into market
 - China to issue special treasury bonds to support state-owned lenders in replenishing capital
 - China to introduce city-specific policies on property transaction restrictions
 - China to gradually implement free preschool education
 - China to foster emerging, future industries
 - China to develop a package of major projects for climate change response in 2025
 - Rural folk including farmers will be winners of added support
- (China Daily)

Top legislature vows high-quality legislation, oversight to serve national interest



The closing meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 11, 2025. A decision to amend the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels was adopted at the meeting. Gao Jie

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, unveiled its annual work plan on March 5 for 2025, vowing to advance high-quality legislative work and conduct effective oversight to serve the overall national interest.

Chinese national lawmakers on March 8 started deliberating the work report of the NPC Standing Committee at the NPC annual session.

To ensure constitutional implementation and strengthen compliance oversight, the NPC Standing Committee will improve the systems to ensure comprehensive implementation of the Constitution and establish a system for reporting on its implementation, the report said, adding that the legislature will enhance its capacity to conduct constitutional review and normative document recording and review.

High-quality legislation

In the annual legislative plan, the NPC Standing Committee unveiled several key areas for the coming year.

In order to strengthen the legal framework for the development of the socialist market economy, it will formulate a law on promoting the private sector, a law on national development planning, a financial law, a financial stability law and a law on cultivated land protection and quality improvement.

The legislature will enhance its capacity to conduct constitutional review and normative document recording and review.

It will also revise the Unfair Competition Law, the Enterprise Bankruptcy Law, the Agriculture Law, the Fisheries Law, the Civil Aviation Law and the Banking Regulation Law, according to the report.

In the social and cultural sectors, the legislature will formulate a law promoting public awareness and education regarding the rule of law, a social assistance law, a childcare services law and a law on public interest litigation initiated by procuratorates.

It will also revise the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases and the Law on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language, the report said.

With a focus on refining the systems concerning ecological conservation, the legislature will continue with the compilation of an environmental code, while also formulating a national parks law and an atomic energy law.

To modernize the national security system and public security governance mechanisms, the NPC Standing Committee will formulate a law on public health emergency response and a hazardous chemicals safety law. It will also revise the Road Traffic Safety Law, the Food Safety Law, the Cybersecurity Law, the Public Security Administrative Penalties Law, the Prison Law and the State Compensation Law.

In regard to legislation in areas involving foreign affairs, the



The second plenary meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 8, 2025. Lu Ye

legislature will revise the Maritime Law, the Foreign Trade Law and the Arbitration Law, according to the report.

The NPC Standing Committee also vowed to intensify research on legislation in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, the digital economy and big data.

Effective oversight

The report noted that the legislature has prepared 37 oversight programs for this year, including inspections into the implementation of five laws: the Trade Union Law, the Energy Conservation Law, the Forest Law, the Food Safety Law and the Law on Promoting the Circular Economy.

The NPC Standing Committee will hear and deliberate special reports on a variety of issues, such as fostering new quality productive forces, promoting integrated development of the cultural and tourism sectors, protecting the rights and interests of workers in flexible and new forms of employment and climate change action.

On measures to fully leverage the roles of NPC deputies, the legislature will encourage deputies to engage the people on a broader range of issues and in more diverse forms, and will continue to improve working mechanisms for handling and giving feedback on public opinions brought forward by deputies.

The NPC Standing Committee will also carry out a research project on the election of deputies to county- and township-level people's congresses, according to the report. (Xinhua) ■



Staff work at the secretariat of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, March 9, 2025. Zheng Huansong

Deputy suggestion process to be standardized

After her suggestions related to new energy vehicles were addressed last year, national legislator Cao Jingfang plans to continue advocating for the people's interests in the automotive sector again this year.

Last year, during the second session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, Cao, a National People's Congress deputy from Shandong province, made suggestions on strengthening after-sales services for NEVs.

The deputy, who also works at a power plant in Zouxian county, called for vocational schools to add courses or offer training for NEV maintenance technicians and to establish a public spare parts supply platform.

The reason for the suggestions stemmed from the fact that many NEV owners had told her they had encountered problems in finding skilled technicians and high repair costs.

"I was elected by the people. It's my duty to speak for them and help solve difficulties they face in work and daily life," she said.

However, Cao didn't expect that her suggestions would

receive the amount of attention from the NPC Standing Committee that they actually did. It prompted government departments involved in the NEV industry, including the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, to increase communication with Cao to learn more about her concerns and take action to address the issues.

As a result, the job category of NEV maintenance technician has been included in China's occupational catalog. The training and selection of outstanding technicians have also been improved, with maintenance skills competitions organized nationwide.

This process for handling suggestions from deputies was set to be standardized in a draft amendment to the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels.

The draft amendment was reviewed by Chinese legislators at the third session of the 14th NPC on March 5 in Beijing.

This means that all stages of the suggestions-related process, including making, communication, handling, response and feedback are expected to be formalized in legal terms.

"It will further encourage deputies to fulfill our duties and, more importantly, help effectively solve difficulties raised by the people," Cao said.

Closer connection

Wang Zunyi, a deputy to the people's congress in Xiangyang, Hubei province, is closely following the modification of the law. "This piece of legislation is a yardstick for guaranteeing and overseeing my own performance," he said.

"As deputies, we come from the people and need to serve the people," said Wang, who is also head of Gaozhuang community in Fancheng district.

In the past few weeks, he visited residents to learn more about their needs for elderly care services, and also researched on how to strengthen the district's greening through the utilization of industrial heritage.

"I talked to the people living in my residential area and participated in inspection tours organized by the standing committee of the city's people's congress in other regions," he said. "The face-to-face communications made me more broadly aware of the public's ideas on the issues, so that I could better advocate for them."

For Jiang Yuqin, a deputy to the people's congress in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, mini programs on WeChat and websites have become quicker and more crucial channels for her to connect with the people, listen to their voices and collect their opinions.

Jiang, who is also head of Zoujiajiao community, posted QR codes at the entrances of each apartment building. By scanning the code, residents can access an online platform where they can report any challenges they face in their daily lives.

In addition, residents can share their ideas on repairing and renovating old houses on the platform, which is also an issue Jiang is researching, involving joint participation in the maintenance and management of the community, she said.

"Face-to-face talks and group discussions are more suitable for the elderly or for figuring out complex issues," she said. "Online services are more appropriate for young people who can express their thoughts anytime and anywhere."

"The more varied the ways of communication, the greater

the likelihood that people's difficulties will be seen, and this also makes the connection between deputies and the people closer," she added.

Better problem-solving

While bridging the gap between deputies and the people, online platforms have also offered deputies a treasure trove of knowledge to enhance their performance and monitor their behaviors.

Every morning when Cao, the NPC deputy from Shandong, exercises, she opens an information platform established by the NPC Standing Committee to learn about the latest national policies and laws, as well as the experiences of other deputies.

"The learning has enriched me and given me a clearer understanding of how to better speak for the people and fulfill my mission as a deputy. It has also made me stronger, enabling me to help people address difficulties more effectively," she said.

Thanks to digital services designated by the Suzhou People's Congress, Jiang has access to a wide range of learning resources and participated in numerous training activities. "Information technology breaks through the limitations of time and space," she said. "With just a mobile phone, I can contact legislative staff, businesses and even government departments right from within my community.

"The digital platform has also made my communication and interaction with other deputies more convenient and frequent. We learn from each other and talk about hot issues, which helps us find better solutions for problems raised by the people," she added.

Both Jiang and Cao are calling for the stronger application of information technology in their duties, as this approach will contribute more to affirming that the people are the masters of the country, Cao said.

With digital services being widely utilized by deputies, they have also enabled the standing committees of people's congresses and government departments to enhance their work efficiency, thereby addressing people's difficulties more efficiently.

Data released by the NPC Standing Committee shows that it received 9,235 suggestions from NPC deputies during the second session of the 14th NPC last year.

"The large number of suggestions reflects deputies' engagement in the country's governance and decision-making," the committee said, adding that the suggestions were forwarded to 213 relevant departments for review and action, with all lawmakers receiving feedback.

To respond to the concerns of NPC deputies in a timely manner, the committee launched an information platform last year for suggestion making, communication, handling, response and feedback.

"The platform makes it easier for deputies to make and track their suggestions, and the streamlined workflow also accelerates the pace of handling suggestions," the committee said.

It added that such quick responses and efficient processes are more conducive to solving people's difficulties and implementing whole-process people's democracy.

Self-improvement

The draft amendment ready to be contemplated by all NPC

members is essential for deputies, as it outlines their rights and obligations in the new era, Cao said.

"Improving the law is like updating our work manual. The new version, I believe, will be conducive to invigorating the vitality of China's democratic system, better pooling the wisdom and strength of the people into the country's development, and making policies more in line with the people's interests and more scientific," she added.

Wang said that he is looking forward to the new deputy guidance.

"After summarizing the good practices and experiences of the past decade, the legal document will also draw clearer boundaries for us on what to do, and help us understand the priorities for future work," he said.

"It will also enable us to improve the quality of duty performance and promote whole-process people's democracy."

Jiang emphasized that the people's congress system has provided an important institutional guarantee for the Chinese people, adding that amending the law will optimize the system to uphold the principle that the country is run by the people and for the people.

"I regard the modification of the law this time as an opportunity for self-improvement," she said. "It urges me to enhance my ability to serve the people, broaden my horizons and make up for my own shortcomings.

"I'll continue to contribute to the socioeconomic development of our region, and work toward improving the quality of life of the people." (China Daily) ■

Lawmakers submit 269 proposals to annual legislative session

Chinese national lawmakers submitted 269 proposals to the country's annual legislative session as of March 8 at noon, the deadline for submission of proposals at the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC).

The secretariat of the session said on March 9 that it had also received over 8,000 suggestions from NPC deputies.

Among the proposals, 268 are related to legislative work and one concerns oversight work, the secretariat said. It added that the proposals primarily cover legislation in key, emerging and foreign-related areas.

The suggestions cover a wide range of topics, including boosting consumption, promoting artificial intelligence applications to drive economic growth and protecting the rights and interests of private enterprises. (Xinhua) ■



What to know about whole-process people's democracy in China

Deputies to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) communicate before a meeting of the delegation of Sichuan Province at the third session of the 14th NPC in Beijing, March 5, 2025. NPC delegations held meetings to deliberate the government work report that afternoon. *Liu Weibing*

Democracy is a universal value, yet it takes different forms across civilizations. While Western democracies often equate democracy with elections, China has developed a distinct model known as whole-process people's democracy, which is tailored to the country's national conditions and historical traditions.

Where does it come from?

First introduced in 2019, the concept of whole-process

Whole-process people's democracy is not just a set of institutions and procedures, it is an active, participatory system where civic engagement plays a crucial role.

people's democracy is deeply rooted in China's rich political philosophy, where governance is centered on the people as the foundation of the state.

Whole-process people's democracy is a creation of the Communist Party of China in leading the people to pursue, develop and realize democracy. It embodies the Party's innovation in advancing China's democratic theories, systems and practices.

It is a logical outcome of history, theory and practice based on the strenuous efforts of the people under the leadership of the Party.

What does it mean?

As the name suggests, whole-process people's democracy ensures public participation throughout the entire process of governance, covering all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society.

Unlike election-centric Western models, China's system weaves together law-based democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management and oversight within a structured institutional framework. This approach fosters broad and continuous participation, ensuring that governance decisions reflect the collective will and evolving needs of society.

Through these procedures, citizens actively engage in discussions on public affairs, working toward the greatest common ground based on the aspirations and interests of the entire population. Their rights are safeguarded, their voices are heard, and their wellbeing is prioritized in the decision-making process.

At its core, this model guarantees that the people are the true masters of the country, with public affairs governed through consensus-driven discussions and extensive consultation.

How does it work?

Whole-process people's democracy is not just a set of institutions and procedures, it is an active, participatory system where civic engagement plays a crucial role.

A key example is the Two Sessions, the annual meetings of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), and the top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Nearly 3,000 NPC deputies and more than 2,100 CPPCC National Committee members convene in Beijing to deliberate on and discuss major policies and governance matters, representing a broad cross-section of society.

The NPC deputies come from all walks of life, including many frontline workers and farmers who ensure grassroots representation. Notably, even the smallest ethnic minority group has at least one representative. Meanwhile, CPPCC National Committee members include officials and prominent figures such as scientists, educators and entrepreneurs.

During the Two Sessions, these representatives engage in crucial public issues, from income distribution and healthcare to education, housing, elderly care and child-care.

National lawmakers deliberate bills and reports and participate in all NPC elections. They also have the power to move for the recall of certain state officials according to the law, propose organizing committees of inquiry into specific issues and criticize or offer suggestions and comments on all work.

Meanwhile, political advisors offer their policy proposals, thus actively contributing to national governance.

Why does it matter?

By ensuring broad and continuous participation, China's whole-process people's democracy represents a governance model that is both effective and deeply rooted in the will of the people.

It has proven effective in addressing societal challenges and improving governance. Many significant policies—such as enhanced protection of labor rights for food delivery and ride-hailing workers, as well as measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises—have emerged from legislative proposals and public consultations.

At its heart, China's democratic model embraces the belief that democracy is not a decorative symbol, but a practical tool for solving real problems and improving people's lives. (Xinhua) ■



Lu Lihua (C), a deputy to the National People's Congress, surveys the cultural life of the Bulang ethnic group in Luodihe Village, Gonglang Township, Nanjian Yi Autonomous County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Feb 17, 2025. Shi Zhihong



What to know about NPC in China's democracy

Close to 3,000 deputies—ranging from farmers to state leaders—were in Beijing for the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), the country's national legislature, which opened on March 5.

Established in 1954, the NPC is the supreme organ of state power, sitting at the pinnacle of China's people's congress system.

According to the Constitution, all administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory and procuratorial organs of the state shall be created by the people's congresses and shall be responsible to them and subject to their oversight.

The annual session of the national legislature, a key event in China's political calendar, provides a window into the country's whole-process people's democracy in practice.



Deputies to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) attend a group interview ahead of the opening meeting of the third session of the 14th NPC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2025. Zheng Huansong

The opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2025. Li Xiang



Distribution of NPC deputies

The number of NPC deputies is capped at 3,000, and their distribution is decided by the NPC Standing Committee, the NPC's permanent institution. National legislators hail from various backgrounds and form a representative cross-section of society.

The deputies to the 14th NPC were elected from 35 electoral units across the country between December 2022 and January 2023 for a five-year term.

They are broadly representative, including workers, farmers, technical personnel, as well as Communist Party of China and government officials, among others. Women deputies make up more than a quarter of the total, while all of China's 55 ethnic minority groups are represented.

There are also deputies elected from the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, deputies representing Taiwan Province and deputies representing overseas Chinese who have returned to the motherland.

Election of NPC deputies

According to the electoral law, deputies to county- and township-level people's congresses are directly elected by voters, while deputies to people's congresses above the county level are elected by deputies at the previous lower level.

NPC deputies are elected by people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government. The armed forces elect their own deputies.

The number of NPC deputies elected by the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and the methods for their elections shall be prescribed separately by the NPC, according to the electoral law.

National legislators are elected by secret ballot, and candidates should outnumber deputy vacancies by 20 to 50 percent.

Duties of NPC deputies

The NPC and its Standing Committee exercise the legislative power of the state, the power to decide on major issues, the power to appoint and remove top-level officials and the power of oversight.

Deputies at various levels are key channels for people's voices. They are entitled and obliged to stand for the people's interests and express their requests.

NPC deputies are actively engaged in state affairs. During the annual session, the NPC deputies review and vote on bills and documents of national importance like the government work report. As an important way for them to exercise their rights and perform their duties in accordance with the law, national legislators submit proposals and suggestions on a wide range of issues.

When not in session, they engage with the people, participate in inspections of law enforcement and conduct research on important or urgent issues. Some of them are invited to attend regular sessions of the NPC Standing Committee in a non-voting capacity. (Xinhua) ■

Outreach offices give people a say in nation-building process



A symposium is held to solicit opinions on revisions to the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels at the Caixi legislative outreach office in east China's Fujian Province, March 12, 2024. Courtesy Photo

Guo Shun, an official in Guangzhou's Nansha district, has spent recent weeks canvassing opinions on proposed amendments to China's Maritime Law, engaging with stakeholders in one of the nation's busiest port hubs.

Working alongside colleagues, Guo distributed surveys to shipping companies, law firms, insurance agencies and local law enforcement, collecting feedback from captains, crew members, carriers and legal professionals. The draft amendment, disclosed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in November 2023, aims to strengthen protections for maritime passengers, among other changes.

Located at Guangzhou's southernmost tip, Nansha serves as a critical shipping hub connecting the Pearl River Delta with Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions. Guo said the district's unique position offers valuable insights into the proposed legislation.

"Our location gives us a distinct advantage in shipping and trade affairs, enabling us to contribute meaningful suggestions to the law revision process," Guo said.

The outreach is part of a broader initiative by the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission to enhance public participation in legislation. Since its establishment in March 2023, Nansha's legislative outreach office has become a key link between citizens and lawmakers.

Describing the office as a "bridge" connecting the public with national legislators, Guo said, "It embodies the whole-process people's democracy, ensuring that the people are the masters of the country."

The year 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of NPC, the top legislature. The system of people's congresses facilitates public input at all levels of governance. To expand this, the NPC began establishing outreach offices in 2015, starting with pilot locations in Shanghai municipality, Gansu, Jiangxi and Hubei provinces.

As of March 2025, 54 such offices have been set up nationwide, collecting more than 40,000 suggestions on legislative items, according to NPC data. Of these, many proposals have been incorporated into laws and legal amendments.

Guo emphasized that the outreach process not only informs legislation but also educates the public about their rights. He highlighted the significance of informing maritime workers about the draft revision, which would allow passengers injured or experiencing property damage during sea travel to seek compensation from carriers and insurers.

"Many workers in the shipping industry are unaware of the law, let alone the channels they have to voice concerns or propose solutions," he said.

To ensure thorough and informed feedback, the Nansha office has hosted seminars with legal professionals from Hong Kong, Macao and Chinese mainland. At one session, Ding Ziyong, a maritime law specialist, urged lawmakers to prioritize rules on transporting dangerous goods, citing the risks of chemical spills during collisions.

Suggestions like Ding's, alongside feedback from port staff, will be forwarded to the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission for consideration in revising the law.

"Even if some suggestions are not adopted, the process is

"It gives people a direct voice in legislation, reinforcing their role as masters of the country."

invaluable," Guo said. "It gives people a direct voice in legislation, reinforcing their role as masters of the country."

Legislative outreach offices are also being established in diverse settings, from community centers to colleges. Beijing's Financial Street Service Bureau opened an office in 2023, and others are being set up in sub-districts and urban neighborhoods.

Jiang Bixin, deputy head of the China Law Society, praised the initiative, saying it "diversifies public participation and improves the quality of lawmaking."

Anne Lafortune, the Seychelles ambassador to China, echoed that sentiment during a visit to an outreach office in Beijing last May. "China's approach to ensuring people's voices are heard is impressive," she said, highlighting channels like online platforms, direct calls and legislative deputies.

By amplifying public engagement in lawmaking, Guo said, China is showing its commitment to refining governance and fostering a more inclusive democracy. (China Daily) ■



Teachers and students of Henan Zhumadian Experimental Middle School attend an on-site teaching activity at the grassroots legislative outreach office in July 2024. Courtesy Photo



Legislators and parliamentary officials from Central Asian countries visit the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee. Zhou Yudong

Strengthening ties, collaborative future

By Lu Yan

More than 2,100 years ago, Zhang Qian, a royal emissary of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), traveled to the Western Regions, opening the door to friendly exchanges between China and Central Asia.

In 2013, during his visits to Central Asia and Southeast Asia, President Xi Jinping proposed the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, collectively known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Over the past 11 years, with projects like the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway crossing the majestic Tianshan

Mountains, the China-Tajikistan expressway passing the Pamir Plateau, and the China-Kazakhstan oil pipeline traversing vast deserts, China and Central Asian countries have worked together to promote the comprehensive revival of the Silk Road, striving to create a future-oriented in-depth cooperation that has ushered their relationship into a new era.

From October 22 to 31, 2024, the National People's Congress (NPC) held a seminar for lawmakers from Central Asian countries. Twenty-six legislators and parliamentary officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan visited China for on-site inves-

tigations in Beijing, southwest China's Sichuan province and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region in the country's northwest, focusing on topics such as the NPC system, agricultural development and technological manufacturing.

The NPC is willing to work with legislative bodies from various countries by providing policy and legal support for practical cooperation in various fields, accelerating the approval process for intergovernmental cooperation agreements, and jointly promoting the deep integration of the BRI with the development plans of various countries, so as to achieve more collaborative results in trade, investment, infrastructure, healthcare and other areas, ultimately benefiting the peoples of all countries, Peng Qinghua, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said in his speech at the opening ceremony of the seminar.

Better understanding

2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the NPC. "Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have engaged in arduous struggles and long-term exploration to establish and continuously strengthen the people's congress system, which serves as the fundamental political system of the country," Peng said, adding this system has provided essential institutional support for achieving the rapid economic development and long-term social stability. "I hope everyone will further understand the people's congress system and work together to advance human political civilization."

The legislators and parliamentary officials from five Central Asian countries first visited the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the sacred hall of political life in China. Since its completion, the hall has hosted the annual Two Sessions, a colloquial term for the annual sessions of the NPC, China's top legislature, and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body.

"Everything here is incredibly solemn; it truly deserves to be called 'China's hall of democracy!'" As they entered the Great Hall of the People, the participants of the seminar were filled with excitement. "It makes us want to get closer and see how China's democratic system actually operates."

In Chengdu, Sichuan province, they visited the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee, where a themed exhibition was underway to mark the 70th anniversary of the NPC and the 45th anniversary of establishment of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee. The exhibition, themed Great Creations, Glorious Journeys, featured more than 1,000 images, showcasing the development of China's people's congress system.

In September 1954, the First Session of the First NPC convened, marking the formal establishment of China's people's congress system. The system features a multi-tiered structure, with the NPC at the top and congresses at provincial, municipal, county and township levels. Deputies are elected at each level every five years to represent the people's interests.

Of the 2.77 million deputies in service now, 94.7 percent are from the county and township levels, and they are elected on a one-person-one-vote basis. China's election of people's congress deputies, the world's largest demo-

"It makes us want to get closer and see how China's democratic system actually operates."



Legislators and parliamentary officials from Central Asian countries visit Jiu Shenghe Seed Industry Co., Ltd. Zhou Yudong



Legislators and parliamentary officials from Central Asian countries visit Goldwind, a Chinese wind turbine manufacturer. Zhou Yudong

cratic election involves over 1 billion voters. The election system has evolved over the decades, moving from an 8:1 rural-to-urban population ratio in 1953 to equal representation in 2010. Women and grassroots workers, including migrant workers, are increasingly represented in the NPC.

"This exhibition helped us understand the history of the people's congress system in China. Its development has been complex and profound, which is truly impressive," said the visiting parliamentarians. "We found that each adjustment made was aimed at better listening to the voices of the people."

How does the people's congress system operate at the grassroots level? The legislators and parliamentary officials from five Central Asian countries got the answer in Xinjiang. At the Toutunhe District People's Congress Standing Committee in Urumqi, they toured a local legislative outreach office, learning how ordinary residents provide their opinion on a regulation on the protection of drinking water

"We found that each adjustment made was aimed at better listening to the voices of the people."



Legislators and parliamentary officials from Central Asian countries visit TBEA, a Chinese manufacturing enterprise of power transmission and distribution equipment. Zhou Yudong

source areas in Xinjiang and how legal provisions are adjusted. They witnessed the practices of deputies to the people's congresses at all levels collecting public opinions and responding to concerns of the people.

In contrast, some Western countries regard the so-called 'equality' as the sole criterion for democracy, which is inappropriate, said Rahmon Dilshod, a member of the upper chamber of Tajikistan Parliament, adding whether a country is democratic depends on whether public opinion is heard, whether the concerns of the people are addressed, and whether the happiness of the citizens is ensured.

Discussion on modernization

Modernizing agriculture is key to China's unique path to modernization. During their on-site investigations in Xinjiang, visiting parliamentarians gained a detailed understanding of China's achievements and experiences in promoting agricultural modernization, which left them deeply impressed.

"China's exploration and achievements in agriculture have made a significant contribution to eradicating hunger worldwide," said Zharkynbek Amantay, a member of the lower house of the Parliament of Kazakhstan. "China's high-quality germplasm resources are already benefiting Kazakhstan's agriculture."

Parliamentarians also visited TBEA in Xinjiang, a service provider offering systematic solutions for the global energy sector. They learned that the company's high-tech products have been successfully introduced to over 70 countries and regions, providing integrated power system solutions for more than 30 countries participating in the BRI.

One out of every four kilowatt-hours of electricity in China comes from equipment produced by Dongfang Electric Machinery in Deyang, Sichuan. When the group arrived at the company, they were immediately drawn to a model of a hydropower generator--the Baihetan 1-million-kilowatt hydropower unit. This unit was independently developed by Dongfang Electric Machinery, with the bearing section alone accounting for 32 new patent applications, raising the motor efficiency to an unprecedented 99 percent.

"China's advanced manufacturing industry continuously supplies clean energy to the world, illuminating this planet. For example, the 500/220 kV Muruntau transmission substation in Uzbekistan benefits from the equipment and technical support provided by TBEA," a member of the Uzbek parliament stated. "We are very much looking forward to the bright prospects of the BRI."

The friendship between nations lies in the bonds between their people. In just 10 days, the parliamentarians from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan forged close ties with the Chinese people. During the closing ceremony of the seminar, many expressed their emotions and reluctance to part ways. They noted that China and Central Asian countries share a community of shared future, characterized by close ties and promising prospects for further cooperation. They also look forward to a new era in which a vibrant and flourishing Central Asia will fulfill the aspirations of its people for a better life and inject strong momentum into the recovery and development of the global economy. ■



The National People's Congress (NPC) Constitution and Law Committee holds a plenary meeting to review the draft amendment to the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels at the third session of the 14th NPC in Beijing, March 7, 2025. Zheng Huansong

Law amendment further empowers deputies to people's congresses

By Lu Yan

On March 11, Chinese national lawmakers adopted a decision to amend the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels at the closing meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC).

The amendment is necessary for developing whole-process people's democracy and ensuring that people's congresses and their standing committees at all levels maintain close ties with the people according to an explanation to the amendment.

Review and deliberation

On November 4, 2024, a draft amendment to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels was submitted for its first review at the 12th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th NPC convened in Beijing. The amendment includes provisions

aimed at further improving the systems and mechanisms for the performance of duties by deputies.

After the initial review, the committee gathered feedback through various methods. These included holding discussion sessions among deputies and experts, conducting on-site research, and soliciting opinions from deputies via the NPC website and other online platforms.

On December 21, 2024, the second draft of the amendment to the law on people's congress deputies was submitted for another review at the 13th session of the 14th NPC Standing Committee.

There is a consensus among various parties at the session that the draft amendment thoroughly summarizes the practical experiences of deputies in fulfilling their duties in the new era. It enriches the content and forms of deputies' engagement with the public, and strengthens the guarantees and oversight of deputies' performance of their duties. This is beneficial for fully realizing the role of deputies and for maintaining, improving and effectively implementing the system of people's congresses.

Roles and rights

Since it was enacted in 1992, the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels was amended in 2009, 2010 and 2015. It is formulated in accordance with the Constitution to ensure that deputies to the NPC and deputies to the local people's congresses at various levels exercise their functions and powers, fulfill their duties and play their roles as deputies according to the law.

China has a multilayered system of people's congresses, existing at the township, county, city, provincial and national levels. According to the Constitution and the Election Law, the deputies to the township and county-level people's congresses are directly elected by their constituents, while the deputies to the higher-level people's congresses are elected by the congresses at the next level down.

The NPC is composed of deputies elected from the provinces, autonomous regions, cities under direct central government administration, special administrative regions, and the armed forces. These deputies have both decision-making responsibilities and the duty to convey suggestions from their communities.

Deputies to the NPC are members of the highest organ of state power, and deputies to the local people's congresses at various levels are members of the organs of state power at corresponding levels.

All deputies, representing the interests and will of the people, participate in the exercise of state power in accordance with the functions and powers vested in the people's congresses at corresponding levels by the Constitution and relevant laws.

A deputy perform various duties, including maintaining close contact with the voters of the electoral district or unit that elected him as well as the people and the general public, heeding their opinions and demands, conveying them, and striving to serve the people. Additionally, deputies enjoy certain rights as provided by law.

Better serving the people

At the 13th session of the 14th NPC Standing Committee on December 21, 2024, Shen Chunyao, vice chairman of the NPC Constitution and Law Committee, stated that after the initial review of the draft amendment to the law on people's congress deputies, extensive feedback was sought.

Some suggested that deputies, as the core members of the people's congresses, should have their roles clearly defined in relation to maintaining, improving, and effectively implementing the system of people's congresses. In response, after research and discussion, the NPC Constitution and Law Committee recommended adding a corresponding article in the General Provisions. This article should emphasize that all deputies must demonstrate political commitment, serve the people, uphold the rule of law, promote democracy, work diligently and responsibly, and actively fulfill their duties.

This suggestion received support from those present at the meeting. Wu Jieming, a member of the NPC Standing Committee, said that the second draft of the amendment has been enriched and improved, especially with the ad-

dition that specifically regulates the role of deputies in the system of people's congresses. "This is very meaningful and quite targeted," Wu added.

During the deliberation, some members of the NPC Standing Committee suggested making further improvements to the regulations regarding the specific responsibilities of deputies. For instance, Hu Xiaoli proposed adding clauses that address deputies' involvement in foreign exchange activities, highlighting that this is an important aspect of their duties.

NPC Standing Committee member Lin Rui emphasized the need to further improve the mechanism for deputies to connect with their constituents. Currently, deputies connect with their constituents through several methods, including public meetings, surveys and questionnaires, social media and online platforms, visits and outreach, constituent services offices, legislative sessions and reporting mechanisms. All these methods have helped ensure that deputies remain informed about the needs of the people they represent and can advocate effectively on their behalf.

"A competent deputy must fulfill their duties in accordance with the law and fully leverage their role as a representative to live up to the trust and expectations of the people," said Xu Dequan, an NPC deputy from central China's Henan province. Xu said he is fully aware of the importance of having regular connections with people. "Understanding their aspirations, the difficulties they face and the problems they need resolving, deputies can thereby put forward high-quality proposals and suggestions that carry the interests of the people."

In addition, changes have been made to ensure that people's congress standing committees at various levels maintain close contact with deputies, enhance their work capabilities, and support them in fulfilling their duties according to the law, thereby fully leveraging their roles. Likewise, governments, supervisory commissions, courts and procuratorates at various levels should strengthen their connections with deputies and actively listen to their opinions and suggestions, which are gathered from the public via the aforementioned channels.

Other members of the NPC Standing Committee emphasized several important aspects of the second draft of the amendment to the law on people's congress deputies. They pointed out that it refines the standards for deputies' performance, particularly highlighting the political requirements for their roles. The draft also elevates some effective practices from recent years to a legal status, ensuring they are standardized and institutionalized. Additionally, it enhances regulations that support and ensure the performance of their duties. "These changes will create a better environment for deputies to fulfill their responsibilities and boost their enthusiasm for engagement," some members remarked.

"The second draft is more comprehensive and well-structured. As a grassroots deputy, I feel more passionate about fulfilling our duties. This will also lead to greater recognition from the people," said NPC deputy Xia Yongxiang, who attended the session. He suggested that once the revised law is passed, efforts should be increased to promote it and improve public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of deputies. ■

New laws to strengthen legal system

More legislative items, especially those in key areas, emerging fields and foreign-related fields, have been unveiled in 2024 as legislators made greater efforts to optimize the country's legal system, an official from the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, said on December 19, 2024.

Wang Xiang, spokesman for the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission, said five new pieces of laws, including the Energy Law and the Preschool Education Law, have been formulated since the beginning of the year, bringing the total number of laws in effect to 305.

Meanwhile, 14 other laws were improved through revisions in 2024, with the adoption of four legislative decisions, according to him.

"Specifically, we amended laws regarding national defense education, state secrets and emergency response to better safeguard the national security and strengthen the governance capability," he said. "We also advanced the legal

construction involving foreign matters by modifying a law against money laundering and formulating a tariff law."

In addition, he noted that several legislative pieces, including those on financial stability, administrative penalties, maritime and arbitration, are still being reviewed among Chinese lawmakers to serve the country's high-quality development.

As unveiled by Wang, a draft private sector promotion law would be reviewed at an upcoming session of the NPC Standing Committee, which was scheduled to be held in Beijing from December 21 to 25 2024.

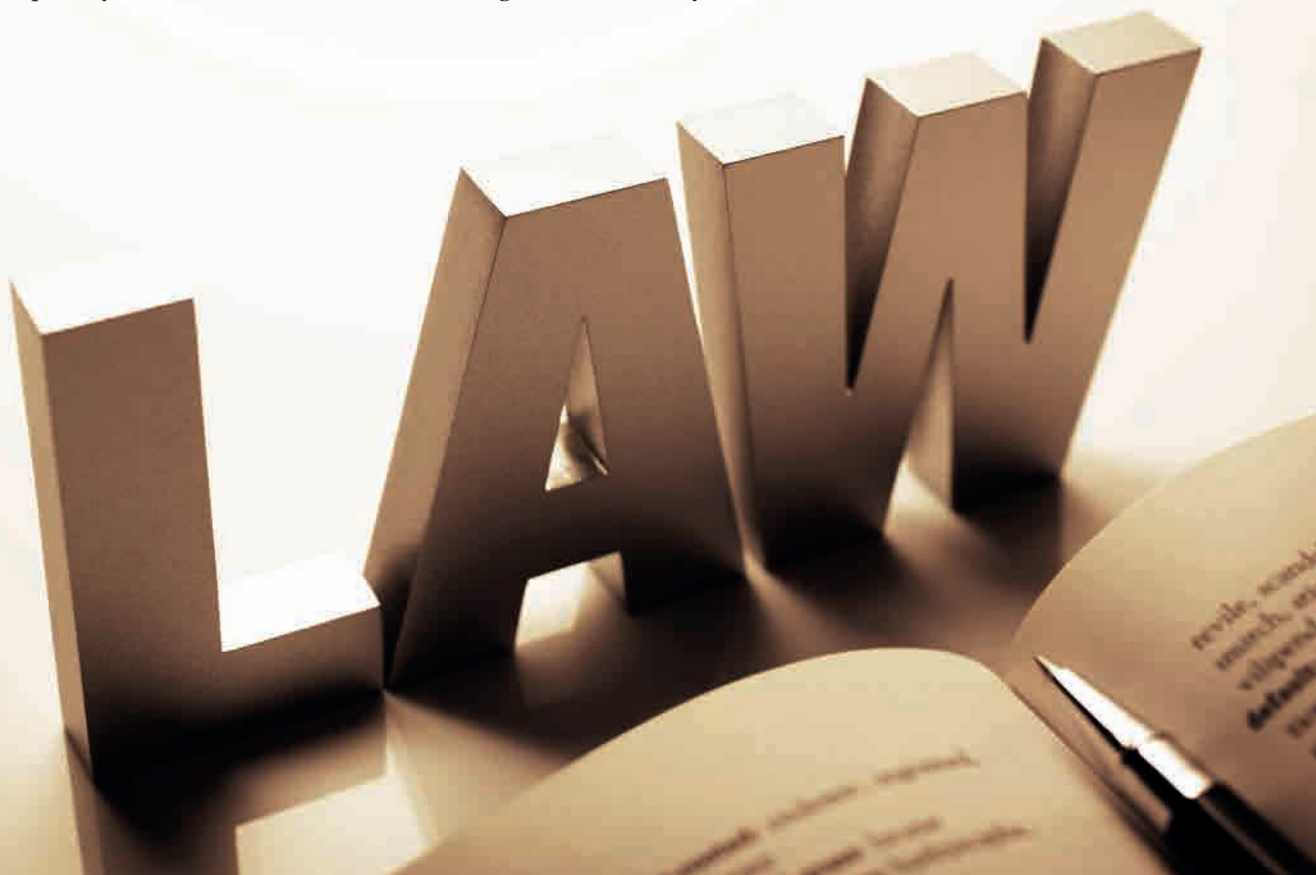
"The private sector is not only a crucial part of the socialist market economy with Chinese characteristics but also a major force of Chinese modernization and an important foundation of high-quality development," he said.

"Formulating a law in this sector will be conducive to maintaining fair competition, encouraging technological innovation and improving the financing environment."

Referring to a draft revision to the anti-unfair competition law, which was also ready to be discussed at the session, he said that the modification would focus more on curbing unfair competition in cyberspace and intensifying combat against commercial bribery.

A few other legislative items, such as a draft revision to the law on people's congress deputies, a draft value-added tax law and a draft amendment to the supervision law, would also be submitted to the upcoming session for review, he added.

According to a proposed agenda, a number of reports, including those regarding financial audit work, disaster and emergency response funds and farmland protection, were also expected to be submitted to the session for reading. (China Daily) ■





Dragon dancers offer a fire dragon performance at a scenic spot in Tongliang District of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, Jan 25, 2025. Wang Quanchao

Law protects cultural heritage items

A large number of intangible cultural heritage items have been more effectively protected since the country's Intangible Cultural Heritage Law came into effect in 2011, according to a report issued last November.

These items reflect China's traditional culture and have historical, literary, artistic and scientific value, said the report by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature.

The report was based on a nationwide inspection focused on reviewing the implementation of the law.

From May to August, a supervision team investigated eight provincial-level regions, including Shanxi, Fujian, Guangdong and Yunnan provinces, as well as the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Local authorities in Shanghai and the provinces of Sichuan, Zhejiang, Guizhou and Gansu carried out self-examinations.

The report revealed that the ICH work mechanism over

the years has been continuously improved, public awareness of efforts to protect related items has deepened, and ICH's role in serving contemporary society and benefiting the people has increasingly grown.

The country has over 100,000 ICH items at different levels, including 1,557 designated as national-level items. More than 40 items have been included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list, ranking first in the world, the report showed.

In June 2011, the ICH law came into effect after being adopted in February that year. The law sought to ensure the items' authenticity, completeness and inheritance value; to boost the recognition of Chinese culture; to maintain the country's ethnic unity; and to promote social harmony and sustainable development.

The law also established "three systems" to support ICH development.

The investigation system requires that ICH authorities,

organizations and individuals be allowed to review the law's implementation according to corresponding regulations. The representative ICH system brings together limited resources to protect ICH items that embody the country's fine traditional culture. And the inheritance and dissemination system ensures that governments at all levels, as well as relevant departments, universities, media and public cultural organizations bear the responsibility of enhancing publicity related to ICH protection.

The law also encourages the use of ICH projects to explore cultural markets and services that have local ethnic characteristics to boost tourism.

"The people's congresses and governments at all levels have been actively promoting legislation related to ICH, providing strong legal safeguards for its protection and inheritance," said Tie Ning, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the NPC.

Relevant State Council departments have issued a series of regulations and normative documents covering areas including ICH surveys, recognition of representative inheritors, fund management and the management of cultural ecological protection zones, she said.

"After years of efforts, China has established a legal system for ICH protection, which is in line with international standards and is relatively systematic and complete," she said.

Support for ICH items stepped up after the laws kicked in, the report said.

Since 2011, the central budget has allocated 10.35 billion yuan (\$1.46 billion) to support the protection and inheritance of representative national ICH items and the activities carried out by related national-level inheritors, according to the report.

China has recognized over 90,000 individuals as representative inheritors, of whom 3,068 are listed at the national level, it said.

Educational authorities have also specified that ICH education should be incorporated into the curriculum, with more than 3,300 primary and middle schools having set up related classes.

Rural benefits

The review team found ICH items have helped contribute to the development of tourism in rural areas.

More than 6,700 ICH workshops have been established nationwide, with more than 2,100 of them located in poverty-stricken areas, which have explored rural traditional cultural resources, built heritage inheritance bases and promoted the development of related industries, according to the report.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has promoted production-based ICH protection demonstration sites, with 99 at the national level having been recognized.

In Shandong province, ICH industry clusters — including those focused on grass and willow weaving, hanfu, kites, New Year paintings, gourd carving and peach wood carving — have been established, with over 4 million workers involved, Tie noted.

Experts stated that the adoption of the ICH law establishes a strong foundation for its protection, integrates

effective practices into a legal framework, and formalizes government responsibilities, ensuring the long-term implementation and efficiency of ICH protection policies.

The law reflects China's commitment to fulfilling its obligations under international conventions, as the country was a key initiator in drafting UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Zhang Pingjun, deputy director of the School of Law at Huaqiao University, noted that "through long-term exploration, ICH legislation has played an active role in enhancing awareness of protection ... cultivating legislative talent, innovating legal protection methods, aligning with international ICH legislation, and establishing a uniquely Chinese system and mechanism for the legal protection of ICH."

Challenges remain

Although the implementation of the ICH law has achieved positive results, several challenges remain, the report said.

They cover insufficient integration of ICH protection with local socioeconomic development plans in some areas, as well as insufficient financial and human resources input at the grassroots level.

The report called for a comprehensive national database for ICH resources, representative projects and inheritors; better public access to ICH experiences; a better mechanism for ICH creative and innovative development; and the integration of ICH with tourism.

Many regions and organizations have highlighted the need to promptly revise and improve the ICH law that has been in place for more than 13 years, Tie said, adding that the revision of the law has already been included in the legislative plan.

"Through joint efforts, we aim to further enhance and refine the legal framework for ICH, comprehensively elevating the rule of law, standardization and institutionalization of ICH work," Tie said. (China Daily) ■



A craftsman makes a traditional Tibetan mask at a cooperative in Dagze District of Lhasa, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, Dec 9, 2024. Ding Ting

Aviation technician excels in precision engineering

Imagine something as thin as 0.003 millimeters, that's nearly one percent of the thickness of a human hair.

It is the machine precision achieved by Liu Zhong, 54, a senior technician at Sichuan Lingfeng Aviation Hydraulic Machinery Co, a subsidiary of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China based in Deyang, Southwest China's Sichuan province.

With 33 years of experience in the field of aircraft precision machining, Liu's work centers around ensuring the smoothness and flatness of aircraft parts, contributing to the advancement of the country's aviation industry.

Born into a family deeply rooted in aviation industry, Liu and his two brothers followed in their father's footsteps. All three joined Lingfeng Company, driven by a shared passion for aviation. Starting as a frontline miller, Liu's expertise shone through when the company introduced computerized numerical control (CNC) technology and equipment in 2000.

Determined to master the new technology, Liu purchased a computer with borrowed money, diligently studying and experimenting, and became one of the first operators of CNC equipment in his company. Over the years, he continued to hone his skills and earned many national and provincial accolades.

In 2016, the Liu Zhong Skilled Master Innovation Studio was established, the first of such group in Liu's company named after an individual employee.

"Since its establishment, the studio has mainly dedicated to tackling technical challenges related to aviation products and solving multiple technological issues. Through technological transformation and innovation, the production processes and efficiency of various products have been significantly improved, with some even increasing by several dozen times," Liu said.

Under his leadership, the studio has expanded from five to 17 members. It now plays an active role in skills transmission, quality inspection, and the application of new



Liu Zhong works at the studio. Li Yuanbo

technologies.

As a two-term deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), Liu has integrated his craftsmanship into his duties as a lawmaker. Through meticulous survey and consultation with experts and fellow workers, he has submitted numerous suggestions on issues spanning various areas such as the welfare of technical workers, environmental governance, vocational education, rural vitalization, development of cultural tourism and manufacturing growth.

Liu's dedication to his role extends beyond formal procedures; he actively engages with the community to understand their concerns. Concerned with encounters with elderly individuals facing neglect and health issues, he advocated for improved care for the elderly, showcasing his commitment to address-

ing societal challenges.

Liu said that serving as an NPC deputy requires the precision and innovation in his technical work. He believes by upholding a rigorous attitude and fostering an innovative spirit, he can fulfill the mission entrusted by the people. (NPC) ■



Liu Zhong guides young workers in parts processing. Courtesy Photo

Model worker on mission in National People's Congress



Huang Yunna conducts quality inspection at the textile workshop. Courtesy Photo

Huang Yunna, a skilled technician at Shaanxi Wuhuan (Group) Industrial Co, has woven a long journey, from her rural beginnings to her current role as a deputy to the National People's Congress, but she has never forgotten what is important in life.

In the textile industry, where Huang has been dedicated for more than two decades, a strand of common 40-count cotton yarn, with a diameter of approximately 0.16 millimeters, is as fine as a hair and can easily break with a slight force applied by the fingers. Quickly knotting the broken yarn on the machine is crucial to textile production efficiency and is a fundamental skill that a machine operator must master. While the standard knotting rate is 24 knots per minute, Huang's personal record is 48 knots per minute.

When Huang started her career in 1998 as a textile worker in a bustling city far from her rural hometown, she faced challenges due to her initial struggles with the speed and precision required for tying broken yarn threads swiftly. However, she persevered, practicing tirelessly to improve her skills. Through unwavering determination and hard work, she not only met but surpassed the industry standards, earning the top spot in the group's skills com-

"I have a strong sense of responsibility to speak for others and constantly keep people's concerns in mind," Huang said.

petition in her first year.

"Doing simple things well is actually not a simple job," she said.

Working in a textile workshop that operates 24/7 under high temperatures, humidity, and deafening machine noise, Huang usually arrives 30 minutes early for her shift, ensuring quality by meticulously checking machinery and materials. Her dedication to her craft and attention to details have garnered her accolades such as "National Model Worker" and "Outstanding Migrant Worker."

In 2023, Huang was elected as a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC). In her new role participating in state affairs, her horizons have been broadened, prompting her to advocate for issues far beyond the textile workshop, ranging from road safety and rural healthcare to vocational education and industrial development. She now sees her role as a platform to collect the broader concerns of grassroots communities and make the voices of her fellow workers heard.

"I used to focus solely on my own work. Now, things are different. I have a strong sense of responsibility to speak for others and constantly keep people's concerns in mind," she said.

Huang's commitment to the welfare of front-line industrial workers is evident in her efforts to bridge the gap between policies and their practical implementation. She emphasized that closer collaboration between the government and enterprises is essential to establishing effective incentives and training mechanisms.

She envisions a future where workers are highly valued, confident in their job security, and empowered with the skills needed to advance their careers.

Reflecting on her journey from the countryside to textile workshop, and to the NPC, Huang said, "It is important to be close to the people, to speak up for the people, and to play my part to safeguard the welfare of the people." (NPC) ■

Skilled welder calls for more support to fill talent gap



Wang Hai instructs his workmates about the welding skills. Courtesy Photo

In the bustling workshop of CRRC Qiqihar Co, Ltd in Northeast China's Heilongjiang province, the air hums with the symphony of machinery—buzzes, clatters, roars and clangs.

Amidst the scent of machine oil and the dazzling sparks from welding guns, Wang Hai, a senior welding technician and engineer at the company's freight car division, is busy with his work. His hands, calloused and marked by years of welding, tell the story of his dedication to perfecting his craft.

Wang's career began in 1986 when he joined the company as an apprentice. Initially, many doubted his potential due to his modest educational background. However, Wang was determined to excel.

He spent countless hours practicing welding, often enduring the harsh conditions in the workshop. To fill the gap in his knowledge, Wang made a habit of reading technical books for two hours after work every day, even keeping books under his pillow to ensure he never missed a day of study.

After 38 years of relentless efforts, Wang has become a leading expert in freight car welding, earning the title of CRRC's chief technical expert. His reputation for flawless welds has made him the go-to person for any welding challenges, and his name now synonymous with quality and reliability.

Wang's commitment to excellence is evident in his approach to work. He views welding as an art form, believing that every weld is a signature of the craftsman. This philosophy was put to the test when his company received an order of a mine car from a foreign client.

During the initial inspection by the client's supervisors, white marks were drawn all over the car, indicating areas

that were deemed substandard. While some workers felt disheartened, Wang saw it as an opportunity to learn and improve.

He led the team in refining their techniques, ultimately achieving a 100-percent pass rate in the subsequent inspections. This success not only secured more orders from the client but also earned Wang and his team high praise from the foreign product supervisors.

"Many think welding is tough and dirty work, not worth the effort. But in my view, welding is an art, and each weld is creating a piece of craftwork," Wang said.

In 2023, Wang was elected as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). Recognizing the importance of passing on technical skills, Wang has been a vocal advocate for the training and retention of young skilled workers.

At the first session of the 14th NPC in 2023, Wang submitted a suggestion to expedite the cultivation of high-skilled talents, calling for more national support in terms of funding and policy incentives for enterprises to nurture skilled workers.

"Currently, it takes at least 16 years for a technical worker to progress from a junior worker to a senior technician, which is quite a long time," Wang said. He suggested that by removing time-based requirements and focusing on performance in both theoretical and practical examinations, more young people can be encouraged to pursue careers in skilled trades.

"A freight train has over 800 weld seams of varying lengths, which can't be done by just one person. That's why I would like to see more people outperform me at work," he said.

The team that Wang leads has trained over 3,000 welders, all of whom have passed their certification exams. Wang believes that a team of highly skilled workers is essential for producing top-quality products.

During the second session of the 14th NPC in 2024, Wang proposed enhancing the pay packages of model workers to promote craftsmanship. He emphasized the necessity of cultivating a high-quality industrial workforce capable of tackling key technological challenges and contributing to the nation's manufacturing strength.

Wang's vision aligns with the guiding principles of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, which calls for the development of a robust national strategic talent pool, including outstanding engineers, high-caliber craftsmen and high-skilled workers.

The blueprint enhances the determination and confidence of industrial workers to contribute to China's manufacturing sector, he said. (NPC) ■

Wang He sets sights on driving marine economy



Wang He (right) explains experiment procedures to a student. Courtesy Photo

Wang He is optimistic about the prospects for China's marine economy.

As head of the scientific research management office at the Marine Economic Research Institute in Yantai, a coastal city in east China's Shandong province, she dedicates her efforts to the sustainable development of the marine sector.

Wang is also a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), where she advocates advancing the construction of marine ranching, a type of aquaculture that involves cultivating and managing marine organisms for food and other products with equipment-intensive approaches in the open sea or in an enclosed section of coastal waters.

"Yantai is a major coastal city, where the ocean plays a strategic role in its high-quality development," Wang said.

In 2011, after completing her postgraduate studies, Wang joined the Yantai Marine Economic Research Institute through a high-level talent recruitment program, working as a researcher on disease prevention and healthy practices in aquaculture.

"Since starting my career, I have consistently pursued theoretical studies, kept abreast of industry trends and striven to master cutting-edge technologies," Wang noted.

While jokingly referring to herself as a committed "fish doctor", she is regarded by colleagues as a dedicated innovator, leading the way in technical advances within the institute.

With solid theoretical knowledge and proficient practical skills, Wang achieved first place in disease prevention category at the first Fishery Industry Skills Competition of Shandong Province in 2017.

She went on representing Shandong at the national agricultural industry skills competition, where she stood atop

the national podium, becoming the province's first national technical expert in the fishery industry.

Reflecting on this journey, Wang said it not only honed her professional capabilities but also deepened her understanding of scientific research.

After the national competition, Wang gathered a group of young colleagues at the institute to discuss testing techniques during their spare time, sharing insights and experiences from the competition. In the laboratory, Wang generously shared her knowledge, providing hands-on guidance and explaining theoretical complexities using real-life examples.

Her mentorship bore fruit, several colleagues excelled in national and provincial agricultural industry skills competitions, solidifying the institute's reputation as a hub of technical excellence.

In 2019, Wang led the establishment of Shandong's first fishery industry innovation studio with a focus on practical research to make scientific endeavors more accessible. Wang and her team members were extensively involved in training sessions with fishermen and giving field lectures.

"The urgent and immediate concerns of fishermen are the issues we prioritize," she said.

In 2023, Wang was elected as a deputy to the 14th NPC. Reflecting on her duties representing the marine sector, she pledged to amplify "voices of the ocean" during the NPC sessions.

Wang has been advocating for building modern marine ranching, also known as sea farming, as a crucial step towards establishing a "blue granary". This is essential for developing a new food supply system, alleviating pressure on coastal ecosystems, and ensuring sustainable development of marine fisheries, she said.

She highlighted Shandong's efforts in exploring strategies for maritime empowerment, noting that Yantai has already established 22 national-level marine ranches. To leverage its geographical advantages and further promote modern marine ranching, Wang submitted a suggestion to the second session of the 14th NPC in March last year.

Her suggestion included accelerating the revision of relevant laws to promote high-standard development of marine ranching, advancing scientific planning to enhance operational efficiency and increasing investment in scientific research to facilitate high-quality development of marine economy.

"The ocean has witnessed my growth and carries my aspirations," she said.

"I will continue to cultivate the 'marine pastoral fields' and contribute to boosting the marine economy through practical actions." (NPC) ■

Ma Xiujuan strives to translate people's voices into government policies



Ma Xiujuan drives the No 60 bus on the street of Jilin city in northeast China's Jilin Province. *Courtesy Photo*

Every morning, Ma Xiujuan, a bus driver in Jilin city in northeast China's Jilin province, navigates the city streets driving the bus route 60. She said that the bus is like her second home, while passengers are like her family.

Since being elected as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in 2023, she has dedicated herself to addressing people's concerns at the grassroots level while fulfilling her duty as a bus driver, trying to take these concerns into the consideration of the nation's policy-making process.

She said that while driving a bus is a technical job, being a great bus driver requires a special touch. "A bus is a reflection of a city's image, showcasing its spirit and character. Every time I start my shift, I make it a point to greet each passenger with a smile, sharing a sense of trust and warmth from the moment they step on board."

Ensuring passengers' comfort and safety is a top priority for Ma. She meticulously notes areas with uneven roads, complex traffic conditions, or high passenger traffic. Through timely reminders, patient waiting and safe driving practices, Ma narrowed the distance with passengers, earning unanimous recognition for her service.

Recalling her being elected as an NPC deputy in 2023, she said that she takes it a significant responsibility entrusted by the people.

"Figuring out how to fulfill my duties as an NPC deputy

has been a top priority for me since being elected," Ma said. Initially feeling the weight of her new role, she approached it with the same determination she had when learning to drive, seeking solutions through study and practice to enhance her performance.

Coming from the grassroots, where she interacts frequently with the passengers, Ma views the bus as a mobile platform for collecting public opinions. These daily interactions provide her with valuable insights into the thoughts, concerns and aspirations of the people, forming the basis for the suggestions she submitted to the NPC sessions.

In her first year of the tenure, Ma submitted two suggestions — one on accelerating the introduction of urban public transportation management regulations and the other on enhancing public support for bus drivers.

"I had mixed feelings — wondering whether my suggestions would be recognized and whether they would genuinely contribute to the development of urban public transportation," Ma said.

Her doubts and concerns quickly dissipated as her suggestions received attention and positive feedback from relevant departments. "I truly feel the honor and responsibility of being an NPC deputy," Ma said.

With her first year of experience, Ma has become more adept at her role as an NPC deputy. She diligently records questions, challenges and solutions encountered during work and research in a notebook. Within a year, her notebook has been brimming with insights.

With unwavering dedication to her role, Ma submitted a suggestion to the second session of the 14th NPC in March of last year, advocating for increased support to implement policies and advance urban public transportation development.

She recalled that in 2023, Jilin city, with its renowned ice and snow attractions, drew tourists nationwide. The Jilin City Public Transportation Group introduced themed carriages to promote ice and snow tourism, local specialties, cultural heritage and urban development, enhancing both visitor experiences and showcasing the city's rich cultural and tourism resources.

"As a public transportation worker, I feel proud and understand that public transportation mirrors a city's culture and values. That's why I proposed advancing public transportation to contribute to urban development," Ma said.

Ma said that her role as an NPC deputy has provided her with unique life experiences, making it the most cherished memory of her life. She said that in this position, she effectively translates the voices of the people into government concerns, embodying her commitment to serving the people. (NPC) ■

Sichuan deputy takes pleasure in village development



Li Jun attends the 12th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th NPC in Beijing in November 2024. *Courtesy Photo*

Li Jun, Party chief of Xiuyun village in the Baiyi township of Cangxi county in southwest China's Sichuan province, attended the 12th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing from November 4 to 8.

As a deputy to the top legislative body, Li contributed his insights and suggestions on the draft amendment to the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels.

"I have been closely following the amendment," he said. Known for his willingness to speak out and his commitment to tangible actions, Li is highly regarded by his colleagues and villagers alike.

"As an NPC deputy, it is my duty to voice the concerns of the people and address pressing societal issues," he emphasized.

Over the years, he has submitted over 70 motions and suggestions on topics of public concern, notably focusing on regulating online live streaming and online tipping, which have drawn significant public attention.

Li's journey as a public servant began 16 years ago when he returned to Xiuyun village from the provincial capital of Chengdu. At 23 years old, he decided to dedicate his life to the revitalization of his hometown, and has since played a leading role in the village's transformation from extreme

poverty to a provincial-level rural vitalization demonstration village.

Thanks to Li's unrelenting efforts, Xiuyun village has embraced sustainable development practices and established eco-friendly brands centered on chicken, duck and pig farming.

Through innovative initiatives like creating the "village-city pairing up" model, inviting young people to return home and start businesses and promoting online platforms for farmers, he has successfully turned the village into a renowned brand of premium agricultural products such as organic kiwi, crisp peach and orange.

Li also spearheaded the establishment of processing plants for agricultural and construction materials, as well as a liquor company producing a series of locally branded baijiu.

"Our collective economy must go beyond traditional agriculture and primary agricultural products to achieve greater added value," he said.

By fostering a culture of community engagement through monthly voluntary labor days, a sense of pride and unity among villagers was strengthened, leading to a more vibrant and prosperous community.

Li said that rural revitalization ultimately relies on everyone's participation and collective effort.

Reflecting on Xiuyun's transformation, he finds immense fulfillment in witnessing the village's growth and prosperity.

"Each generation has its own youth, and each generation has its own mission. I will continue to work hard, forge ahead and contribute to the comprehensive vitalization of the countryside," he said. (NPC) ■



Li Jun (left) talks with a villager about agricultural product quality. *Courtesy Photo*

Yu Shaorong turns bitter herb into ‘sweet’ prosperity



Yu Shaorong poses for a photo when she attends an NPC session in Beijing. Courtesy Photo

Yu Shaorong, Party secretary of Wuxing village in Leigu township of Beichuan Qiang autonomous county, southwest China's Sichuan province, is a trailblazing figure in local community.

Born and raised in a rural setting, Yu has dedicated herself to community work, embodying a deep bond with and unwavering commitment to the people she serves.

Yu's journey with Wuxing village began in 1997 when, at the age of 24, she moved to the village after getting married. Initially focusing on her family's modest plot of land, Yu's resilience, clear thinking, and strong work ethic caught the attention of the village Party committee. In 2001, she was elected as a cadre in the village, marking the beginning of her efforts to serve her fellow villagers.

Realizing the potential of the Chinese medicinal herb industry, particularly the cultivation of Huanglian, or Coptis, Yu embarked on a mission to boost the village's economy and increase the villagers' income.

However, her initial efforts faced skepticism from the villagers, as previous attempts at scattered Huanglian cultivation yielded inconsistent quality and limited economic returns. Determined to set an example, Yu took the lead with some other village cadres in planting the herb, which later led to the establishment of a specialized cooperative for Huanglian cultivation.

Through a model integrating the Party committee, the cooperative, and farmers, Huanglian cultivation in the village grew into a significant industry, playing a key role in poverty alleviation.

Thanks to the collective efforts, the village witnessed significant progress in Huanglian cultivation, ultimately lifting the whole village out of poverty in 2016. Today, the village boasts over 3,000 mu (200 hectares) of Huanglian fields, generating an annual output value of approximately 1 million yuan (\$137,700).

"In 2023, the market price of Huanglian hit a new high, with the highest selling price in our village reaching 340 yuan per kilogram. The bitter Huanglian has truly brought sweet prosperity to the village," Yu said.

Beyond Huanglian, Yu set her sights on broader village development upon assuming the role of the village's Party chief in 2018. Prioritizing public infrastructure and environmental improvements, she spearheaded initiatives to renovate rural roads and improve farmers' living conditions, recognizing their pivotal role in rural vitalization.

Driven by the practical needs of the villagers, Yu initiated waste management programs, water safety projects, and rural electrification upgrades. She also oversaw the establishment of cultural facilities such as a cultural square and a library, enriching the village's social fabric.

Realizing that sustainable industry forms the bedrock of rural vitalization, Yu explored new methods to maximize the village's resources. During her field research, she discovered that some companies were engaged in the deep processing of Baiji (Bletilla striata), another medicinal herb, she swiftly initiated partnerships to introduce Baiji cultivation in Wuxing village, diversifying income sources and fostering downstream industries like cosmetics.

Currently, Wuxing village is constructing multi-tiered vegetable breeding greenhouses. Yu envisions this initiative not only boosting collective economic growth but also increasing individual incomes, positioning the village as a model for technology-driven rural revitalization.

"In the future, we also plan to focus on cultivating vegetable and traditional Chinese medicine seedlings to establish a high-tech agricultural research base," she said.

As a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), Yu remains committed to addressing local people's concerns. The monthly public reception day is a fixed schedule for her to better understand their needs and opinions.

Learning of her fellow villagers' concerns about medical insurance premiums, she submitted suggestions to the second session of the 14th NPC last March, calling for the adjustment of the medical insurance payment mechanism to appropriately adjust the annual contribution based on the growth of medical expenses and the local economic conditions.

She also advocated for the development of a continuous premium payment mechanism to implement preferential policies for long-term insurance participation and suggested appropriately increasing the reimbursement rate for individuals with continuous insurance coverage.

"As the Party chief of the village, my duty is to serve the villagers well and guide them towards a better life. As an NPC deputy, my responsibilities extend beyond the development of my own village; I must pay attention to broader fields and make the voices of more people heard," she said. (NPC) ■

Song Zhaopu dedicated to practice of traditional Chinese medicine



Song Zhaopu chats with a young patient in his hospital. Courtesy Photo

Song Zhaopu, a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) doctor and president of Jingeng Rehabilitation Hospital in Ruzhou, central China's Henan province, is affectionately called the "Angel Grandpa" among patients due to his dedication to providing free treatment to more than 3,200 children with cerebral palsy over the past 15 years.

Deeply rooted in TCM practice, Song has made it his lifelong mission to help others through medical care.

As an inheritor of Song's TCM Surgical Therapy, a national intangible cultural heritage, Song has developed unique rehabilitation methods that bring hope to children with cerebral palsy.

Born into a family deeply rooted in TCM, Song cultivated a lifelong bond with the practice under his father's influence. Throughout his medical career, his compassion for children with cerebral palsy has been particularly touching.

Leading his medical team in Jingeng rehabilitation therapy, Song has spearheaded numerous programs to treat children with cerebral palsy. He has dedicated nearly all of his savings to purchasing rehabilitation equipment, upgrading children's wards, and recruiting medical staff and caregivers.

In 2015, Song became aware of the struggles faced by children with cerebral palsy and their families in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, where medical resources were scarce. Driven by his commitment as a doctor, he began providing free treatment for children from Xinjiang in Henan.

To help these children feel at home, Song established wards and kitchens and provided them with free milk powder, clothes and diapers. Song's efforts went beyond providing immediate care. His hospital also partnered with Xinjiang hospitals to build four rehabilitation centers, training local staff, sharing treatment techniques, providing TCM remedies and sending experts for regular guidance.

Song and his team also taught parents basic rehabilitation

skills to ensure sustainable care for their children.

"Our aim is to help these children live with dignity as much as possible," Song said, "Seeing these children gradually improve through TCM treatment fills my heart with immense joy, and I've witnessed how TCM forges friendship among different ethnic groups."

Song has made the promotion and development of TCM his life's mission. Beyond treating patients, Song dedicates his time to researching TCM. He has compiled and published many proven TCM remedies as well as thousands of ancient medical books and folk medicine manuscripts, making these valuable resources available to more people.

Song was elected as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in 2023. To fulfill his duties, he actively participated in inspections and survey activities, working to promote TCM culture.

"As a front-line medical worker, it's my responsibility to uncover the valuable cultural heritage of TCM and advocate for the protection and innovation of TCM to make it better serve the people and the nation," Song said.

"Promoting TCM culture is an important way to build cultural confidence and a healthy China," he said, "Introducing TCM education in schools will help younger generations appreciate and recognize our traditional culture."

An ardent advocate for TCM, Song frequently shares his knowledge on short video platforms and teaches foreign learners the art of pulse diagnosis and acupuncture.

Song's efforts to promote TCM internationally have also borne fruit. In July 2006, a group of 11 TCM students from Switzerland, Germany, and Austria travelled to Jingeng Rehabilitation Hospital for a month-long training session in TCM diagnostics, acupuncture, and rehabilitation. These students, already familiar with TCM theory, were impressed by the on-site training. Many have since become practitioners, spreading TCM culture worldwide.

Reflecting on this experience, Song said, "Those students said that they would not forget their training, which has laid a solid foundation for their careers. I hope more foreigners will experience TCM and appreciate the charm of Chinese traditional culture."

As an NPC deputy, Song is committed to using his expertise to alleviate patients' suffering and reduce medical expenses. Learning about the financial burden of chronic diseases on economically disadvantaged families, Song submitted suggestions to the second session of the 14th NPC, calling for more support for TCM practice in preventing and treating chronic diseases.

From improving rural doctors' welfare to ensuring efficient use of medical insurance funds, he has tirelessly advocated for TCM's role in healthcare.

Looking to the next NPC session, Song said he plans to submit suggestions to promote medical education, continuing his mission to advance TCM practice. (NPC) ■

Sanitation worker speaks for grassroots laborers



Hou Yanmei (second from the left) talks with her workmates to learn about the disposal and transportation of garbage. Zhou Song

Hou Yanmei, project operation director of an environmental technology company in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian province, has long been dedicated to her mission of providing a clean environment for residents and beautifying the city.

Hou was born in a small village in east China's Shandong province and migrated to Hangzhou, capital city of east China's Zhejiang province, in 2007 at the age of 30, where she found work in the sanitation industry.

Through her exceptional perseverance and efficiency, Hou was promoted to section chief within just eight months. She developed innovative sanitation practices and operational models, quickly becoming a key asset to the company.

In 2012, after Hou's company had secured a contract as part of Fuzhou's market-oriented reforms in road cleaning, she was selected to spearhead operations in the city, marking a fresh chapter in her career.

After moving to Fuzhou, Hou did not view herself only as a worker but as a mentor, generously imparting her experience to the sanitation workers of the city. She pioneered a new operational model that features human-machine collaboration, team coordination, garbage bin optimization and recycling sanitation, boosting team efficiency while reducing labor intensity.

Viewed as a leader who cultivates skilled individuals, Hou's business acumen and progressive initiatives have earned accolades from Huang Xuemin, deputy general manager of Jiahaojia Environmental Technology.

"I feel totally at ease leaving tough jobs to Hou, as the workers she trains turns out to be able to cope with all challenges," Huang said.

Whether clearing drainage systems, or eliminating road debris and waterlogging, Hou and her team demonstrate ex-

Hou was aware that her vision could not be limited to the sanitation industry.

ceptional proficiency, maintaining the cleanliness and safety of the roads with diligence.

During her decade in the sanitation industry, Hou has held various front-line positions, experiencing the challenges and aspirations of sanitation workers firsthand.

As an outstanding representative of migrant workers in Fuzhou, she was elected as a deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in 2018.

Her suggestions on enhancing the status of and welfare provisions for sanitation workers, submitted to the 2018 NPC session, received a speedy response, followed by a document on protecting the legitimate rights and interests of sanitation workers issued by Fujian in the same year.

After conducting a survey, Hou also called for the introduction of a national policy to ensure comprehensive coverage of work-related injury insurance for urban front-line workers, which was noted by relevant departments.

Between 2018 and 2023, Hou submitted 17 suggestions to the 13th NPC, which covered topics like optimizing waste classification, addressing difficulties in recruiting sanitation workers, and safeguarding the rights and interests of migrant workers. Her proposals closely align with the practical needs of the sanitation industry, reflecting the voices and long-standing aspirations of grassroots laborers.

After being reelected as a deputy to the 14th NPC in 2023, Hou was aware that her vision could not be limited to the sanitation industry.

"I need to go beyond work settings to understand the actual conditions of workers in various industries, especially the grassroots laborers," she said.

At the 2023 NPC session, Hou put forward a suggestion on promoting and protecting labor rights in new forms of employment, emphasizing the necessity of ensuring the safety and rights of workers in emerging sectors such as food delivery, courier services and ride-sharing.

"The development of a city requires not only the introduction of high-level talents but also the efforts of grassroots laborers," she said at the time.

Her suggestion was listed as a key task for the NPC Standing Committee and received detailed replies from relevant departments.

Hou says she is happy to have an opportunity to advocate for the rights and interests of grassroots laborers: "I will continue to be committed to speaking for the grassroots workers." (NPC) ■

Pei Hongxia encourages students' civic engagement beyond classroom



Pei Hongxia lectures on the system of people's congresses to students at the deputy liaison office. Courtesy Photo

Pei Hongxia, secretary of the general Party branch committee of Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School in north China's Hebei province, has long been dedicated to fostering patriotism and civic awareness among students through innovative educational initiatives.

As a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) since 2023, Pei attaches great importance to enabling her students to learn about how the system of people's congresses ensures the practice of whole-process people's democracy in China.

Central to Pei's vision is the establishment of the deputy outreach and liaison office at Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School. This office, launched in December 2019, aims to immerse students in the workings of China's system of people's congresses and allows deputies to share experiences and insights with the younger generation.

Pei said that establishment of the office serves two primary purposes. First, it brings deputies at all levels closer to students, personally introduce them to the system of people's congresses and share their experiences in fulfilling their duties as a deputy.

"On the other hand, students' social practice outcomes can provide insights for the deputies' suggestions, enhancing the value of students' social practice and enabling students to immerse themselves in whole-process people's democracy," she said.

Currently, the deputy outreach and liaison office includes

48 deputies at the national, provincial, municipal and district levels. An advisory committee for the office has also been established.

By incorporating popularization lectures on the people's congresses into the curriculum, the school has enabled students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental principles of China's political system from various perspectives, fostering a profound understanding of democracy and civic engagement.

In addition to this endeavor, she also initiated activities for students to develop both an international perspective and a deep-rooted love for their homeland, ensuring a harmonious balance wherever their educational journey takes them.

During the winter vacation in 2022, students from the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School conducted a social practice activity on the road signs along the Taiping River Fitness Greenway. They discovered that some of the signs on the western section of the greenway were incomplete and unclear, and there was a shortage of public restrooms, underscoring an urgent need for improvement.

"This activity allowed us to step out of the school and interact with society, nurturing our abilities while instilling a mindset of serving the community," said Bian Junyuan, a student who participated in the activity.

"Such activities should involve not only students but also the deputies in the outreach and liaison office for guidance. As of now, we have incorporated 192 reports on such social practice into suggestions of deputies at the national, provincial, municipal and district levels," said Pei.

She emphasized that these activities integrate the school's classroom with the broader societal classroom, enhancing students' sense of fulfillment and social responsibility.

Pei's commitment goes beyond the school's campus, extending to underserved communities in the region through targeted educational assistance programs.

She said that, since 2014, her school has been providing targeted educational assistance to 12 primary and secondary schools in mountainous areas across six counties in Shijiazhuang.

"We have formulated a 10-year assistance plan to benefit 37,446 families in 700 villages across 31 townships and promote high-quality development of rural basic education in the region," she added.

By focusing on enhancing students' overall development, Pei ensures that education at Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School transcends the classroom.

"As educators, we feel a deep sense of responsibility to help young people develop skills, gain knowledge, build strong values, and shape their character," she said. (NPC) ■

Rural deputy makes villagers' voices heard



Long Rong (third from the left) chats with villagers, listening to their opinions and concerns. *Courtesy Photo*

Long Rong, head of Baodongxi village in Yaoshi township, central China's Hunan province, has always kept the concerns of her fellow villagers in mind. As a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), she has been committed to speaking out for local farmers and addressing their difficulties.

Born in 1985, Long had been working away from home since graduating from school till 2011, when she returned to her home village and set up a goat farm. Thanks to her hard work, her farm had expanded to over 400 goats by 2016, making her a well-known goat farmer in the region. Her personal success inspired other villagers, who started their own goat farms with her help, many lifted out of poverty eventually.

She then took the lead in developing the cattle industry and planting sweet potatoes. Under Long's efforts, villagers who plant sweet potatoes saw an average household income increase of over 2,000 yuan (\$281) per year.

However, expanding the market for agricultural products has always been a tough issue. Baodongxi village, nestled in the hilly area in Mayang Miao autonomous county of Hunan near the border with southwest China's Guizhou province, had long grappled with underdevelopment due to

inadequate infrastructure.

After being elected as a deputy to the 13th Hunan Provincial People's Congress in 2018, Long submitted a total of 39 suggestions, most of which focused on rural infrastructure construction and road improvements. These suggestions received attention from relevant government departments and were gradually materialized.

Over the next few years, the village saw infrastructure renovations completed, roads improved, 160 road lights installed, and three large water reservoirs constructed.

Long also worked with local water resources department to regenerate the Huashi River, a vital waterway in Yaoshi township.

In 2023, she was elected as a deputy to the 14th NPC. Recognizing the challenges faced by rural communities in accessing essential services and markets, Long submitted seven suggestions on enhancing rural logistics infrastructure to fill the gap of last-mile delivery services.

Her efforts culminated in the realization of express delivery services reaching every corner of Mayang, facilitating trade and boosting economic opportunities for local farmers.

As an NPC deputy, Long continues to amplify the voices of rural communities, advocating for initiatives ranging from rural road maintenance to elderly care and irrigation infrastructure.

"The people elect me as an NPC deputy, and I will act for them with concrete actions," Long said, "Even the smallest concerns of the people must be treated as a priority." (NPC) ■



Long Rong (center) chats with fellow villagers about sweet potato planting techniques in a field. *Courtesy Photo*

Yao Jinjian dedicated to innovation in China's new energy sector



Yao Jinjian (right) works with his workmate on tooling product. Courtesy Photo

Dressed in his signature gray work uniform and sporting a pair of frameless glasses, Yao Jinjian, director of the Machining Department of the Trial Production Engineering Research Institute of Gotion High-tech Co in Hefei, East China's Anhui province, is widely regarded as an energetic, passionate and down-to-earth industrial worker in the new era.

Born in a village in Tongcheng city in 1989, Yao's journey toward becoming a key player in China's new energy industry began in 2016, when he joined Gotion High-tech, where he was assigned to learn from experienced mentors in the fields of lithium battery equipment and tooling development. In his early years, he dedicated himself relentlessly to master the intricacies of battery production, laying a foundation for his future work.

In 2019, Yao took the lead in establishing a tooling development and design team within the company. Under his efforts, the team successfully developed a series of new tools and equipment that significantly enhanced the efficiency and quality of lithium battery production. In less than five years, the team filed nearly a hundred patents.

One of Yao's most notable achievements came in 2023 when his team made a breakthrough in non-destructive recycling technology for lithium battery modules, a development that filled a critical gap in the industry.

"When I realized that even a small innovative change could directly improve product quality and benefit people's lives, I knew that this was the true driving force behind innovation," he said.

Yao's dedication to continuous improvement is evident in his daily work, which includes conducting inspecting the lithium battery production lines twice a day. From checking the tightness of screws to examining the wear on positioning pins, Yao ensures that potential issues are identified and resolved before they can disrupt production.

Since his election as a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) in 2023, Yao has embraced his role as a speaker

for his community, advocating for the advancement of China's new energy industry through both technological innovation and policy support.

During the NPC session in 2023, Yao proposed establishing a public platform for the export of new energy products and reducing export tariffs, which received positive responses from relevant government departments.

Last year, Yao turned his attention to the development of electrochemical energy storage and the promotion of new energy heavy-duty trucks. He emphasized the importance of strengthening policy support for strategic emerging industries, particularly in the area of new energy storage.

Yao noted that China's leading position in electrochemical energy storage technology should be leveraged to establish a new energy storage standard system that suits China's national conditions and in line with international practice, thereby driving the high-quality development of the industry.

He stressed the need to advance enterprise-driven technological innovation, with companies playing a central role in decision-making, research and development, and the transformation of scientific achievements into industrial applications.

He also advocated for increased investment in research and development by private enterprises, encouraging them to explore cutting-edge technologies and pursue original, ground-breaking innovations.

His vision includes fostering a deep integration of innovation, industry, capital and talent chains, with a focus on supporting both leading enterprises and small- and medium-sized tech companies.

Beyond his technical contributions, Yao is deeply committed to nurturing the future generation of engineers and technicians. He acts as an enthusiastic mentor for many young people, sharing his experiences and promoting the value of careers in manufacturing.

"China is a manufacturing powerhouse with a complete industrial chain," he said.

"There is a great need for engineers, technicians, and skilled workers. Graduates entering the manufacturing sector have immense potential to contribute and have a promising future."

Emphasizing the importance of practical research and understanding the needs of industries and enterprises, he encouraged his peers to actively engage in research and study and act as advocates for the development of the real economy and the manufacturing sector.

As this year's NPC session approaches, Yao is diligently preparing his suggestions, which he said will focus on the continued development of the new energy industry and pressing issues such as workers' education and healthcare.

"I strive to ensure that every suggestion I put forward is grounded in reality, reflects the concerns of the people and ultimately leads to tangible improvement in people's lives," he said. (NPC) ■

Diligent documenter ensures construction safety



Yu Mingji (second from right) is at work. Courtesy Photo

At construction sites in Wangqing county, Jilin province, people often see a woman in a safety helmet. She isn't a builder, but she closely follows the workers and records detailed information about each step they take. Over the past two decades, her attention to detail has helped ensure the safety of many buildings.

The woman's name is Yu Mingji, and she's a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress, as well as being a documenter with a construction company in Wangqing. Over the past two decades, the former housewife has become a technical authority, earning herself a National May 1 Labor Medal for her hard work and a strong sense of responsibility.

The 50-year-old says she has an inherent love for building, and that's why she studied industrial and civil architecture at Jilin Jianzhu University in Changchun, in 1993.

"I really enjoy the feeling of watching a design on paper or computer become a real building," says Yu.

In 2004, after giving birth to a son and spending many years as a housewife, Yu was recruited by a construction company to be their documenter, a job that requires her to record detailed statistics of each procedure to make sure

they meet construction standards.

"We record the size of each wall, beam and pillar, and label them in project materials," she says.

She observes each step of the work. "In summer, when they start work at 4 or 5 am, I start as well. In the daytime, I follow them, recording their work. At night, I organize the data and fill in the forms.

"In some way, each project is like a child of mine, whose growth I see step by step. If a project takes two years to complete, I follow it for two years and know each part well," she adds.

Xu Shoulong, Yu's first teacher at the company, adds: "She's really hardworking. Wherever she goes, she takes a notebook with her and notes down everything she sees and asks questions wherever she goes."

After all these years, Yu has become so familiar with construction and statistics that she is able to complete much of her work without having to visit the site every day, but she goes anyway.

"That's what I learned from my teacher, verifying each detail on site. It complies with my sense of professionalism."

As a result, it often takes her longer to complete a project and so she earns less than her counterparts, but Yu says she would rather have fewer projects than deal with many at the same time with less care.

She mentions a project in 2010, the construction of a hospital in Wangqing. As public buildings come with higher standards, workers made use of long, spiral drilling rigs in place of pile drivers to consolidate the foundations, a method that is more advanced but requires round-the-clock work. Yu worked for more than 18 hours a day, measuring each of the more than 300 piles, making sure they were all safe.

"Building safety should be prioritized. I have to check every detail, to ensure they all meet design and related standards, so that I can rest assured on each project. After submitting the materials, I don't worry about safety," she says.

Over the years, Yu has been involved in the construction of nearly 100 buildings, none of which were deemed unsafe in later checks. Instead, many have won her prizes.

Her decades-long work has not worn down her passion, but has endowed her with confidence. "I'm already 50, but I feel like I'm still young, with endless strength for work. I even feel better than when I was young, because at that time, I was burdened with family affairs," she says.

"Now I have more time to spend on my work. I would like to devote the rest of my life to my beloved work," she adds. (China Daily) ■

How is the National People's Congress session convened?

By Wang Boxun

On September 15, 1954, the first session of the First National People's Congress (NPC) was solemnly inaugurated at the Huaren Hall in Zhongnanhai, Beijing. Over 1,200 NPC deputies, representing 600 million people, gathered in Beijing as masters of the country to deliberate on state affairs. This marked the beginning of centralized exercise of state power in China by the NPC, whose deputies were elected by the people.

During that session, the first Constitution of the People's Republic of China was adopted, along with five fundamental laws concerning state institutions, including the Organic Law of the National People's Congress and the Organic Law of the State Council. It also approved the government work report and elected new state leaders.

The NPC is the highest organ of state power and exercises important functions and powers conferred by the Constitution and laws. It primarily acts and decides on issues collectively through meetings conducted in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism and statutory procedures. Over the past 70 years, a total of 58 NPC sessions have been held.

NPC sessions involve a large number of deputies, cover a diverse agenda and are of a short duration. To ensure effective deliberation, the 1954 Constitution and the Organic Law of the National People's Congress stipulated the main aspects of the deliberation procedures at the inception of the NPC, making adherence to rules and procedures a strict requirement. The 1982 Constitution and the Rules of Procedure for the National People's Congress enacted in 1989 made specific provisions for organizing and convening NPC sessions, gradually standardizing and legalizing the deliberation procedures. In March 2021, amendments were made to both the Organic Law of the National People's Congress and the Rules of Procedure for the National People's Congress, further standardizing and improving the meeting and working systems.

According to the Constitution and laws, each NPC is elected to a term of five years. The NPC holds a session once a year, convened by its Standing Committee. A temporary session may be convened if the Standing Committee of the NPC deems it necessary or if more than one-fifth of the deputies to the NPC so propose. The first session of each NPC is convened by the Standing Committee of the previous NPC.

The date for convening an NPC session is determined and announced by the NPC Standing Committee. The Rules of Procedure for the National People's Congress clearly stipulates that the NPC session shall be held in the first quarter of each year. Since the first session of the Ninth NPC in 1998, the NPC sessions have generally opened on March 5 each year, establishing an important political convention that facilitates the timely coordination and arrangements of the country's major tasks for the year. In 2020, the third session of the 13th NPC was postponed to May 22 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing from practical experience, the amended Rules of Procedure for the National People's Congress added a provision that under special circumstances, the NPC Standing Committee may decide to advance or delay a session for an appropriate time.

An NPC session can only be held if more than two-thirds of the deputies are present. Nearly 3,000 deputies, organized into

35 delegations based on their respective electoral units, attend the session. The duration of a session is determined based on the agenda for deliberation and discussion. The longest session was the second session of the First NPC, which lasted 26 days, while the shortest was the first session of the Fourth NPC, lasting only five days. After further optimization of the meeting procedures, an NPC session now generally lasts around seven days.

An NPC session is generally divided into five sections: The first section includes the opening of the session, listening to and deliberating on the government work report, reviewing the report on the implementation of the plan for national economic and social development for the previous year and on the draft plan for the current year, as well as the draft plan itself, reviewing the report on the execution of the central and local budgets for the previous year and on the draft central and local budgets for the current year, along with the draft budgets themselves. The second is deliberating legislative bills. The third is hearing the work reports of the NPC Standing Committee, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate. The fourth is elections and appointments (included in the agenda of the first session of each NPC). The fifth is reviewing the final drafts of resolutions and legislative bills to be submitted for voting, voting on the resolutions and bills and closing the session.

An NPC session is organized through preparatory meetings, presidium meetings, plenary meetings of the session, plenary meetings of delegations and group meetings. Before the opening of the session, a preparatory meeting is held to elect the presidium and the secretary-general and approve the agenda and the decision on other preparatory matters. Following the preparatory meeting, the first meeting of the presidium is convened to elect several executive chairpersons and decide on the session schedule. After the first presidium meeting, the opening plenary session is convened, and following each plenary session, each delegation holds its own plenary and group meetings to thoroughly deliberate on the matters submitted for review.

Deputies to the NPC are not held legally liable for their speeches or votes during NPC sessions. Resolutions are typically adopted by a majority vote of all deputies using an anonymous electronic voting system, while amendments to the Constitution are decided by anonymous ballot, requiring a two-thirds majority vote of all deputies for approval.

According to the Rules of Procedure for the National People's Congress, NPC sessions shall be held publicly, and the agenda, schedule and meetings thereof shall be made public. Press conferences and briefings are held during the session, and "deputies' passages" and "ministers' passages" are established to comprehensively publicize the session's progress and outcomes, showcase the conduct of deputies and respond to public concerns on livelihood issues.

The annual NPC session is a major event in China's political affairs. With the continuous improvement of the NPC's meeting system and working procedures, the entire population can better exercise state power through the system of the people's congresses. ■

(The author is a reporter with the magazine National People's Congress of China)

A vibrant seaside city

FANGCHENGANG

