

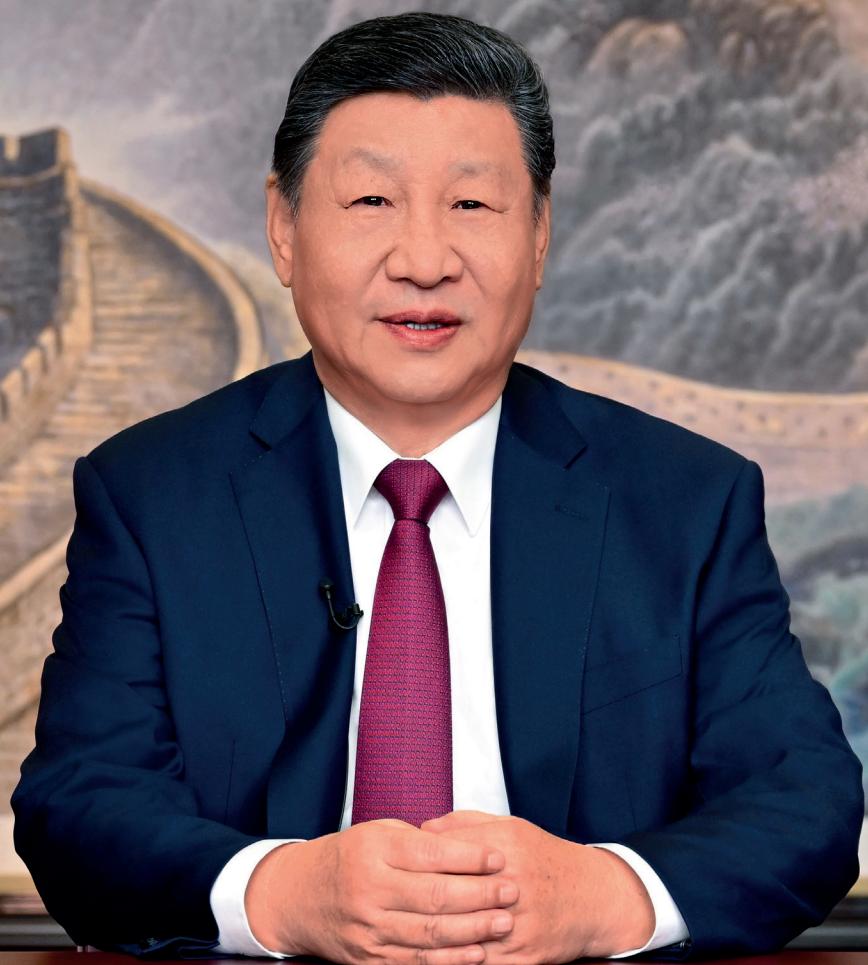


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National People's Congress of China

**FOCUS ON OUR GOALS AND TASKS  
BOOST CONFIDENCE AND BUILD  
MOMENTUM TO PRESS AHEAD**



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# 全球

THE GLOBAL LEADERS'

## 命运与共：加速妇

ONE SHARED FUTURE: NEW AND ACCELERATED

2025年10月13日 中国·北京



# 妇女峰会

LEADERS' MEETING ON WOMEN

## 妇女全面发展新进程

PROCESS FOR WOMEN'S ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT

13 October 2025 Beijing, China



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women and delivers a keynote speech at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, on October 13. Shen Hong



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COVER: Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers his 2026 New Year message through China Media Group and the internet on December 31. Yan Yan

# CPC plenum concludes, adopts recommendations for China's 15th Five-Year Plan



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an important address at the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee held from October 20 to 23 in Beijing, capital of China. Xie Huanchi



The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China convenes its fourth plenary session in Beijing, capital of China, from October 20 to 23. *Li Xiang*

**T**he 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) convened its Fourth Plenary Session in Beijing from October 20-23.

Participants at the session deliberated over and adopted the Recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for Economic and Social Development, according to a communique of the session released on October 23.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presided over the meeting and General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping delivered important addresses, according to the communique.

Xi also delivered explanatory remarks on the draft recommendations.

China is now on the verge of accomplishing the major objectives and tasks of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), according to the communique.

Participants at the session gave a highly positive assessment of China's major development achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, which has marked a momentous and extraordinary period in the country's development.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period will be critical, as the country works to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts toward basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035. It will thus serve as a key link between the past and the future, according to the communique.

At present, China remains in a phase of development where strategic opportunities exist alongside risks and challenges, while uncertainties and unforeseen factors are rising.

“All of us in the Party must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and of establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,” the communique said.

At the session, the CPC Central Committee established the following guiding principles for economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period: upholding the Party's overall leadership; putting the people first; pursuing high-quality development; comprehensively deepening reform; promoting interplay between an



**Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi attend the fourth plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held from October 20 to 23 in Beijing, capital of China. Shen Hong**

efficient market and a well-functioning government; and ensuring both development and security.

The CPC Central Committee also set the following major objectives for the 15th Five-Year Plan period: significant advancements in high-quality development; substantial improvements in scientific and technological self-reliance and strength; fresh breakthroughs in further deepening reform comprehensively; notable cultural and

ethical progress across society; further improvements in quality of life; major new strides in advancing the Beautiful China Initiative; and further advances in strengthening the national security shield.

China should build a modernized industrial system and reinforce the foundations of the real economy, said the communique.

It should achieve greater self-reliance and strength in



science and technology and steer the development of new quality productive forces.

It should also build a robust domestic market and work faster to foster a new pattern of development, the communique continued.

In addition, China should move faster to develop a high-standard socialist market economy and boost the momentum for high-quality development.

The country should promote high-standard opening up and create new horizons for mutually beneficial cooperation.

It should accelerate agricultural and rural modernization and take solid steps to advance all-around rural revitalization.

China should refine its regional economic layout and promote coordinated regional development.

It should inspire the cultural creativity of the entire nation and foster a thriving socialist culture, according to the communique.

The country should work harder to ensure and improve public wellbeing and promote prosperity for all and it should accelerate the green transition across the board in an effort to build a Beautiful China.

China should modernize its national security system and capacity and advance the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level.

It should work to achieve the centenary goals of the People's Liberation Army on schedule and modernize national defense and the armed forces, according to the communique.

The whole Party and all Chinese people should be united in a concerted endeavor to fulfill the 15th Five-Year Plan.

Studying and implementing the guiding principles from this plenary session represent a major political task for the entire Party and nation both at present and in the period to come.

"To run the country well, we must first run the Party well; only a Party that is thriving can make our country strong," the communique stated.

Participants at the session carried out an analysis of the present situation and the tasks China faces. The plenary highlighted that the country must remain firmly focused on accomplishing this year's targets for economic and social development.

In addition, a call was issued to the whole Party, the entire military and

Chinese people of all ethnic groups to rally more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core, work hard together toward the goal of basically realizing socialist modernization and continue breaking new ground in the drive to build a great country and advance national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. (Xinhua) ■



## What are Party plenary sessions and five-year plans?

Chinese leaders gathered for a major meeting from October 20-23 to discuss the country's next five-year plan, a policy roadmap shaping key areas of national development, with ripple effects far beyond China's borders.

The meeting, known as the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), was the fourth since the committee was elected in 2022.

But what is a plenary session? How are China's five-year plans developed and why do they matter? Here's a closer look.

### What's a plenum?

For the CPC, which has over 100 million members, the National Congress and the Central Committee it elects are the highest leading bodies.

Since the National Congress meets once every five years, the Central Committee acts on its behalf in the intervals, holding plenary sessions at least one each year to make key policy decisions.

The current Central Committee has about 200 members, many of whom are provincial Party leaders, governors and ministers. Alternate members of the CPC Central Committee, who are next in line to fill vacancies on the Central Committee, also attend the plenary sessions.

The session heard a work report from the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and reviewed the proposals for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-

2030) for national economic and social development.

The proposals for the new plan were released after the session. The final plan itself is expected to be unveiled in March 2026, with the National People's Congress—China's top legislature—reviewing and approving it.

### What's a five-year plan?

Formulating and implementing five-year plans has been a hallmark of the CPC's governance, enabling China to promote coordinated economic and social development over the medium and long term.

It is an approach that experts say maintains policy continuity and stability toward established goals and enables the efficient and well-calibrated allocation of resources.

First introduced in 1953, China has had 14 five-year plans. Following the launch of reform and opening up in 1978, the country began developing a socialist market economy system, yet it did not abandon the planned approach. Instead, it reformed and refined the system to make it more effective.

Over the decades, China's five-year plans have guided continuous progress in national development and living standards, from ensuring adequate food and clothing after completing the sixth and seventh five-year plans in the 1980s to propelling China's total economic output to the rank of world's second in the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) period.



China's modernization drive has been carried forward through a continuum of five-year plans that connect and build upon each other, according to Li Zhongjie, an expert on the CPC's history.

In a break from tradition, the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) did not set a quantitative target for GDP growth; instead, it described expected growth in broader terms, in part to emphasize quality over speed.

Given their far-reaching impact, China's five-year plans are developed over several years, incorporating research, expert reviews, inter-agency coordination and public opinions.

After the national plans define main tasks, specialized and local plans break them down into actionable steps to ensure effective implementation, said Dong Yu, Executive Vice Dean of the Institute of China Development Planning at Tsinghua University.

"The five-year plans are a far cry from a mere piece of paper," Dong added. "They are a fully integrated system for turning goals into reality."

Five-year plans have also become an important window for other countries to observe China and take reference from its development experience. Inspired by China's experience, a growing number of countries have adopted their own medium to long-term development strategies.

### What to expect from the 15th Five-Year Plan

The 15th Five-Year Plan carries unusual weight, as only 10 years remain before 2035, a milestone year by which China aims to "basically achieve socialist modernization."

Covering the 2026-2030 period, the plan is expected to be formulated through a comprehensive assessment of global trends and will serve as a blueprint for China's

development in line with changing conditions.

Outlining key goals and measures for economic growth, technological innovation, people's livelihood and other areas, the plan will prioritize high-quality development fueled by innovation.

Building on China's focus on cultivating locally tailored new quality productive forces, the 15th Five-Year Plan period is expected to see accelerated efforts to modernize the industrial system. Targeted measures will aim to strengthen the real economy, upgrade traditional industries, foster emerging sectors and strategically lay out future industries.

At the same time, the plan will seek to enhance the national innovation system and promote the integrated development of education, science and technology, and talent.

"Visionary planning is needed to chart a new industrial landscape in the upcoming five-year plan," Dong added.

Reform is set to be another focus of the plan, as 2029—the target year for completing more than 300 reform tasks outlined at the CPC Central Committee's Third Plenary Session in 2024—falls within the next five-year period. China's next stage of development is likely to continue along the path of deepening reform and advancing high-level opening up.

Guarding against risks and addressing challenges both at home and abroad will be another priority in the plan, as development and security are equally vital in shaping China's future trajectory.

Brazilian scholar Maria Luiza Falcao Silva sees a lesson for the wider world. "While much of the West grappled with cycles of crisis—political gridlock, trade wars, populism—China has pressed ahead with a long-term national plan," she said. (Xinhua) ■



## How China fosters growth and innovation amid global uncertainties through past five-year plans

In a world still searching for certainty, China's five-year plans have offered a sense of direction that marries systematic planning with bold innovations, and new quality productive forces, green transformation and domestic progress with global cooperation.

This year marks the conclusion of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), which has steered the country through global uncertainties, while maintaining growth and electrifying innovation.

Despite global challenges, such as recurring geopolitical conflicts, soaring global inflation and rising trade protectionism, China's economy is projected to expand by over 35 trillion yuan (4.9 trillion U.S. dollars) during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, accounting for around 30 percent of global growth on average each year.

After the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee reviewed proposals for the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), it's an opportune moment to reflect on how the country has navigated its development path while continuing to inject new momentum into the world through its five-year plans.

### Pillars of resilience

Over the past five years and across a longer historical arc, China's ability to navigate uncertainties has been strengthened by the steady progress made along the path outlined in its five-year plans.

Rooted in evolving economic and social realities, these plans set objectives, strategic priorities and actionable paths for each stage of China's modernization, guiding the country through continual, adaptive adjustments.

For example, poverty alleviation has featured promi-

nently in China's five-year plans since the 1980s.

Organized, large-scale efforts have achieved remarkable results. The number of rural poor fell from 770 million at the end of 1978 to 98.99 million by 2012, while the rural poverty rate dropped from 97.5 percent to 10.2 percent.

Building on these achievements, China centered on "targeted poverty alleviation" during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) period, historically eradicating extreme poverty in the plan's final year 2020 and meeting the poverty reduction target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development well ahead of schedule.

Under the 14th Five-Year Plan, efforts were shifted toward consolidating and expanding these gains. Employment among people lifted out of poverty has consistently stayed above 30 million, while targeted support was provided to over 6 million people at risk of slipping back into poverty by July of 2025.

"These valuable experiences are worth learning by Global South countries," said Hector Villagran-Cepeda, Ecuador's former commercial counselor to China. He expressed hope that China would share more of its experience in poverty governance and show how modern development approaches can drive rural revitalization and poverty reduction.

By combining long-term vision with well-timed adjustments, five-year plans have anchored China's development and fostered resilience, allowing the country to maintain steady growth even amid dramatic shifts in the international environment and external shocks.

### Sustained cooperation amid uncertainties

As another key focus of the 14th Five-Year Plan,



China's commitment to high-standard opening up enables it to sustain international cooperation despite rising protectionism and its adverse effects on the global economy.

Under the pretext of "de-risking" and "supply chain security," some Western countries raised tariffs, tightened export controls, and curbed high-tech trade—moves that unsettled global markets and squeezed growth opportunities for developing countries. These actions underscore the need for new forms of international cooperation.

A key player in South-South cooperation, China has promoted development across the Global South through the Belt and Road cooperation and other multilateral mechanisms, delivering tangible benefits for both itself and its partners.

According to China's Commerce Ministry, the revenue from projects contracted by Chinese enterprises in Belt and Road partner countries reached 37.99 billion U.S. dollars in the first four months of 2025, up by 5.2 percent year-on-year. At the same time, the value of newly signed contracts reached 64.54 billion U.S. dollars, up by 17.4 percent year-on-year, effectively consolidating the country's foreign trade.

Meanwhile, China has extended development aid to over 160 countries, helping build economic corridors, railways, power grids and hospitals that have created thousands of jobs and improved livelihoods in local communities.

China has also actively participated in multilateral platforms, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), that facilitate smoother global trade flows and stimulate economic growth across participating countries.

"In an era of rising protectionism and geopolitical uncertainties, the RCEP has emerged as a beacon of multilateral cooperation," said Thong Mengdavid, a lecturer at the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy of the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

The RCEP's success lies in reducing trade barriers and creating a seamless economic zone, where tariffs on over 90 percent of goods have been cut or removed in the past three years, he said.

"With China's continued firm support and the unwavering commitment of all members, the RCEP is well positioned to drive regional growth and set a benchmark for global trade partnerships in the years to come," he added.

### Daring innovation drives progress

The careful, methodical planning of five-year plans is paired with a commitment to bold innovation.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has placed innovation at the heart of its modernization drive, building one of the world's most advanced artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystems, empowering sectors ranging from manufacturing and healthcare to transportation and finance.

According to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the country's core AI industry reached 578.7 billion yuan (81.2 billion U.S. dollars) in 2023.

In the latter half of the 14th Five-Year Plan, the AI model DeepSeek made a spectacular debut, achieving performance levels comparable to, if not exceeding, those of its global counterparts, while consuming significantly fewer computing resources.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella acknowledged DeepSeek's "genuine innovations," noting that it is "super impressive in terms of both how they have really effectively done an open-source model that does this inference-time compute and is super-compute efficient."

Along with DeepSeek, China has achieved a series of landmark technological feats. These include bringing the world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant into commercial operation, completing the Tiangong space station and successfully returning the first lunar soil from the far side of the moon. (Xinhua) ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the first session of the 32nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting and delivers a speech titled Building an Inclusive Open Asia-Pacific Economy for All in Gyeongju, the Republic of Korea, on October 31. Huang Jingwen

# Building an inclusive open Asia-Pacific economy for all

Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping  
 President of the People's Republic of China  
 At Session I of the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting  
 Gyeongju, October 31, 2025

Your Excellency President Lee Jae-myung,  
 Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to be here in Gyeongju, a city of rich history and culture, to join you in discussing the future of the Asia-Pacific. Let me begin by thanking President Lee Jae-myung and the ROK government for the thoughtful arrangement.

Over the past 30-plus years since its founding, from drafting the blueprint of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) to advancing the vision of an Asia-Pacific community, APEC has been spearheading the region's rise to the forefront of global open development and has made Asia-Pacific the most dynamic part of the global economy.

Currently, changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. The international situation is fluid and turbulent. The Asia-Pacific region faces growing uncertainties and destabilizing factors in its development. The rougher the seas, the more we must pull together. We should stay true to APEC's founding mission to promote economic growth and improve people's lives, and champion open development where everyone shares opportunities and emerges a winner. We should promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization and build an Asia-Pacific community. To this end, I wish to make five proposals.

First, we should work together to safeguard the multilateral trading system. We must practice true multilater-



## China always pursues the basic state policy of opening up, and has taken real steps to promote an open world economy.

alism and enhance the authority and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. We should stick to the right direction of WTO reform, uphold the most-favored-nation, nondiscrimination and other fundamental principles, and update international economic and trade rules to reflect the changing times, so as to better protect the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

Second, we should work together to build an open economic environment in the region. We should keep promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, deepen fiscal and financial cooperation, and steadily push for regional economic integration. With the RCEP being implemented to high standards and the CPTPP membership expanding, we should help the two align with each other and progress together so as to inject impetus into the development of the FTAAP.

Third, we should work together to keep industrial and supply chains stable and smooth. We must join hands rather than part ways, and strengthen our links rather than sever them. We should vigorously expand our common interests and support the open development of supply chains. The 10th anniversary of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint gives us a good opportunity to strive for concrete and tangible results in physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, so as to further consolidate the foundations for open development in our region.

Fourth, we should work together to advance the digital

and green transformation of trade. We should make digital technologies a strong catalyst for cross-border trade and promote practical cooperation in paperless trade, smart customs and other areas. We must remove various green barriers and expand cooperation in green industries, clean energy and green minerals. The Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network and the Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain initiated by China under APEC have become important platforms for regional cooperation on the digital and green upgrades for trade.

Fifth, we should work together to promote universally beneficial and inclusive development. We should adhere to the people-centered development philosophy, focus on imbalances in development and foster an economic globalization that is more inclusive, sustainable and beneficial to all peoples in the region. China is working with various parties to promote the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and supports the modernization drive of more developing countries, which will help open up new space for global development. We have given zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent tariff lines from the least developed countries having diplomatic relations with China and stand ready to extend the same treatment to all African countries having diplomatic relations with China through the signing of agreements on economic partnership for shared development. We will continue to strive for common development and shared prosperity with all nations.

Colleagues,

China always pursues the basic state policy of opening up and has taken real steps to promote an open world economy. Over the past five years, China has ranked as the world's largest trader in goods and the second largest in services. It has attracted more than 700 billion U.S. dollars in foreign investment in total and its outbound investment has been increasing by over five percent on annual average. We have been shortening the negative list for foreign investment and applying the unilateral visa-free policy to more countries. We are steadily expanding voluntary and unilateral opening up and have actively aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules through our 22 pilot free trade zones. China's door to the world will not close; it will only open wider and wider.

A few days ago, the Recommendations for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan were adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. We will take this opportunity to further deepen reform comprehensively and expand high-standard opening up and create new opportunities for Asia-Pacific and the world through the latest achievements of Chinese modernization.

Thank you. (Xinhua) ■

# Jointly forging a sustainable and brighter future

Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping  
 President of the People's Republic of China  
 At Session II of the 32nd APEC Economic  
 Leaders' Meeting  
 Gyeongju, November 1, 2025

Your Excellency President Lee Jae-Myung,  
 Colleagues,

At present, the new wave of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is deepening. In particular, the rapid advance of frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) is opening new horizons for humanity. On the other hand, the world faces lackluster economic growth and a widening gap in global development. Challenges such as climate change, food security and energy security are intensifying. Asia Pacific economies must enhance mutually beneficial cooperation, make good use of new opportunities, stand up to new challenges and forge a sustainable and brighter future together. To this end, I would like to make three propositions.

First, we should further unleash the potential of digital and smart development to give the Asia Pacific region a fresh edge in innovation-driven development. We should fully harness new technologies to empower and propel us forward; seize the opportunities of digital, smart and green development; and move faster to nurture and promote new quality productive forces. We should spark data into life as a basic resource and an engine for innovation, promote the safe and orderly flow of data and accelerate high-quality development of the digital economy. We should deepen cooperation on open source technologies and build an open, competitive ecosystem for innovation.

AI is very important for shaping the future and should contribute to the wellbeing of people of all countries and regions. We should bear in mind the wellbeing of all of humanity and promote the sound and orderly development of AI, while ensuring that it is beneficial, safe and fair. China has proposed the establishment of a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, which we hope will provide the international community with public goods on AI through cooperation on development strategies, governance rules and technological standards. China is ready to work



with all APEC members to enhance AI literacy and bridge the digital and AI divide in the Asia Pacific region.

Second, we should stay committed to green and low-carbon development to build a new paradigm for sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. Clear waters and green mountains are just as valuable as gold and silver. We should keep in mind our responsibility to our future generations, enhance synergy between green development strategies of all economies, promote free flows of quality green technologies and products, accelerate the green and low-carbon transition and vigorously tackle climate change. We should ensure the true fulfillment of common but differentiated responsibilities, and urge developed economies to continuously provide necessary support for developing economies in financing, technology, capacity building and other areas.

Since announcing our carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals five years ago, China has established the world's largest and fastest growing renewable energy system. Industries such as new energy vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and



Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders and representatives pose for a group photo after the second session of the 32nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, the Republic of Korea, on November 1. Yao Dawei

photovoltaics are thriving. China has submitted its 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions on climate response and will implement the system of dual control over the volume and intensity of carbon emissions across the board. China has funded the establishment of the APEC Support Fund—Sub-fund on Promoting Digitalization for Green Transitions and will continue to implement relevant initiatives on clean energy and green transition.

Third, we should build an inclusive and universally beneficial future to foster a new dynamism in the inclusive growth of the Asia Pacific region. We should always put the people first and strengthen policy communication, experience sharing and results-oriented cooperation to fully implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, eliminate poverty together and promote shared prosperity for all the people in Asia Pacific. We should fully leverage APEC's traditional strength in economic and technical cooperation, encourage Asia Pacific economies to take the lead in piloting the WTO's Agreement on Electronic Commerce and deepen cooperation in such

areas as SMEs, human resources, food security, energy transition and health, to facilitate balanced growth in developing economies.

This year, the Republic of Korea has proposed the Collaborative Framework for Demographic Change, which will contribute to inclusive development in the Asia Pacific region. In China, we will move faster to improve the system that provides full life-cycle population services to all the Chinese people. We will vigorously develop the silver economy and push forward high-quality development of the population. We will promote the implementation of the initiatives that seek to deploy AI in healthcare and enhance digital literacy and skills for women, so that all of Asia Pacific can benefit from APEC cooperation.

As a 19th-century Chinese thinker counseled, "Alone, one falters under the weight; Together, we stride on the road." China is ready to work with all parties to embrace the philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, and build together an Asia Pacific community.

Thank you. (Xinhua) ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women and delivers a keynote speech at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, on October 13. Shen Hong

# **Carrying forward the spirit of the Beijing World Conference on Women and promoting the new and accelerated process for women's all-round development**

Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China  
At the Opening Ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women  
Beijing, October 13, 2025

Distinguished Colleagues and Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

Five years ago, I proposed another global leaders' meeting on women. Today, I am very pleased that we are having this gathering in Beijing to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and discussing ways to promote the global women's cause. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I would like to extend warm congratulations on the opening of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women.

Women play an important role in creating, promoting and carrying forward human civilization. And the international community has a shared responsibility to advance the cause of women. Thirty years ago, the Fourth World Conference on Women set the lofty goal of "Action for Equality, Development and Peace," and adopted the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Gender equality has been etched in the agenda of our times, galvanizing the whole world in its unwavering pursuit of that goal.

Over the past 30 years, guided by the spirit of the Beijing World Conference on Women, the cause of women has been thriving around the world, adding brilliant splendor to the progress of human civilization. Equality between men and women is now a universal consensus of the international community. It has been included in United Nations development agenda and priority development targets, and 189 countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The environment for women's livelihood and development has been improving steadily. Nearly 1,600 laws on women's rights and interests have been enacted by more than 190 countries, and more and more countries have made national action plans to improve women's well-being. Prominent progress has been achieved in women's empowerment. Their educational attainment has been steadily improving and women are playing an ever more important role in economic, political, cultural and social affairs. A great many outstanding women have stepped up to take the international stage, living their lives to the fullest and making contributions with their wisdom and strength.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

Women in every corner of the world are bound together by a shared future. At present, complex challenges still hamper their all-round development. Statistics show that globally, over 600 million women and girls are still mired in war and conflict, and around 10 percent of women and girls are trapped in extreme poverty. At the same time, deep-rooted problems such as violence and discrimination still persist, the gender digital divide is widening and equality between men and women remains a lofty yet arduous task. Looking ahead, we should rededicate ourselves to the purpose of the Beijing World Conference on Women and build greater consensus, broaden the paths forward and take more concrete actions to accelerate the new process of women's all-round development. To this end, I wish to make four proposals.

First, we should jointly foster an enabling environment for women's growth and development. Their all-round development is achieved under the prerequisite of peace and tranquility. We need to uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and must safeguard world peace, so that all women can bask in the sunlight of happiness and tranquility and stay away from the shadow of war and turmoil. We need to enhance the protection of women and girls in regions struck by war, conflict, poverty or natural disaster, and support the vital role of women in preventing conflict and rebuilding their homes. We should improve mechanisms against violence and resolutely crack down on all forms of violence against women.

Second, we should jointly cultivate powerful momentum for the high-quality development of women's cause. Modernization of the world should involve and benefit women. We should proactively address the imbalance and inadequacy of women's development around the world, enable all women to share the benefits of economic globalization and propel women's all-round development. We need to seize the opportunity of the new wave of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, and empower women's high-quality development through

## China actively provides opportunities and support for global women's cause through its development.

innovation. We need to support women in playing an even bigger role in green development and strive to help them shine in life and realize their dreams in this era of global modernization.

Third, we should jointly develop governance frameworks to protect women's rights and interests. We need to improve institutions and laws, introduce further tangible and accessible policy measures, channel more quality health and educational resources to all women and strive to afford all women full and equal enjoyment of various rights. We must promote an inclusive and harmonious social environment that sets women free from discrimination and bias. We should broaden the channels for women to participate in and deliberate on political affairs and support their extensive engagement in state and social governance. We should jointly nurture an environment that respects women and morph gender equality into a common value and a code of conduct embraced by everyone in our society.

Fourth, we should jointly write a new chapter in promoting global cooperation on women. Not long ago, I proposed the Global Governance Initiative, calling for a more just and equitable global governance system with the people's interests in mind. Women are crucial in reforming and improving the global governance system. We must support them in assuming their historic responsibilities, enabling them to play a substantive role in global governance and share in its benefits. We should support the

central role of the United Nations, urging it to pay more attention to the needs of women in developing countries, create broad cooperation platforms for women from all countries and continually deepen exchanges and mutual learning, so as to help women across the world thrive and shine together.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

In China, the cause of women has always been an integral part of the epic Chinese modernization endeavors. Thanks to years of hard work, we have secured historic achievements and seen historic changes in the cause of women in China. We have won the largest battle against poverty in human history, and thereby brought moderate prosperity to 690 million women, achieving ahead of schedule the poverty reduction goal of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have reduced maternal mortality ratio by nearly 80 percent since 1995 and joined the leading upper-middle-income countries in core indicators for maternal and child health. Today, women in China truly “hold up half the sky” in economic and social development. They make up more than 40 percent of the workforce, over half of internet startup founders and more than 60 percent of all medalists in the past four Summer Olympic Games. In the new era, Chinese women—more confident and vibrant than ever before—are taking part in the whole process of state and social governance. They are fighting on the frontlines for rural revitalization and common prosperity as well as scientific innovation and digital transition. They are writing a splendid history of the cause of women in China. On the new journey of Chinese modernization, every woman is a star.

China actively provides opportunities and support for global women’s cause through its development. We have

initiated the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations and set up the Prize for Girls and Women’s Education in partnership with UNESCO. We have launched “maternal and child health,” “happy campuses,” and other “small and beautiful” public welfare projects. We are actively promoting international exchanges and cooperation on women under Belt and Road cooperation, within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other frameworks.

To further support the global cause of women, I’d like to make the following announcement: In the next five years, China will donate another 10 million U.S. dollars to UN Women; earmark a quota of 100 million U.S. dollars in China’s Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund for implementing development cooperation projects for women and girls in collaboration with international organizations; launch 1,000 “small and beautiful” livelihood programs with Chinese assistance that take women and girls as priority beneficiaries; invite 50,000 women to China for exchange and training programs; and establish a Global Center for Women’s Capacity Building, which is aimed at conducting capacity building and other development cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations to train more women talent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

As an ancient Chinese saying goes, “Steadfast dedication yields an enduring fragrance.” Standing at this new historic starting point, let us carry forward the spirit of the Beijing World Conference on Women, bear in mind the goal of a community with a shared future for humanity, accelerate the new process of women’s all-round development and jointly create a better future for the human race.

I wish the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women a full success. Thank you! (Xinhua) ■



The Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women is held at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, on October 13. Du Zixuan



Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, meets with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon in Auckland, New Zealand, on November 20. Zhao paid an official visit to the country from November 19 to 22 at the invitation of Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives Gerry Brownlee. Yue Yuwei

# Zhao Leji pays official goodwill visits to New Zealand and Australia

**T**op legislator Zhao Leji paid official goodwill visits to New Zealand and Australia from November 19-25.

## In New Zealand

Zhao, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, called for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation between China and New Zealand during his official visit to the country from November 19-22, at the invitation of the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives Gerry Brownlee.

He met with the country's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon in Auckland and held talks with Brownlee in Wellington.

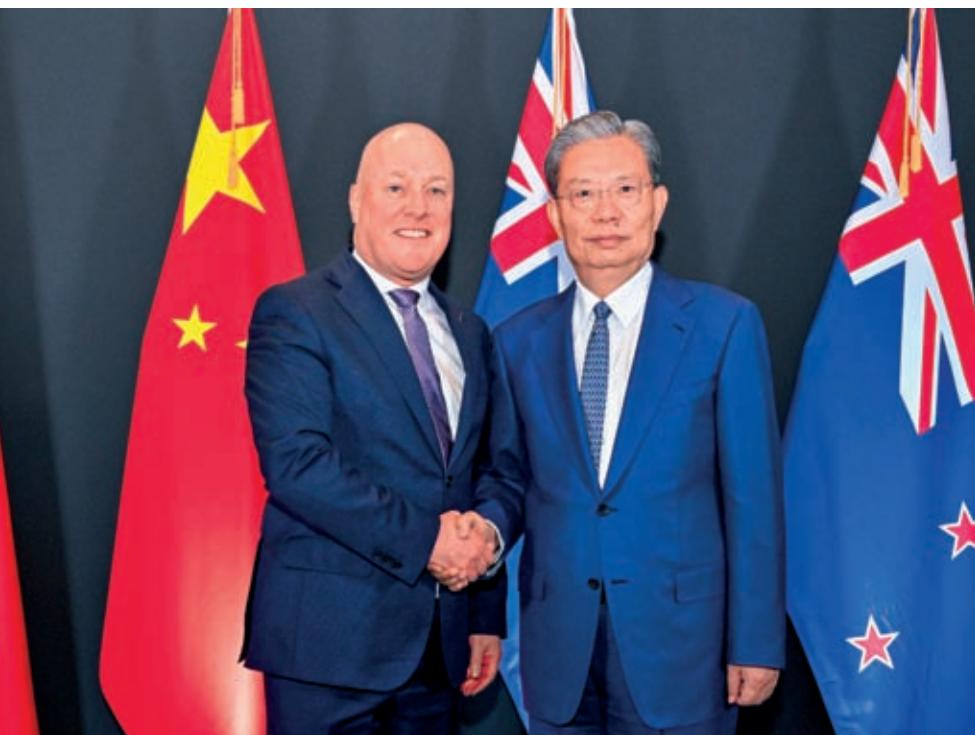
While meeting with Luxon, Zhao said that cooperation between the two countries in various fields has achieved fruitful results, while the second decade of their comprehensive stra-

**“The traditional friendship between New Zealand and China is profound, and the relations between the two countries are long-lasting and stable.”**

tegic partnership has gotten off to a good start.

China is willing to work with New Zealand to consolidate traditional friendship, enhance understanding and mutual trust, accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, and be sincere friends and cooperative partners who treat each other as equals, Zhao said.

It is hoped that China and New Zealand can deepen



Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, meets with Australia's Governor-General Samantha Mostyn in Canberra, Australia, on November 24. Zhao paid an official visit to the country from November 22 to 25 at the invitation of Australia's Speaker of the Senate Sue Lines and Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick. *Li Xiang*

## **“Australia and China have carried out good cooperation in trade, culture, education and other areas, while bilateral relations have continued to deepen.”**

mutually beneficial cooperation, promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges, strengthen multilateral collaboration and jointly promote trade and investment liberalization as well as regional economic integration.

For his part, Luxon said that the traditional friendship between New Zealand and China is profound and the relations between the two countries are long-lasting and stable.

New Zealand has always adhered to the one-China policy, he said, adding that it is willing to enhance dialogue and exchanges with China and carry out cooperation in multiple fields, such as economy and trade, education, culture, tourism, environmental protection and agriculture, to better benefit the people of both countries.

While meeting with Brownlee, Zhao said that China is willing to work with New Zealand to strengthen multi-level exchanges and interactions among legislative bodies and strengthen communication and collaboration on multilateral platforms to promote the development of global governance in a more just and reasonable direction.

Brownlee said that New Zealand's Parliament is willing to enhance friendly exchanges with China's NPC and play an active role in promoting bilateral relations.

During his visit to New Zealand, Zhao attended the opening ceremony of a memorial museum in Christchurch honoring Rewi Alley, a dedicated New Zealander who helped build friendly relations between China and New Zealand. Zhao also visited a local family at Gilchrist Brothers Farm.

### **In Australia**

Zhao voiced China's readiness to promote the building of a more mature, stable and productive comprehensive strategic partnership with Australia during his official visit to the country from November 22-25 at the invitation of Australia's Speaker of the Senate Sue Lines and Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick.

Zhao met with Australia's Governor-General Samantha Mostyn and attended a working group and breakfast held by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra. He also held talks with Lines and Dick.

While meeting with Mostyn, Zhao said that under the strategic guidance of Chinese and Australian leaders, relations between the two countries have returned to a stable and positive development track in recent years.

The economic advantages of China and Australia are highly complementary and the foundation for practical cooperation is solid with broad prospects, Zhao said, adding that China is willing to work with Australia to deepen exchanges and cooperation across various fields, and promote the building of a more mature, stable and productive comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Mostyn said that Australia and China have carried out good cooperation in trade, culture, education and other areas, while bilateral relations have continued to deepen.

China will host the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2026, which is of great significance for upholding and advancing multilateralism, the governor-general said, adding that Australia looks forward to the success of the meeting.

Australia is willing to enhance cooperation with China in areas such as green infrastructure, energy transition, climate change and the protection of women's rights, Mostyn said.

During breakfast with Albanese, Zhao noted that China-Australia relations have turned around, with dialogue and cooperation in various fields restored and restarted, which has been widely welcomed and supported by people from all sectors in both countries.

There is no fundamental conflict of interests between China and Australia, Zhao said, pointing out that Chi-

na has always adhered to the path of peaceful development, pursued high-quality development and expanded high-level opening up.

China is willing to carry out mutually beneficial cooperation and share development opportunities with all countries, including Australia, he said, adding that it is necessary to consolidate and deepen cooperation in areas such as energy and mineral resources, scientific and technological innovation, digital economy and infrastructure.

The Chinese top legislator said that issues related to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xizang, Xinjiang and the South China Sea concern China's territorial sovereignty and core interests, and it is hoped that Australia will understand and respect China's position.

The current foundation for the development of Australia-China relations is sound, Albanese said, expressing Australia's commitment to strengthening cooperation with China and its support for China's hosting of the APEC meeting in 2026.

Trade between Australia and China has grown rapidly in recent years, and exchanges in tourism, education, culture and other fields help the younger generation experience different cultures and develop long-lasting friendships, the prime minister noted.

The Australian side is willing to maintain regular communication with the Chinese side and promote the continued stable development of bilateral relations, Albanese said.

While meeting with Lines and Dick, Zhao said China's NPC is willing to work with the Australian Parliament to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, enhance exchanges at all levels of the legislative bodies, leverage the strengths and advantages of the bodies' special committees and members, strengthen dialogue and exchanges, increase the stability and effectiveness of cooperation, and provide legal guarantees for practical cooperation between the two countries.

Zhao also briefed them on an overview of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, as well as the situation of China's opening up and expanding domestic demand in China.

He said the legislatures of the two countries could carry out exchanges and mutual learning on foreign-related legislation and create a favorable business environment.

Meanwhile, Lines said that exchanges and cooperation among legislative bodies are conducive to promoting the development of bilateral relations.

Dialogue is the key to the relations between the two countries and economic and trade cooperation is their foundation, she said, adding that a stable trade relationship is of great significance to both countries.

Australia welcomes Chinese investment and will en-



Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, meets with Australia's Governor-General Samantha Mostyn in Canberra, Australia, on November 24. Zhao paid an official visit to the country from November 22 to 25 at the invitation of Australia's Speaker of the Senate Sue Lines and Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick. *Li Xiang*

**China is willing to carry out mutually beneficial cooperation and share development opportunities with all countries.**

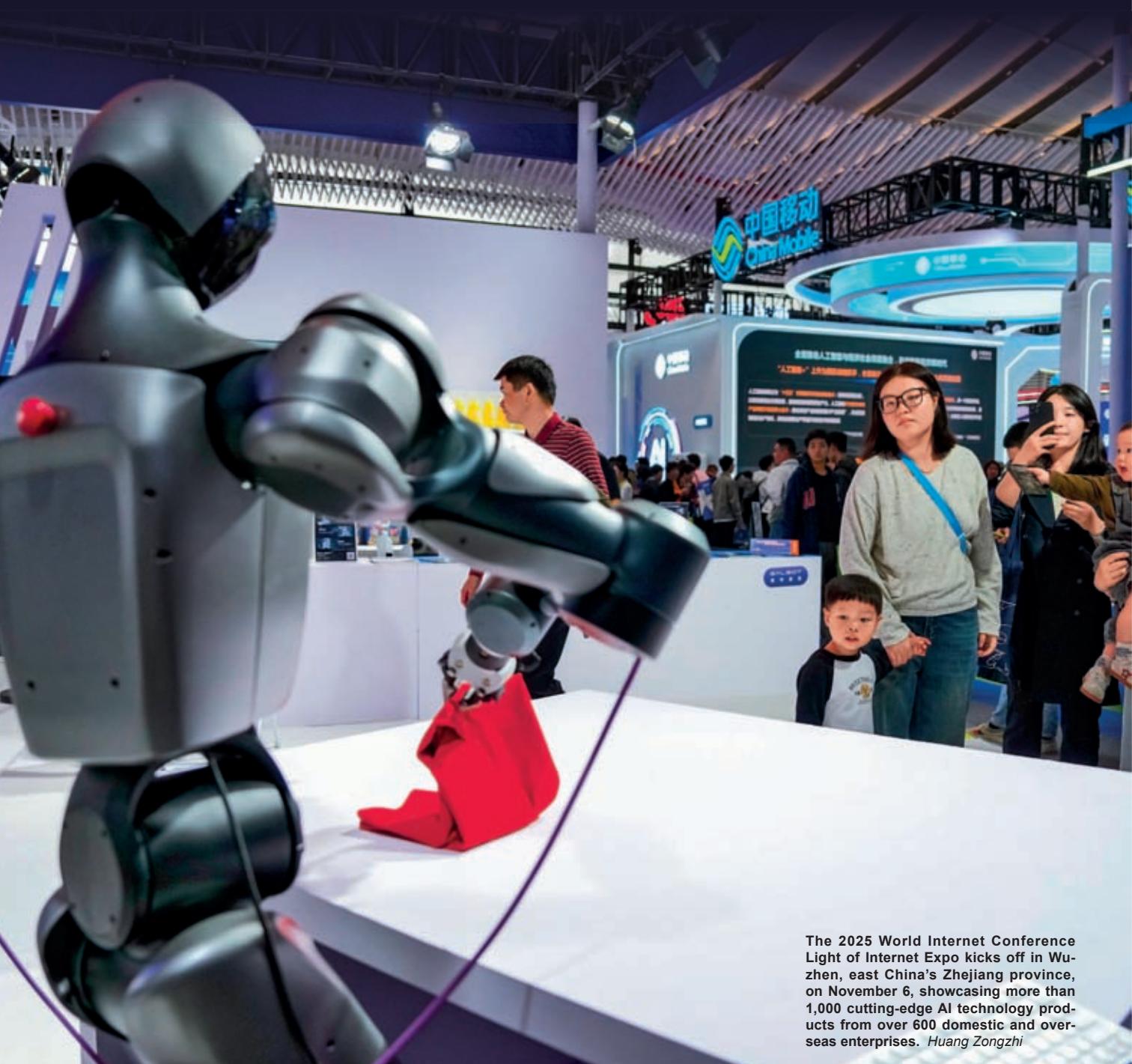
hance cooperation in areas of common interest, Lines added.

For his part, Dick said that the development of Australia-China relations has created more opportunities for bilateral trade.

Over the past two years, the legislative bodies of the two sides have maintained a good momentum of exchanges, with reciprocal visits taking place, he said, adding that he looks forward to the further development of Australia-China relations and exchanges, along with cooperation between their legislative bodies.

During his visit to Australia, Zhao also met with Premier of Queensland David Crisafulli in Brisbane, expressing his expectation to deepen local exchanges and cooperation and promote the development of bilateral relations. Zhao visited Arrow Energy, a Queensland-based producer of natural gas and electricity, with the hope to enhance economic, trade and investment cooperation between China and Australia, and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. (Xinhua) ■

# AI support at heart of cybersecurity revision



The 2025 World Internet Conference Light of Internet Expo kicks off in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang province, on November 6, showcasing more than 1,000 cutting-edge AI technology products from over 600 domestic and overseas enterprises. *Huang Zongzhi*

**C**hina's newly revised Cybersecurity Law, passed on October 28 by national legislators, will take effect on January 1, spelling out national support for basic artificial intelligence research and development while strengthening penalties for violations.

The amended law was approved at the 18th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing on October 28.

A newly added article states that the country supports basic theoretical research in AI and the development of key technologies such as algorithms. It also promotes the construction of infrastructure, including training data resources and computing power.

The revision also calls for improving AI ethics rules; strengthening risk monitoring, assessment and safety oversight; and promoting the application and sound development of AI. Additionally, the law encourages innovative cybersecurity management, including the use of AI and other new technologies, to raise protection levels.

An official with the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission said in a written reply to reporters on October 28 that the new AI-related provisions "actively responded to" practical needs in AI governance and development.

The newly revised law has also strengthened penalties for violations, particularly those resulting in large-scale data breaches or loss of functionality of critical information infrastructure.

Operators of critical information infrastructure who fail to fulfill cybersecurity protection obligations, resulting in "serious" or "particularly severe" consequences, could face fines ranging from 500,000 to 10 million yuan (\$70,000 to \$1.4 million).

These consequences include large-scale data breaches, partial loss of functionality of critical information infrastructure, or the loss of main functions, according to the amendment. If the main functions of critical information infrastructure are lost, the individuals directly responsible could face fines ranging from 200,000 to 1 million yuan. The previous version of the Cybersecurity Law did not specify these penalties.

The amended law also imposed stricter penalties for network operators who fail to take required measures against the dissemination or transmission of information prohibited by laws and regulations. Operators who do not stop such transmissions, eliminate the information or fail to keep relevant records or report to government departments will face fines ranging from 50,000 to 500,000 yuan.

In the event of "particularly severe" consequences, fines could range from 2 million to 10 million yuan. Related business or network services may be suspended, ordered to make rectifications or shut down, and business

## The law has set systems for network operation security, security of network products and services, protection of critical information infrastructure and online information security.

licenses could be revoked. Individuals directly responsible may face fines ranging from 200,000 to 1 million yuan.

China's Cybersecurity Law was first enacted in 2016. The October review was its second, with its first round of review conducted in September.

The NPC official said that as a foundational statute for the cybersecurity field, the law has set systems for network operation security, security of network products and services, protection of critical information infrastructure and online information security.

Since its implementation in 2017, the law has strongly curbed activities harmful to cybersecurity, resulting in an increasingly clear cyberspace, the official said. However, illegal actions such as network intrusions, cyberattacks and the spread of illegal content repeatedly occur, underscoring the difficulty of the task in safeguarding cybersecurity, the official added.

The new amendments refined liabilities for acts harming network operation security, product and service security, and information security, according to the written reply. They also enhanced coordination with the Data Security Law and the Personal Information Protection Law to improve the law's precision, effectiveness and consistency, it said. (China Daily) ■



The 2025 World Internet Conference Light of Internet Expo kicks off in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang province, on November 6, showcasing more than 1,000 cutting-edge AI technology products from over 600 domestic and overseas enterprises. Huang Zongzhi

# China fortifies public interest mechanism

**C**hina is moving to enshrine its decade-old public interest litigation system into law as part of efforts to strengthen legal oversight and modernize governance.

The nation's lawmakers reviewed a draft law on procuratorial public interest litigation, which was submitted to a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the national legislature, for its first reading on October 24. It marks the country's first comprehensive legislation devoted to this field.

"Enhancing public interest protection is a shared mission in global governance and a key task in China's modernization," said Yang Xiaochao, chair of the NPC's Supervisory and Judicial Affairs Committee.

He described the law as a step toward "timely and effective protection of national and social interests," while telling lawmakers that the proposed legislation would help consolidate institutional gains made since the system's

**"Enhancing public interest protection is a shared mission in global governance and a key task in China's modernization."**

launch in 2015.

The six-chapter, 53-article draft defines 14 existing categories of public interest litigation and adds two new ones—cultural heritage and national defense—reflecting the system's expanding reach. It also sets out rules on jurisdiction, investigation, trial and enforcement.

The draft requires prosecutors to first urge administrative agencies to perform their duties before filing a case and prohibits coercive measures such as restricting personal freedom or freezing assets during investigations. Citizens and social organizations are encouraged to provide leads and monitor case handling.

In July 2015, the NPC Standing Committee launched a two-year pilot program across 13 provinces and municipalities to explore public interest litigation.

In 2017, amendments to the Civil Procedure Law and Administrative Procedure Law included provisions for procuratorial public interest litigation, thereby integrating the role of procuratorial agencies in public interest protection into the legal framework.

Yang noted that several individual laws have included provisions for procuratorial public interest litigation in recent years, gradually expanding its scope.

However, the existing regulations are often general and fragmented, making it difficult to fully capture the unique characteristics and procedural needs of such litigation.

"Drafting a dedicated public interest litigation law aims to consolidate the mature practices and innovative institutional achievements of the past decade, addressing practical challenges more effectively," he said.

According to the Supreme People's Procuratorate, from July 2015 to September 2025, procuratorial agencies across the country handled over 1.22 million public interest litigation cases—including 1.1 million administrative cases against government departments—and over 122,000 civil cases.

Currently, 27 provincial-level Party committees and governments across the country have issued documents in support of procuratorial public interest litigation.

Additionally, 30 provincial-level people's congress standing committees have issued special decisions to strengthen such litigation.

The SPP has also established collaborative mechanisms with over 30 administrative law enforcement agencies to actively promote positive interaction between practical exploration and theoretical research. (China Daily) ■



Representatives of the juvenile protection team from Chongqing Municipal Procuratorate engage in an exchange with students at Weiming School in Chongqing, on March 20. Xinhua



Visitors sample local delicacies at a long street banquet event in Ciqikou ancient town, Chongqing, on October 5. Wang Quanchao

# Guardians of the meal: How the law secures China's food safety

China is in the midst of a culinary coming-of-age, as local dishes once known only within their provinces are now celebrated nationwide and online. The journey of these flavors—from the sweet-and-sour crisp of a sweet and sour pork cutlet from the northeast to the uniquely pungent and addictive broth of Liuzhou's river snail rice noodles in the south—has become a shared experience for millions. This vibrant food culture, a source of immense local pride and a driver of regional tourism, rests on a simple, non-negotiable foundation: trust.

Protecting this trust is where the warmth of the kitchen meets the rigor of the law. Since the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress in 2012, historic achievements have been made in the fields of food safety.

As part of this year's work plan, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) sent an inspection team

to review implementation of the Food Safety Law from May to September—its fourth such inspection, following those in 2009, 2011 and 2016.

Through these inspections, the focus has been on identifying critical and difficult issues affecting law enforcement and undermining public interests, thereby promoting targeted solutions and strengthening rectification efforts. By reinforcing food safety governance within a legal framework, the inspections fully demonstrate the NPC Standing Committee's strong commitment to food safety and its high priority on safeguarding people's health.

## Strict inspection

The Food Safety Law was promulgated and implemented in 2009 and underwent a comprehensive revision in 2015.



On September 19, the 10th China International Food & Catering Expo is held at the Changsha International Convention and Exhibition Center. An exhibitor (first from left) prepares a specialty food at the venue. Chen Sihan

Dubbed the “strictest in history,” the 2015 revised Food Safety Law fully institutionalized the requirements for the most rigorous standards, the strictest supervision, the severest penalties and the most serious accountability. This has played a significant role in promoting the healthy development of the food industry, ensuring food safety for the people, and advancing the Healthy China Initiative, which was launched in 2015 and outlines the country’s public health goals.

From May to September, the NPC Standing Committee’s inspection team was divided into three groups that conducted on-site inspections in six provincial-level regions: Heilongjiang Province, Shanghai Municipality, Jiangxi Province, Henan Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Gansu Province. Simultaneously, the people’s congress standing committees of six other regions—Tianjin Municipality, Liaoning Province, Anhui Province, Hubei Province, Guizhou Province and Qinghai Province—were entrusted to carry out inspections within their respective administrative areas. The inspection mission was led by Cai Dafeng, Tie Ning and Losang Jamcan, all vice chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee, who served as heads of the inspection team.

The inspection was conducted with comprehensive scope and extensive coverage, extending to entities and venues including food enterprises, online food trading platforms,

educational institutions, childcare and elderly care facilities, food safety monitoring and testing agencies, grassroots market regulatory offices, and import-export ports. They conducted randomized spot checks at community canteens, employee cafeterias, morning and night markets, as well as unannounced visits to highway service areas, small-scale food processing workshops and street vendors, enabling a thorough and systematic assessment of the law’s implementation in practice.

Public consultation and stakeholder input were integral. Multiple NPC deputies participated in the activities, with special invitations extended to students and parent representatives to express their views during dedicated symposiums. Inspectors also engaged directly with frontline workers to gain firsthand perspective and solicit feedback. A questionnaire on the implementation of the Food Safety Law garnered 488,200 valid responses, from which nearly 120,000 public recommendations were systematically collated. This approach embedded public opinion, popular will and collective insight throughout every stage of the inspection.

The inspection team concluded that as living standards rise, public expectations for food safety are also increasing. To meet evolving societal demands and address new challenges, a full-chain regulatory approach is needed, implementing strict requirements across all stages of food production, distribution, storage and consumption.

## Notable results

The inspection found encouraging results. For example, local governments across China have incorporated food safety performance into the comprehensive evaluation system for leadership teams and officials. They have adopted a multi-pronged governance approach with rigorous measures to strengthen full-chain regulation. Various departments have thoroughly implemented the Food Safety Law, enhanced supervision mechanisms, and continuously improved the regulatory and standard frameworks. Producer and operator accountability has been further reinforced, while collaborative social governance has advanced, maintaining a generally stable national food safety situation.

Standards have played a foundational role in this effort. The National Health Commission has formulated a series of regulations and established a multi-department, multi-domain standard review mechanism. To date, 1,693 national food safety standards have been issued, comprising over 20,000 indicators and covering more than 340 categories of commonly consumed foods. These interlinked standards span the entire food chain—from farmland to dining table—effectively enabling comprehensive oversight, raising safety levels and providing robust support for the development of the food industry.

Progress has also been made in local standard-setting. Regional authorities have established management systems for local food safety standards, set up review committees and actively developed localized standards. These efforts are contributing to the high-quality development of distinctive local food industries.

The relevant provisions in the Food Safety Law have greatly strengthened deterrence against violations. They include industry bans on responsible individuals in non-compliant enterprises, a mechanism allowing consumers to seek compensation from any operator in the supply chain, and fines of

## Multiple NPC deputies participated in the activities of the inspection, with special invitations extended to student and parent representatives to express their views during dedicated symposiums.

up to 30 times the illegal gains—collectively raising the cost of misconduct.

Moreover, market regulatory authorities have implemented stringent measures across the entire supply chain, covering staple foods such as grains, cooking oils, meat, eggs, dairy products, fruits, vegetables and tea. These measures include rigorous licensing and market entry controls, comprehensive supervision throughout production and distribution processes, and extensive sampling inspections to prevent non-compliant products from reaching consumers' tables. As a result, processed grain products, meat products, dairy items and other key categories have consistently maintained high pass rates in quality inspections for multiple consecutive years.

Faced with the massive scale of China's food market, which serves over 1.4 billion consumers and includes more than 30 million food production and operation entities, traditional supervision alone is inadequate. Digital technology has now become instrumental in strengthening accountability.

China has established a food safety risk monitoring network covering 99 percent of its counties. Technological innovations like electronic ear tags for hog farming and traceability codes for cold-chain foods enable item-level tracking through a “one item, one code” system. The national digital supervision platform integrates data from over 20 million market entities, while AI algorithms have improved the precision of targeted inspections by 40 percentage points. The “Internet plus transparent kitchen” initiative allows consumers to view live kitchen footage from approximately 3 million restaurants. All these demonstrate how digital solutions are building trust in food safety practices.

Despite the positive outcome, the inspection team emphasized integrating delivery and logistics services into the food safety regulatory system, strengthening safety management for shipments and online meal deliveries. This includes clarifying the responsibilities of all entities involved in delivery, as well as the roles of industry regulators and comprehensive supervisory departments. Such institutional innovations will help resolve key and persistent issues and address public concerns through systemic improvements.

The team emphasized the need to strengthen collaborative governance framework by further integrating government oversight, industry self-discipline and public supervision. This approach aims to engage all members of society as active participants in safeguarding food safety—from raising awareness to involvement in governance—collectively weaving a tighter and more efficient protective network that genuinely secures every step from farmland to dining table.(NPC) ■



Law enforcement officers from the Nanhu District Administration for Market Regulation in Jiaxing conduct a food safety inspection at a RT-Mart on January 14. Xu Yu



Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence (center) leads a Liberian delegation to visit the China Soong Ching Ling Science and Culture Center for Young People. Guo Feng

# ‘China’s development experience is worth learning from by other countries’

— Exclusive interview with Liberian Senate President Pro Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence

**N**yonblee Karnga-Lawrence, president pro tempore of the Liberian Senate, visited China and attended the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women from October 12 to 17, upon invitation from the Chinese side.

In an exclusive interview, she noted that China’s whole-process people’s democracy, with its distinctive features and unique advantages, offers valuable insights for the Liberian parliament in its legislative work.

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**You were invited to attend the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women and observe women's development projects in China. Could you please share your impressions?**

It is a great honor to represent Liberia at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, where I joined heads of state and government, parliamentary leaders and representatives from more than 110 countries and international organizations including the United Nations to discuss the blueprint for advancing global women's development. The meeting consolidated international consensus, mapped out a new blueprint and set a new milestone for achieving gender equality.

To further support the development of global women's cause, President Xi Jinping made a firm commitment: In the next five years, China will donate another \$10 million to UN Women; launch 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood programs with Chinese assistance that take women and girls as priority beneficiaries; and invite 50,000 women to China for exchange and training programs, among others. I hope Liberia will benefit from these initiatives soon.

Women are a crucial pillar of families and an important force in social development. Over the past 30 years, China has made significant progress and accumulated rich experience in poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and ensuring women's participation in social affairs, which provides valuable reference for Liberia.

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**In September 2024, the two countries established strategic partnership, ushering in a new chapter in China-Liberia relations. What are your expectations for deepening bilateral relations?**

Liberia has affirmed its adherence to the one-China principle through domestic legislation. As a parliamentary leader, I fully endorse this. During this visit, the Liberian delegation held talks with Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, in order to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and deepen bilateral ties.

Looking ahead, Liberia will work together with China to promote the common interests of all humanity.

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**Liberia is a participant and contributor to cooperation mechanisms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative. Could you share your views on promoting pragmatic cooperation between China and Liberia?**

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative have strongly promoted Liberia's economic and social development. China is a major development partner for Liberia. It has assisted Liberia in

building infrastructure projects such as hospitals, the parliament building, flyovers and highways and launched human resources training programs. Liberia highly values its cooperation with China and looks forward to more cooperation that is mutually beneficial and leads to win-win results.

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**At the 2024 Legislators Forum for Friendly Exchanges, you stated that achieving sustainable development requires long-term goals, a suitable development model, policy consistency, broad public participation and strong execution. Based on what you see during this visit, how would you comment on Chinese modernization?**

The Chinese people are united as a mighty force in advancing modernization, setting a model for other countries to learn from. China places great emphasis on the continuity and stability of development objectives in policy formulation and implementation, ensuring persistent and focused execution. At the Museum of the Communist Party of China, I gained a panoramic view of China's achievements in infrastructure and high-tech development through 3D visual displays, which profoundly impressed me.

At the China Soong Ching Ling Science and Culture Center for Young People, I observed that young people receiving education in history, culture and science are determined to contribute to the country's development. This indicates that the vision of realizing the Chinese Dream has been deeply integrated into the growth and educational system of the Chinese people.

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**You visited the deputy outreach and liaison office in Nanmofang township in Beijing's Chaoyang district. Could you share your views on China's whole-process people's democracy, especially democratic practices at the grassroots level?**

Grassroots participation is crucial for maintaining stability and promoting development. At the deputy outreach and liaison office in Nanmofang township, I was briefed in details on efforts to strengthen legislative services and improve platforms for the public to express their opinions. Currently, Liberia's parliament has similar legislative procedures but they need further improvement. In Liberia, we also lack regular and institutional channels for grassroots participation in decision-making. China's practice of incorporating grassroots opinions into the legislative process in a regularized and institutionalized manner is precisely the model we urgently need to learn from.

Therefore, I propose that the legislative bodies of Liberia and China further strengthen exchanges and cooperation, improve legislative mechanisms through mutual learning and enhance governance efficiency to improve people's well-being. (NPC) ■

# ‘China plays a significant role in promoting global women’s development’

## — Exclusive interview with Cambodian National Assembly President Khuon Sodary

**C**ambodian National Assembly President Khuon Sodary visited China from October 12 to 15 at the invitation of the Chinese side. In an exclusive interview, she said: “The Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women has ushered in a new chapter for the global women’s cause, and China plays a significant role in promoting women’s development worldwide.”

### How do you view the development of global women’s cause over the past 30 years? What is your take on the role and significance of the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women this year?

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and express my high appreciation to the Chinese government and the Chinese people for successfully hosting the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women. This meeting is not only a new milestone in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment globally, but also opens a new chapter in our joint efforts for women’s advancement.

In 1995, I had the privilege of attending the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the conference elevated gender equality to a universal value and a global priority, established common principles for integrating women’s affairs and gender equality into national development agendas and set key indicator systems.

In the past, countries implemented relevant policies in a fragmented manner. The birth of these two documents, which are of milestone significance, enabled us to move forward hand in hand and achieve common development.

Over the past three decades, significant progress has been made globally in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, achieving a critical transition from vision to action. China has played an important role in this process, not only by successfully hosting the World Conference on Women but also by continuously leading the world through multilateral cooperation and concrete actions.

The Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women is not only a grand commemorative event, but also one that establishes new common commitments. Participants at the meeting comprehensively showcased the achievements of women’s development over the past 30 years, jointly analyzed existing challenges and identified future directions. We need to enhance the effectiveness of our work with a new vision,

rallying forces under the guidance of the declaration and platform to achieve the grand goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

President Xi Jinping has proposed the important concept that “Women’s rights and interests are basic human rights,” which I deeply agree with. President Xi’s keynote speech at the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women was visionary, and his four-point proposal won broad acclaims.

I would like to reiterate the key points of his speech.

“Peace and stability are crucially important.” Women are among the most vulnerable in wars and conflicts. It is essential to jointly create an environment conducive to women’s development.

“High-quality growth.” Growth must focus on quality, ensuring that women equally benefit from globalization, digital transformation and the green revolution.

“Institutional reform for improved governance framework.” Women should be fully involved in education, health, politics and other sectors. Numerous examples have shown that women’s political participation can make a significant impact.

“Enhancing global cooperation.” Women should be empowered to take an active part in the development of the global governance system. Participants at the meeting fully appreciated the wisdom envisioned in his speech, and will comprehensively integrate the guiding principles into the roadmap for future cooperation.

### Over the past 30 years, especially in the new era, China has achieved historic progress in women’s development across many fields. How do you view such progress?

I need to make it clear that my remarks at this moment are not mere courtesies. The remarkable progress China has achieved in various fields is admirable—especially the profound development over the past century under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, which has amazed the world and stands as a miracle.

Among others, the country’s achievements in women’s development are particularly impressive. It is well known that promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment requires profound changes in mindsets, behaviors and social perceptions, which is a long-term and arduous process. China’s success in fostering broad recognition of women’s



Women representatives from various countries, who are in China to attend the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, visit the Women's Livestreaming Studio at the women and children's social service center in Shunyi district, Beijing, on October 14. Yan Linyun

social roles is undoubtedly a successful model.

During this visit, I witnessed the significant progress China has made in this regard. More than 44 million women in rural areas have been lifted out of extreme poverty; women's dignity and security have been strengthened under the legal framework; the proportion of female deputies to the National People's Congress has increased; and efforts have been made to effectively promote inclusive decision-making process. All in all, China has set an example for other developing countries.

**President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Governance Initiative at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tianjin Summit. Could you share your views and comments on this initiative?**

We highly appreciate the Global Governance Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping. It comes at the right time when the international rule of law is under strain, multilateralism is facing challenges, and the global governance system is in urgent need of improvement. The Global Governance Initiative is of great significance as it aims to make existing mechanisms more democratic, inclusive and just, while upholding a people-centered development philosophy.

The Global Governance Initiative, along with the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilizations Initiative, forms a complete framework to promote peace and progress and achieve people-centered governance.

It is not confined to the size of countries or the interests of specific groups; rather, it aims to benefit all humanity. The four initiatives align closely with Cambodia's national vision. We share the commitment to high-quality and inclusive development, and we have shared aspiration to build a peaceful and livable world without war and conflict, where everyone is able to enjoy the fruits of development.

**In your view, in which areas can China and Cambodia, as well as the legislative bodies of both countries, strengthen their cooperation?**

Cambodia and China enjoy long-standing friendship built on mutual respect and high-level political trust. In April of this year, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Cambodia. Both sides agreed to accelerate the building of an all-weather Cambodia-China community with a shared future in the new era. This positioning has profound significance, meaning that we firmly support each other under all circumstances.

The unbreakable, enduring friendship between our two countries serves as a model for international relations. The Cambodian National Assembly is committed to maintaining close cooperation with the National People's Congress of China.

The two legislative bodies have signed cooperation agreements and established comprehensive cooperation in multiple fields—Involving senior leaders, specialized committees, friendship groups of women parliamentarians and groups of young parliamentarians. This good tradition should be carried forward by both sides. (NPC) ■



Parliamentarians visit the China National Museum of Women and Children in Beijing. Courtesy photo

## 'She power' contributes to exchanges between legislative bodies

**O**n October 13-14, the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women was held in Beijing. It opened a new chapter in the global cause of women, injected new impetus into promoting global gender equality and women's all-round development, and contributed new strength to building a community with a shared future for humanity, Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature vision for global governance.

Building on the outcomes of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, the Seminar for Women Parliamentarians from African Countries, organized by the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, opened in Beijing on October 19. Tie Ning, vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. She said that China is ready to work with the partners to implement the outcomes of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women and the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation from the perspective of legislative bodies, enhance friendly exchanges between legislative bodies, strengthen experience-sharing on governance, improve the legal protection of women's rights and interests, and jointly build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Forty parliamentarians from eight African countries participated in the seminar in Beijing and visited four cities in Henan and Fujian provinces, further deepening their understanding of strengthening exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies to accelerate the development of the global cause of women.

The parliamentarians said that China, as a major country with global influence, has been actively promoting the cause of women and has many successful experiences in women's participation in political affairs and improving employment for women in rural areas, which are worth learning from by

African countries. They noted that the seminar offered a valuable opportunity for legislative bodies in Africa and China to deepen cooperation, and they looked forward to working together to further advance the global cause of women.

The parliamentarians were presented with books including the fifth volume of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China and compilations of the discourses of Xi on work related to women, children and women's federations. They noted that these works offer insights and serve as references for understanding the China's current development and future directions.

### Not just a women's issue

"Through sustained efforts, China has achieved remarkable progress in promoting gender equality and women's all-round development. More than 40 million rural women have worked their way out of absolute poverty, women's health conditions have greatly improved, their education levels have risen markedly, and they now enjoy equal political rights and participate equally in economic sectors—living fulfilling lives through engagement and contribution," Li Chunhua, an official with the NPC Social Development Affairs Committee, said during her address titled Leveraging the Power of Rule of Law to Safeguard Gender Equality and Protect Women's Rights.

Guo Ye, director of the Women's Studies Institute of China under the All-China Women's Federation, emphasized the need to persist with reform and innovation to address challenges related to women, children and family development; adopt a systematic approach to coordinate efforts in these areas; and uphold the rule of law to ensure steady and long-term progress in initiatives concerning women, children and families.

Wang Lihuan, a deputy to the People's Congress of Xicheng District in Beijing drew from her experience as a primary school principal and shared how the fundamental national policy of gender equality has become a warm glow illuminating every girl through China's systematic initiatives to empower women and daily educational practices. "Igniting 'she light' is not only a mission of education—it's a profound and steadfast commitment to the future of humanity," she remarked.

Parliamentarians engaged in in-depth discussions on topics such as the protection of women's rights, empowerment, policy formulation and legislative processes.

A Moroccan parliamentarian introduced that in 2011, Morocco's constitution strengthened women's decision-making roles in institutions such as parliament and government. "These advancements have enabled Moroccan women to actively engage in political life," she said. "We recognize that the journey toward gender equality remains long, and we must further increase the proportion of female parliamentarians in African legislatures, promote inclusive public policies, protect women's rights and ensure equal opportunities."

A Mozambican parliamentarian echoed, adding: "Promoting gender equality is not merely a women's issue but a cause that concerns all humanity. Only through collective participation can we build an inclusive, equitable and prosperous society where every citizen has equal opportunities for personal development." She affirmed that Mozambique will continue to collaborate with China and other international partners to accelerate the advancement of women's causes.

## Deepening cooperation

The recently proposed Global Governance Initiative, or the GGI, is the fourth landmark international initiative proposed by President Xi, following the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilizations Initiative. The GGI, put forward at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus Meeting in north China's port city of Tianjin on September 1, addresses a pressing need within the global community to find a more just and equitable governance system that embraces the emergence of Global South countries.

In a dedicated lecture, Zhou Taidong, vice president of the Center for International Knowledge on Development, highlighted that the ultimate goal of the GGI is to establish a more just, equitable and effective global governance system that serves all countries, particularly developing nations.

He Wenping, a researcher at the Institute of West-Asian and African Studies of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, focused on jointly building an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era, presenting the fruitful outcomes and broad prospects of this cooperation. "Face-to-face exchanges help enhance mutual trust. We must work together to ensure the steady and long-term progress of China-Africa cooperation," she noted.

During visits to China's technology companies and research institutes in Fujian, a Senegalese parliamentarian observed how China is committed to pragmatic, green and inclusive cooperation. "During our visits, we learned that

China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology actively shares technologies to developing countries, and companies like Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd., China's leading battery maker, demonstrate the country's achievements in green, low-carbon development," she said. "We view these experiences as models of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes and hope to deepen cooperation to accelerate our energy transition."

A Nigerian parliamentarian shared similar sentiments: "We deeply recognize that technology benefits humanity and showcases limitless possibilities. China's accomplishments in renewable energy, logistics and digital transformation provide valuable lessons for Africa's modernization process."

"No single country knows all the answers, but together we possess a wealth of solutions," said a Ghanaian parliamentarian.

## Addressing people's concerns

When visiting Zhengzhou City in Henan, parliamentarians learned how China's whole-process people's democracy works.

First put forward by President Xi in 2019, the concept of 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 democratic 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 well-being is prioritized in the decision-making process.

For example, at a people's congress deputy liaison station in the Weilai Road Sub-district in Zhengzhou's Jinshui District, local residents raise everyday concerns, such as illegal parking, transportation difficulties or noise from night markets, directly to the people's congress deputies through gathering sessions. These sessions allow deputies to listen, record issues and ensure each matter receives follow-up.

The "people-first" operation of China's grassroots people's congresses left a strong impression on a Burundi parliamentarian. She noted that, bolstered by the digital system, the platform enables rapid two-way communication between deputies and the public, which has effectively enhanced mutual trust. "This is a model worth learning from," she remarked.

During the seminar's closing session, parliamentarians from multiple countries expressed that they were not only deeply inspired by what they had seen but also profoundly motivated by what they had experienced. They voiced their hope to further deepen exchanges and mutual learning, expand practical cooperation, and promote legislative exchanges as a vital channel for enhancing mutual understanding and solidarity among their peoples. (NPC) ■

# Wang Qing pioneers green transformation of petrochemical sector

**W**ang Qing, a hydrotreating unit operator at Hebei Province's Cangzhou refinery of Sinopec, one of China's leading energy and petrochemical enterprises, has made remarkable strides in her career without having attended high school or university.

She distinguished herself by winning gold at Sinopec's skills competition in 2005. This achievement led to her being one of the first contract workers promoted to a full-time technician based solely on her skills.

Grounded in the challenging environment of refinery operations, Wang has thrived through relentless learning and hands-on experience. What began as a routine role as an operator transformed into an extraordinary career journey, culminating in her recognition as a Sinopec Master Technician—an honor reserved for the industry's elite.

Currently, Wang serves as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). She remains dedicated to the development of the industry and duties of NPC deputies, engaging with coworkers to address industry challenges and actively contributing valuable suggestions for development. Her 27-year journey from a frontline ordinary technician to a master of the craft exemplifies her commitment, resilience and leadership in the energy and petrochemical sector.

## Industry pioneer

Wang always believes that "Hard work leads to tangible results." To expand her expertise, she has explored technologies outside her own field, solving multiple technical challenges. Her achievements earned her honors such as the Hebei May 1 Labor Medal and Hebei Outstanding Contribution Technician. In 2025, she was named a Petrochemical Master by Sinopec, the only woman to receive the title that year.

With increasing automation and smart technology, traditional production environments are changing rapidly, posing new challenges for industrial workers. To address this, Wang established the Wang Qing Innovation Studio, leading a 28-member team to tackle production bottlenecks. They have solved over 20 technical issues, including extending catalyst lifespans and reducing pressure drops in heat exchangers, achieving provincial-level innovations, three utility model patents, and two first-place quality control (QC) awards.

In 2022, China introduced a new eight-tier skilled worker system. The new system expands the original five-tier structure (from Junior Worker to Senior Technician) by adding Apprentice at the lower end and introducing two advanced tiers—Special-Grade Technician and Chief Technician—creating an eight-level hierarchy. This revamped framework is complemented by a performance-based compensation mechanism. Designed to optimize skilled talent development, the reform



Wang Qing (center) shares her personal story and the guiding principles of the "Two Sessions" during a campus lecture. Courtesy photo

aligns competency evaluation more closely with socioeconomic needs.

Wang was among the first to be certified as a Chief Technician. "The country values skills and respects industrial workers. Companies also provide clear career paths—I went from an ordinary frontline worker to an NPC deputy, which is both an honor and a responsibility," she said.

## Honor and responsibility

As an NPC deputy in the energy sector, Wang focuses on green development. "Hydrogen energy is becoming a key strategic industry. Advancing hydrogen technology can accelerate green transitions and high-quality development in hydrogen transportation," she said. During the NPC annual session in 2024, she proposed building hydrogen corridors, a strategic infrastructure network designed to facilitate hydrogen-powered transportation along major traffic arteries, and standardizing hydrogen station regulations. These suggestions gained wide media attention and government responses.

Now in her third year as an NPC deputy, Wang continues to explore low-carbon solutions. "Biomass is the fourth-largest energy source after coal, oil and gas. Increasing its use can reduce oil dependence, support carbon neutrality and enhance energy security," she explained. At the NPC annual session in 2025, she advocated for faster development of bio-natural gas, calling for policy support, technological innovation and cost reductions to strengthen the industry chain.

"As a representative of modern petrochemical workers, I'll keep voicing grassroots concerns at the NPC and contribute to green, low-carbon development," she said. (NPC) ■

# Chen Shirong sows prosperity in his hometown

Born and raised in Wufu village, Doushan town, Taishan city, Guangdong province, Chen Shirong embarked on an unconventional journey after university—trading Guangzhou's bustling import-export business for muddy rice paddies in 2014.

"When I first returned to my hometown, a lot of people wondered why I left Guangzhou when things were going so well," Chen said. He noted that while the agricultural sector used to have low entry barriers, modern agriculture now demands higher standards and requires many "new farmers." "I believe there's great potential in returning home to start a business, taking root in the countryside, and help rural area thrive," he added.

Now, he is a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and head of the Green Rice Farm in Doushan. As a "new farmer" who embraces modern agricultural practices and technologies, with a focus on sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship, he works in the fields, cultivating rice, raising ducks and helping local farmers increase income. As an NPC deputy, he actively fulfills his duties and does his best to champion rural issues on the national stage.

## The new-age agriculturist

Taishan is celebrated as the "hometown of high-quality simiao rice," one of the best rice varieties in China. Yet many local farmers still cling to traditional practices, which usually feature lower productivity and greater resource inefficiency. "If I suddenly introduce them to new methods, they often struggle to accept the changes," Chen said. Determined to change this, he started his own farm, initially planting simiao rice on his family's modest 2-hectare plot. However, he soon realized that small-scale farming limited productivity.

Chen embraced technology as the key to scaling up: "For example, a sowing machine can plant 800-1,000 trays of seedlings in an hour—enough for 3.33 hectares—boosting efficiency fourfold." His vision was clear: invest in technology and adopt moderate-scale farming to enhance economic returns.

In 2018, he founded the Green Rice Farm, and with government support, he acquired modern machinery, achieving full mechanization in rice planting and processing. His farm expanded from 2 hectares to more than 33 hectares, creating over 40 temporary jobs for locals. Chen also established the Taishan Green Rice Ecological Agriculture Development Co., Ltd., providing services to over 667 hectares of surrounding farmland, while founding a cooperative that allows local villagers to invest their land and increase their income.

## A voice for the people

In 2023, Chen was elected as a deputy to the 14th NPC.



Chen Shirong (first from right) explains the agricultural production model. Courtesy photo

Drawing from his grassroots experience, he regularly visits villages to gather insights, ensuring that the voices of the people reach the NPC, the country's top legislature.

"Without farmers growing grain, how can we ensure food security?" he said, drawing from his years of experience. Recognizing the importance of stable food supplies, he proposed key recommendations for the high-quality development of the grain industry during the congress.

His suggestions, including strengthening rice seedling cultivation and promoting efficient farming methods like "rice-duck farming," were met with detailed responses from the Ministry of Agriculture of China. Rice-duck farming is an integrated, eco-friendly agricultural system where ducks are raised in rice paddies, creating a mutually beneficial relationship between crop cultivation and animal husbandry.

"We need to make sure that rice farmers' efforts are valued," he emphasized, advocating for initiatives that enhance agricultural quality and efficiency.

Chen continues to focus on food security and ecological agricultural development. He believes that integrating planting and breeding practices is essential for increasing agricultural efficiency and enriching farmers' lives. "We need to promote ecological circular models based on local resources," he advised, advocating for sustainable, resilient agricultural systems that benefit both the environment and local communities.

"Rice knows how to repay kindness; if you treat it well, it will treat you well in return," he shared. Chen has also been dedicated to inspiring young people to engage in rural work and pursue their dreams in the rural area.

Through his actions, Chen proves that striving in the countryside can lead to fulfilling dreams. With vision and determination, anything is possible. (NPC) ■

# Jia Liang bridges education and industry to forge skilled youth

Jia Liang knows the transformative power of skills better than most. “True mastery in any field comes from relentless practice—it’s the furnace that forges gold,” said the deputy to the 14th National People’s Congress (NPC), national role model worker, and deputy director of the Automotive Engineering Department at Anhui Fuyang Technicians College in Anhui Province. His journey from a migrant worker to a champion craftsman reads like a playbook for vocational excellence.

## Road to mastery

Fresh out of middle school in 2004, Jia began as an apprentice in an auto repair shop. Through years of grinding practice, he honed a masterful spray-painting technique that eventually earned him the national championship in panel beating and painting on the televised skill competition China’s Master Hands. Today, he holds the title of National-Level Skill Master in automotive metalwork and coating, and is celebrated as a “Jianghuai Distinguished Craftsman,” a provincial-level honor.

But Jia’s ambitions extended beyond personal mastery. Transitioning into teaching, he now leads a national-level master studio at Anhui Fuyang Technicians College that has funneled thousands of skilled graduates into auto manufacturers hungry for talent—many of whom have gone on to win prestigious skill awards.

## Better vocational education

Vocational education used to be seen as less prestigious than university education due to ingrained societal perceptions that equate success with academic degrees rather than hands-on skills. Historically, universities were reserved for the elite studying subjects like philosophy and law, while vocational training emerged from manual trades. This creates an enduring hierarchy that values white-collar work over blue-collar expertise. This bias was reinforced by the fact that university degrees typically lead to higher-paying managerial roles with greater social status, while vocational careers—though essential and often well-compensated—are viewed as fallback options rather than aspirational paths.

However, this perception is increasingly outdated as economies face critical shortages of technicians and craftspeople, proving that vocational skills are just as vital to society as theoretical knowledge.

“Vocational and regular education aren’t rivals; they’re complementary forces,” Jia asserted. “While traditional academics feed higher education, vocational training arms students with specialized skills to become the backbone of industrial development.”

This perspective gained legal weight when the revised Vocational Education Law of China, enacted on May 1, 2022, officially recognized vocational training as equally vital to con-



Jia Liang (first from left) discusses ways to enhance technical skills with students majoring in automotive engineering. Xu Yifu

ventional schooling.

The auto industry’s rapid evolution—with its driverless tech and AI revolutions—has only sharpened Jia’s mission. “As vehicles shift from labor-intensive to knowledge-driven manufacturing, our shortage of high-skilled workers is reaching crisis levels,” he warned. For three consecutive years, Jia has channeled frontline insights into NPC proposals. These include 2023’s call to integrate vocational and regular education (including adding master craftspeople courses to university electives), and 2024’s push for policies incentivizing corporate experts to teach in vocational schools and pass on their trade secrets and craftsmanship ethos.

By 2025, Jia’s factory floor research revealed an urgent need to dismantle barriers between schools and manufacturers. His latest NPC suggestion outlines a four-pillar strategy: leveraging technical colleges for talent pipelines, upskilling existing auto workers, boosting industry subsidies, and deepening school-enterprise collaboration.

“Anhui’s auto manufacturing cluster gives us the perfect testing ground,” Jia said, referencing this year’s Government Work Report emphasizing industry-education integration. “We need institutional frameworks where governments, firms and schools co-build platforms to precisely cultivate the skills the market demands.”

In 2025, he also tabled grassroots proposals on elderly care innovation, residential property management, and social media oversight—including repurposing underutilized urban spaces into neighborhood senior centers. “Seeing my proposals evolve from paper to progress is what makes this role meaningful,” the former apprentice turned policymaker said.

Whether discussing spray-painting techniques or senior care, Jia’s message remains consistent: “As a grassroots deputy who climbed from the workshop floor to the national stage, I’ll keep rooting my proposals in frontline realities.”

“Because when education and industry truly fuse, they don’t just build better cars—they build better lives,” he concluded. (NPC) ■

# Fang Nenglie improves irrigation facilities for local farmers

In south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, where water resources are abundant yet unevenly distributed, irrigation systems play a crucial role in ensuring farmers' productivity and income growth. However, in some areas, the aging water infrastructure poses a significant constraint on local agricultural development.

At this year's session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), Fang Nenglie, an NPC deputy and Party secretary of Leyong village in Jinling township of Nanning, capital city of Guangxi, called for greater support for construction of irrigation facilities in the region.

Over the years, Fang has led his fellow villagers in developing the honey pomelo business, significantly boosting their income and improving their livelihoods. However, a harsh reality struck the region recently as Guangxi faced widespread and persistent droughts, with rainfall dropping below average by as much as 30 to 70 percent. The land was parched and devoid of moisture, leaving the soil cracked and crops struggling to grow.

Witnessing farmers laboriously hauling water with tractors for irrigation, Fang felt a sense of unease. This inefficient method not only hampered productivity but also jeopardized yields.

As a village leader and an NPC deputy, Fang felt a profound responsibility towards his community. Through his extensive research, he discovered a glaring gap in irrigation coverage across Guangxi's vast agricultural lands.

More than half of the region's 48.9 million mu (3.26 million hectares) of arable land lacked proper irrigation, particularly in flatlands and hilly basin areas, leaving crops vulnerable to weather patterns. Fang felt an urgent need to improve the insufficient irrigation facilities.

According to Fang, "Building an agricultural powerhouse requires support for access to irrigation facilities. The Food Security Law emphasizes the importance of enhancing large and medium-sized irrigation systems, a pivotal aspect of ensuring food security."

At the annual NPC session in March, he submitted suggestions on supporting the development of pilot irrigation projects across Guangxi.

Envisioning irrigation zones as semi-artificial ecosystems with comprehensive water supply, distribution, irrigation and drainage systems, Fang highlighted the significance of establishing a network to counter droughts and manage excess water.

He urged the development of comprehensive irrigation systems tailored to Guangxi's topography, optimizing wa-



Fang Nenglie (first from left) and a village official check the growth of crops in the fields. Courtesy photo

**At the annual NPC session in March 2025, Fang Nenglie submitted suggestions on supporting the development of pilot irrigation projects across Guangxi.**

ter resources and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Fang called for construction of modern, green, efficient and clean large-scale irrigation zones in the region to uphold food security and enhance the production of crucial crops like sugarcane, by integrating modern technologies and long-term planning.

"Comprehensive irrigation is not just about digging channels; it's about ensuring every drop of water reaches the crops precisely where needed," Fang emphasized.

His notebook brimmed with dynamic data—by mid-May, the region had allocated 290 million yuan (\$40.21 million) for drought resistance, activated 27,551 drought-resistant wells and facilitated irrigation for over 13 million mu of farmland during the spring season.

Behind these numbers is Fang's deep-rooted passion for the farmland and his community. (NPC) ■

# Geng Funeng breathes new life into TCM with sci-tech innovation

**G**eng Funeng, chairman of Sichuan Good Doctor Panxi Pharmaceutical Co. in Xichang city, Southwest China's Sichuan province, has dedicated himself to the innovative development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Geng, also a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), has been a vocal advocate for the globalization and modernization of TCM.

At the annual NPC sessions, he has submitted over 40 suggestions, focusing on issues such as aligning Chinese patent medicine clinical trials with international standards, accelerating the development of ethnic medicines and promoting the global recognition of TCM.

These suggestions have received significant attention from relevant government departments, Geng said.

Having grown up in an environment that was steeped in TCM, Geng established a medicinal herb trading business in 1986. This venture laid the foundations for what would eventually become the Good Doctor brand, a name that resonates with the company's mission and values.

"Good Doctor is more than a name; it's a commitment," Geng said.

Under his leadership, the company has evolved into a major enterprise integrating scientific research, production and trade—ranking among China's top 100 pharmaceutical companies for 14 consecutive years.

"Our mission is to bring the benefits of TCM to the world," Geng said, adding that the goal must be underpinned by scientific innovation.

"We need to clearly articulate the efficacy of TCM using modern scientific language and tools," he said.

Over the years, Geng has spearheaded the establishment of multiple research platforms, investing significantly in the development of new and original pharmaceuticals, which led to 13 innovative drug projects and 12 generic drug projects. In collaboration with renowned universities, his company has conducted over 100 research and development projects at national and provincial levels.

Geng was elected an NPC deputy in 2013. Since then, he has conducted over 80 surveys focusing on poverty alleviation through promoting TCM-related business, innovation in medical science and technology, training of rural doctors, intellectual property protection and comprehensive rural revitalization.

What's more, he has submitted more than 130 suggestions to the annual NPC sessions and produced over 230,000 words of documents—diligently fulfilling his commitment to serving the people with utmost dedication.

"I am a grassroots deputy from Liangshan Yi autonomous



Geng Funeng (center) shows his fellow villagers how to cultivate medicinal herbs. *Courtesy photo*

**"Good Doctor is more than a name; it's a commitment," Geng declared.**

prefecture," he often says, with a deep emotional connection with his hometown.

Since 1996, he has led efforts to alleviate poverty through the cultivation of medicinal herbs in his hometown, employing a "company + Party branch + cooperative + base + farmer" model.

Currently, his company has achieved large-scale cultivation of over 65,000 mu (4,333 hectares) of medicinal herbs in the prefecture and in various regions across the country—improving the incomes of over 147,000 farmers.

Beyond his business endeavors, Geng has made substantial contributions to the education and healthcare sectors through philanthropic initiatives. He has established scholarships at 11 universities, supporting educational and sports development as part of the company's community outreach efforts.

"In nearly 40 years of business development, the core philosophy of 'being a good person, making good medicine' has been my guiding principle," Geng said.

"The company doesn't belong to any individual; it belongs to society. Such social responsibility is rooted in the genes of the Good Doctor," he added.

Geng said that he will remain committed to leading his group in enhancing its sci-tech innovation and promoting the global presence of TCM. (NPC) ■

# Chen Chunfang turns Green into Gold

Nestled in the Taihang Mountains in North China, the once-isolated Chegutuo village in Lingshou county of Hebei province has become a shining example of rural vitalization, thanks to the unwavering dedication of its Party secretary, Chen Chunfang.

In 2012, Chen, then a successful entrepreneur in the coal industry, decided to return to his hometown and serve as the village Party secretary, leaving behind his prosperous life in the city to focus on local development.

His decision puzzled many, who couldn't understand why someone who had made a fortune would return to such a remote and impoverished mountain village. Yet, Chen not only honored his commitment to the village over the years but also led the villagers on a path to prosperity.

Chegutuo, blessed with natural beauty and rich resources such as ancient tea trees and historical residences, once suffered from poor infrastructure that stifled development. Abundant crops and natural resources like kiwis, chestnuts and walnuts were often left to rot because they couldn't be transported to markets. Similarly, the village's potential for tourism also remained untapped, stymied by lack of access. A road was essential for its development, but the challenges felt insurmountable.

Upon assuming his role of the village's Party chief, Chen made building a road his top priority. In the face of the challenges, he invested his personal savings and even mortgaged his house to fund the project.

After two years, six months and 29 days of hard work, a 9.75-kilometer road was finally completed, connecting the village to the outside world. Impressed and grateful, the villagers acknowledged that Chen had achieved what once seemed beyond reach.

This milestone not only earned their respect for Chen but also ushered in immediate economic opportunities for the village.

In 2018, Chen was elected as a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC).

Chen's sense of responsibility extended far beyond infrastructure. When an elderly woman from a neighboring village faced a family crisis, she came to him for help, believing he was the only one who could help. "You are an NPC deputy, and I trust you," she told him.

Chen felt the weight of such trust and dedicated himself to improving people's lives and serving the people wholeheartedly.

Recognizing Chegutuo's stunning landscapes and its profound revolutionary heritage, Chen decided to capitalize on these resources by promoting green development and tourism to strengthen the collective economy.

He led efforts to develop eco-tourism and specialty industries, such as cold-water fish farming. He also expanded fruit tree cultivation, transforming traditional farming into profit-



Chen Chunfang (center) discusses plans for culture and tourism programs in the village with his colleagues. Courtesy photo

able ventures by bringing in experts to teach modern agricultural techniques.

Today, Chegutuo has transformed into a thriving community with a rich tourism industry. New guesthouses dot the landscape, and a prominent Tourist Center stands at the entrance to the village. Villagers now enjoy modern amenities like elevators and central heating in their new homes. Meanwhile, their old homes have been converted into charming homestays, further boosting the local economy.

The results are remarkable. From a meager income of less than 800 yuan (around \$112) in 2011, the village's per capita income has since risen to 15,000 yuan. Its collective tourism income has surpassed 400,000 yuan. Chegutuo has earned numerous accolades, being recognized as a National Key Village for Rural Tourism and a National Ecological Culture Village.

"The villagers elected me as their deputy. They feel comfortable sharing their heartfelt concerns with me, trusting me to voice them and find solutions together," Chen said. "I always bear in mind that I represent the utmost aspirations of my fellow villagers."

In addition to economic development, Chen actively advocates for policies to support rural vitalization and ecological conservation.

At the annual NPC sessions, he put forward suggestions on transforming ecological resources into economic growth, focusing on integrating natural beauty, rural charm and cultural heritage to build sustainable new industries, such as eco-wellness, Red tourism, and boutique accommodations. He also emphasizes strengthening collective economic growth to support vulnerable populations and improve public services.

Chen's goal is clear—to ensure that all villagers see a brighter future. He said: "We should leave no one behind on the path to common prosperity." (NPC) ■

# Hui Fenglian works as beacon of hope in education

**H**ui Fenglian, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and a Chinese language teacher—at Sixian county No.3 Middle School in Suzhou, East China's Anhui province, has dedicated 26 years of her life to the profession.

Her journey from classroom podium in Anhui to the Great Hall of the People in Beijing is marked by a deep-seated passion for education and unremitting commitment to her students.

Upon graduating from Anhui Normal University in 1999, Hui returned to her hometown and worked as a senior high school teacher, following in the footsteps of her father, a dedicated mathematics teacher.

"My father's steadfast devotion to his students has always been a source of inspiration for me," she said.

Hui's educational philosophy goes far beyond the traditional emphasis on exam scores. "Education should not solely focus on exam results, but also on the well-rounded development of students," she said.

She pioneered the Five-Minute Pre-Class Speech initiative to encourage students to speak on the topics of their choice at the beginning of each class. This has enhanced students' adaptability, communication skills and psychological resilience—areas in which students from smaller towns often feel disadvantaged when transitioning to university life.

Hui compares her students to young saplings, each growing at their own pace. "As long as we nurture them with care, they will all grow strong and flourish with endless possibilities," she said.

To Hui's students, Hui is not only a teacher but also a trusted friend. "Adolescence can be a confusing period and the lack of family companionship can lead to behavioral issues or even on-campus bullying," she said.

She emphasizes the importance of timely intervention in addressing the psychological difficulties of students, which if left unattended can lead to bigger problems like rebellion and depression.

In 2023, Hui was elected as a deputy to the 14th NPC. "This new role is not just an honor but a significant responsibility and mission," she said.

Over the past two years, she has actively fulfilled her duties by drawing on her frontline educational experience to address pressing issues such as the promotion of youth mental health, the cultivation of high-caliber teachers and the improvement of school learning environment.

Her survey on youth mental health indicates that psychological issues are appearing at younger ages, growing more common yet often going undetected.

"Some students' psychological difficulties are not immediately apparent or are deliberately hidden, which makes



Hui Fenglian (second from left) talks with her students. Courtesy photo

timely detection challenging," she said.

When attending the third session of the 14th NPC in March of 2023, Hui submitted suggestions on collaborative efforts of families, schools and society to improve the youth mental health. "We must strengthen prevention and early intervention in addressing such problems," she said.

She called for enhancing classroom efficiency to ease excessive academic burdens, improving parent-child communication and establishing comprehensive psychological education systems at schools.

"The mental health of young people is crucial not only for personal growth but also for social harmony. It's imperative that everyone takes this seriously and acts to safeguard their mental well-being," Hui said.

Hui also advocated enhancing the status of vocational education to broaden students' future opportunities. "We must promote vocational education and improve its quality to create a virtuous cycle," she suggested.

Recognizing the pivotal role of teachers, Hui suggested raising the qualification standards for the teaching profession to ensure that only those with both moral integrity and professional competence become educators.

She recommended incorporating psychological assessments into teacher appraisals to gauge personality and values and strengthen the quality of the teaching workforce.

Hui also called for concrete steps to improve teachers' welfare and expand their professional opportunities, so that more talented individuals are encouraged to the education sector.

"The trust of my students fuels my dedication to education, and the expectations of the people drive me to fulfill my duties as an NPC deputy," Hui said. (NPC) ■

# Lin Jiaru fully committed to agricultural modernization

**L**in Jiaru, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) from South China's Guangdong province, has made her own success story in transitioning from a media professional in the provincial capital Guangzhou to a "new farmer" who is fully dedicated to agricultural modernization in her rural hometown.

After graduating from university, Lin started working for a media organization in Guangzhou. Those days, her life was filled with all the hustle and bustle of city life, with a bright career path ahead. But a 2011 visit to her hometown of Wuyang township in Wuchuan city in Guangdong changed the trajectory of her life.

She recalled having very mixed feelings when she saw the vast stretches of neglected farmlands. "I grew up in the countryside and have a deep bond with the land. I feel a responsibility to contribute my part to rural revitalization," she said.

Motivated by this conviction, Lin gave up her well-paying job in Guangzhou and returned, investing her savings to establish Guangdong Dongnong Industry Co. Ltd., an agricultural enterprise focusing on rice cultivation and farm produce processing.

Since then, Lin—trading her business attire for a straw hat and a hoe—has devoted herself to promoting agricultural modernization and helping her rural communities achieve common prosperity.

"To stand out in the market, we must offer high-quality products," Lin said. She ensures strict quality control across all stages of production, following fully green production standards. Her company's brand, which applies to rice, rice noodles and vegetables, has won popularity among consumers.

In 2022, Lin worked with the Guangdong Agricultural Technology Promotion Center and established demonstration sites for a green farming model in western Guangdong, integrating the cultivation of high-end fragrant rice and *Tylorrhynchus*, a type of worm widely used for fishbait, thus improving both land productivity and ecological efficiency.

Under her leadership, the company has grown into a leading modern agriculture enterprise that is engaged in the research, cultivation, storage, processing and sales of high-quality grain crops.

Beyond the success of her own business, Lin has also helped more than 1,800 local households cultivate premium rice, raising farmers' average annual income per mu from 800 yuan (\$112) to 1,800 yuan.

In 2023, Lin was elected as a deputy to the 14th NPC. "To grow from an ordinary 'new farmer' into an NPC deputy reflects both the opportunity provided by the vast rural landscape and the trust placed by the people upon me," Lin said.

"I hope to revitalize this fertile land, ensure stable grain production and inspire more people to carry on the legacy of previous generations," she said. As an NPC deputy, she focuses on agricultural modernization and rural development and she has actively advocated for "stronger agriculture, more beautiful countryside and more prosperous farmers" in her hometown.



Lin Jiaru plants seedlings in the rice fields. Courtesy photo

Food security is a matter of fundamental national importance, and arable land is the lifeline of grain production.

At the annual NPC sessions, she submitted suggestions on strengthening the categorization of crop types for national arable land to safeguard the country's food security.

She also called for accelerating the development of the "high-end fragrant rice and *Tylorrhynchus*" green farming model, underscoring its effectiveness in rehabilitating abandoned farmland, upgrading low-yield fields, enhancing rice cultivation and fostering green agricultural growth. Her suggestion sparked widespread attention and discussions.

In addition to rural revitalization, Lin also pays close attention to grassroots social governance. She advocated promoting the "Fengqiao Experience"—a model of community-level social governance originating in Fengqiao town in East China's Zhejiang province—to enhance collaborative governance.

Her suggestion has received strong support from local Party committee and courts. In response, a joint mediation studio, with the participation of 28 departments including public security, procuratorate, court and market regulation, was established.

As of November 30, 2024, the studio had handled 2,234 conflicts and disputes of various types and successfully resolved 1,066 of them, involving over 40.41 million yuan. It has played a crucial role in maintaining grassroots social harmony.

Lin said that the people's courts should continue to collaborate with grassroots Party organizations, villagers' or residents' committees, mediation organizations and administrative organs to address minor disputes and neighborhood conflicts, enabling the public to have easier access to judicial services.

In Lin's view, rural revitalization is a grand and transformative undertaking requiring collective efforts. As an NPC deputy representing the grassroots, she is committed to fulfilling her duties, listening to farmers' voices and speaking up for them.

"Only by truly understanding what the people need can we better fulfill the duties of an NPC deputy and contribute to the country's economic and social development," Lin said. (NPC) ■

# Chen Liangyong seeks to bring Chinese-made precision tools to world stage

In the 1990s, Chen Liangyong's career took off at the subsidiary of China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation in Harbin after he graduated from Harbin University of Science and Technology. His relentless work ethic propelled him from a junior position to a company executive in just five years. He was sent to work in countries such as Canada and Indonesia, where he gained invaluable experience in international trade.

However, an international trade fair Chen attended fundamentally changed the course of his life.

At the fair, he witnessed a stark contrast that prompted him to make a resolve to craft precision tools made in China and make them a hallmark of quality and innovation.

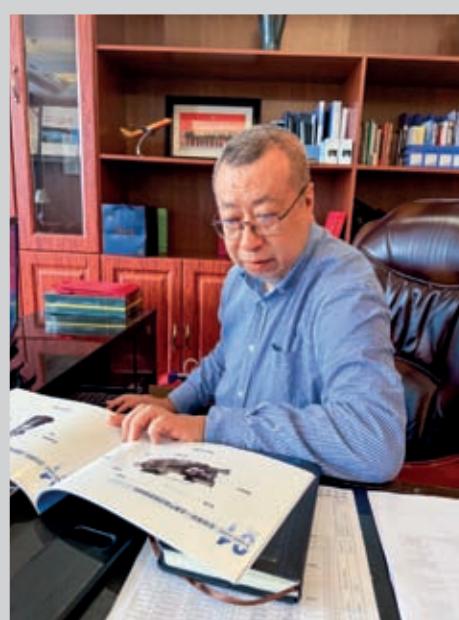
"The booths for German and Japanese cutting tools were swarming with buyers, while the Chinese booths remained quiet and unattended," Chen said. "At that moment, I said to myself that we must develop our own precision cutting tools."

Chen left his job at the state-owned organization in 2002, driven by a vision to craft world-class precision tools made in China. Teaming up with three professors from Harbin Institute of Technology, he embarked on the challenging task of developing long-and-thin carbide insert cutting tools.

The conditions were harsh. In a cold and drafty makeshift workshop, Chen and his team worked tirelessly. Their goal was clear—to solve the problem of tool welding deformation and ensure that Made in China products would one day attract long queues of international buyers.

After a year of experimentation and sleepless nights, the efforts bore fruit. The birth of Hanlin cutting tools marked a significant milestone, filling a gap in the domestic market.

Two years later, Hanlin products were exported to over 50 countries, generating over \$5 million in revenue. In 2005, the company expanded to a new 6,000-square-meter facility in the Harbin Economic and Technological Development Zone. In 2009, Hanlin secured a key project from the Ministry of Science and Technology, and broke Japan's monopoly in high-end woodcutting technology. China thus became the second country to master multi-composite metal tool technology—a



Chen Liangyong studies a tool design blueprint.  
Courtesy photo

move from trailing to setting the pace in the industry.

Today, more than 500 computer numerical control machines and robotic arms operate at high speed in Hanlin Technology's workshops, where over 300 staff work in an orderly manner. For Chen, technological advancement is endless and the needs of the nation are always his guiding compass.

In recent years, as China's strategy of military-civilian integration gained momentum, Chen seized the opportunity to transition from civilian to military products.

Despite the unprecedented challenges and significant investment in research and development, Chen did not hesitate: "This is not business—it is a mission!"

With this spirit of perseverance, Hanlin Technology became a supplier to several central state-owned enterprises, proving that private companies can also shoulder the responsibility of developing "national strategic equipment" with independent and controllable technologies.

In 2023, Chen was elected a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). This new role brought him a profound sense of responsibility—not only to further develop his enterprise, but also to become an advocate for the development of the private economy and talent retention in Northeast China.

Drawing from over two decades of entrepreneurial experience and in-depth surveys, Chen proposed his suggestions at the annual NPC sessions on some prominent issues—such as establishing a talent exchange platform for private enterprises and simplifying the professional titles evaluation system.

To address the frequent challenges faced by private companies, he championed streamlined government services that ensure policy benefits reach businesses directly.

As he plans to invest more in research and development, Chen is determined to propel more "Made in Heilongjiang" innovations onto the global stage.

As an NPC deputy, Chen remains committed to his mission to let more "Heilongjiang wisdom" serve national strategies and to enable more private enterprises to realize their value through high-quality development. (NPC) ■

# Geng Zunzhu drives rural development with vegetable greenhouses

With over 700 high-standard vegetable greenhouses, a daily production and sale volume of more than 50,000 kilograms of vegetables, and an average annual household income exceeding 200,000 yuan (\$27,700), Gengdian village, a once impoverished village in Liaocheng city in East China's Shandong province, is thriving with booming industries and a pleasant environment, where local residents enjoy increasingly prosperous lives.

This remarkable transformation is largely attributed to the visionary leadership of Geng Zunzhu, Party secretary of the village and a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC). Under his guidance, Gengdian has grown into a hub of agricultural innovation and economic prosperity.

In 2002, at the age of 36, Geng was elected as the village's Party secretary and the village committee head with nearly unanimous support from the 620 voters.

On the first page of his notebook, Geng wrote down his mandate: "To serve the villagers wholeheartedly, revitalize the local economy, and increase the income of the people."

At that time, the per capita annual income of Gengdian was less than 3,000 yuan: Houses were dilapidated, roads were muddy and difficult to travel, and most villagers were elderly.

Geng recalled: "Our only advantage lay in dozens of vegetable greenhouses." He embarked on a journey to transform Gengdian through the development of high-standard vegetable greenhouses.

The initiative began by consolidating scattered land parcels into a single, contiguous area to build high-quality vegetable greenhouses. Geng organized multiple visits to Shouguang—a major vegetable production base in Shandong—for learning advanced practices, including eight visits in 2002. He also invited technicians from Shouguang to guide the villagers in the cultivation of vegetables like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes.

That year, Gengdian achieved an impressive net income of 8,000 yuan per greenhouse, with the most successful one making 14,000 yuan. The success led to a rapid expansion, with the addition of over 100 greenhouses the following year.

"Modern facility agriculture can greatly expand the boundaries of agricultural production. It is a crucial path for rural areas to achieve poverty alleviation and prosperity," Geng noted.

The greenhouse industry in Gengdian village further flourished with the introduction of new technologies such as automatic roller machines and integrated water-fertilizer systems. The automation processes like watering, fertilizing and sowing reduced the labor burden while doubling efficiency, making farming more appealing to the younger generation. More young villagers, known as the "second-generation greenhouse farmers," decided to return home to start businesses.

To support them, Geng spearheaded the establishment of a professional cooperative for vegetable farmers to address various challenges. The cooperative set up a seedling nursery with



Geng Zunzhu checks the growth of cherry tomatoes inside a smart greenhouse. Courtesy photo

an annual capacity of 30 million seedlings, provided technical guidance during production and solved post-harvest sales issues by building a vegetable wholesale market within the village. Thanks to these efforts, villagers can handle everything from purchasing seedlings to selling vegetables locally.

To further encourage young people to return, Geng took the lead to improve infrastructure and services. Roads were paved, drainage systems installed, and power lines set up. New residential buildings, schools, nursing homes and parks were constructed, transforming the village into a community with a city-like atmosphere. "When both industry and family life improve, young people are willing to come back and stay," Geng said.

In 2021, the Liaocheng Rural Talent Training Academy was established in Gengdian to offer specialized training to farmers, marking a significant step in cultivating new professional farmers.

The village also established an entrepreneurship park for its "second-generation greenhouse farmers," complete with a registered trademark and a produce safety testing center. A platform integrating vegetable production, quality control and industrial chains has been in place to ensure traceability of the vegetables and facilitate their entry into major supermarkets in cities like Beijing and Jinan, capital of Shandong province. Some of the new generation farmers can earn an annual income of over a million yuan.

In 2018, Geng was elected as an NPC deputy. He harbored a strong desire to uplift neighboring villages, enabling them to share in the prosperity brought by industrial growth and rural revitalization.

"One village becoming prosperous does not mean true pros-

perity. Those who get rich first must help others get rich as well." With this vision, in 2021, Gengdian joined forces with 10 neighboring villages to form Gengdian New Village, with Geng as the Party secretary. This collaboration aimed to explore a development model of regional linkage and shared prosperity.

Today, the new village boasts over 1,000 mu (66.67 hectares) of high-standard farmland, 500 mu of orchards and has expanded its greenhouse cultivation area from 1,600 mu to over 3,000 mu. It has also supported five nearby towns and 26 economically disadvantaged villages in establishing 183 "common prosperity greenhouses."

As a dedicated NPC deputy, Geng remains committed to addressing grassroots issues in rural areas. His efforts in proposing improvements in rural elderly care, preschool education and medical services have garnered attention and appreciation from various government departments.

"As an NPC deputy, I should have a broader vision to effectively address issues of widespread social concern and those strongly voiced by the people," he said.

As a member of the NPC's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, he actively engages in training sessions, surveys and

supervision activities to gain deeper insights of rural areas, agriculture and farmers.

With the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy and the structural reforms on the agricultural supply side, Geng found that building strong agricultural brands has become a crucial way to enhance the added value of agricultural products, increase market competitiveness and promote farmers' income growth.

At the NPC annual session in 2025, he submitted suggestions on accelerating the branding of agricultural products, attracting attention from relevant departments.

"I often remind myself that I am not only a rural official, but also an NPC deputy who must speak the truth and do practical work for the people," Geng said.

Over the years, he has submitted more than 30 suggestions to drive rural development, covering various fields such as rural roads, cable management, grain storage and talent cultivation.

With a vision for the future, Geng pledges: "I will dedicate myself to making agriculture a promising industry, farming an attractive profession and rural areas beautiful homes where people can live and work happily" (NPC) ■

## Govt departments work with NPC deputies to promote whole-process people's democracy

Many government departments have implemented various measures to enhance their communication with deputies to the National People's Congress, China's top legislative body, in an effort to address concerns and promote whole-process people's democracy, according to a report reviewed by the NPC Standing Committee.

The report, detailing the handling of suggestions and opinions raised by NPC deputies, was submitted to the 19th session of the NPC Standing Committee on December 22.

It revealed that deputies to the 14th NPC submitted a total of 9,160 suggestions during the third full session of the 14th NPC held in March, with an additional 150 proposals after the plenary meeting closed.

To ensure effective handling of these suggestions, a number of governmental and judicial departments have intensified their interactions with deputies to gain a deeper understanding of their perspectives, the report noted.

Among them, the Ministry of Finance engaged with deputies approximately 5,100 times and gathered around 2,100 opinions while processing proposals. Similarly, the State Taxation Administration selected some suggestions from deputies, collecting feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of their responses through personal visits and follow-up phone calls.

In addition, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology invited deputies to participate in forums with manufacturing enterprises and organized roundtable meetings with small and

medium-sized enterprises. The ministry also sent magazines and materials to deputies on a monthly basis to keep them informed about industrial growth and progress in handling suggestions.

Moreover, some departments, such as the National Healthcare Security Administration and the National Medical Products Administration, have utilized information platforms to ensure that all feedback on proposals is promptly uploaded online, making it more accessible to deputies.

While enhancing exchanges with deputies, the report also emphasizes that some authorities have taken steps to address the issues raised, thereby facilitating the implementation of whole-process people's democracy throughout the suggestion-handling process.

For instance, in response to proposals, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has established a technical committee for humanoid robots and developed high-quality industrial data sets in key areas like steel and petrochemicals, aiming to accelerate the industrialization of technologies such as next-generation power batteries and automotive chips.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs has secured funding and centralized care services for economically disadvantaged elderly individuals with disabilities, and revised regulations on the management of child welfare institutions to provide better care, support, and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. (China Daily)

# On China's system of recording and review

By Yan Dongfeng

The system of recording and review of normative documents is a constitutional oversight mechanism with Chinese characteristics. It is an important institutional arrangement to ensure the implementation of the Constitution and laws and to uphold the unity of the rule of law in the country. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has elevated the system and capacity for recording and review to a strategic level in better implementing the Constitution and conducting constitutional oversight, making new plans and setting new requirements. At present, a recording and review system for normative documents—characterized by division of responsibilities, coordination and linkage among Party committees, people's congresses, governments, the military, supervisory commissions, courts, and procuratorates—has gradually taken shape and continues to improve.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) attaches great importance to the work of recording and review, continuously advancing the system and practice in line with the times, and achieving new progress and results.

First, it has successively amended the Legislation Law and the Supervision Law, and adopted the Decision on Improving and Strengthening the System of Recording and Review, thereby establishing and consolidating the fundamental institutional framework of the recording and review system, providing a solid legal foundation for advancing this work in a comprehensive manner.

Second, since 2017, the NPC Standing Committee has for eight consecutive years heard and deliberated on reports of the Legislative Affairs Commission on the work of recording and review, and it has publicly released more than 120 typical cases, thus promoting transparency in the recording and review process and fostering the spirit of the rule of law.

Third, adhering to the principle that all normative documents must be recorded, it has continuously expanded the scope of recording, promoting the establishment of the National Database of Laws and Regulations and provincial-level databases for local regulations, rules, and normative documents.

Fourth, upholding the principle that all recorded documents must be reviewed, it has strengthened review efforts through various approaches such as review upon request, proactive review, special review, transferred review and joint review, while exploring the use of standards such as the principle of proportionality.

Fifth, it has advanced constitutional review in a proactive and prudent manner, promptly urging rectification of provisions that are inconsistent with the Constitution's stipulations, principles or spirit, and upholding constitutional and legal principles such as all citizens are equal before the law, non-retroactivity of laws and the principle that each person bears responsibility solely for their own crimes, thereby safeguarding social fairness and justice.

Sixth, it has maintained a strict rectification mechanism to ensure that errors are corrected whenever identified. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, more than 26,000 normative documents have been revised or repealed by the issuing authorities under the guidance and supervision of the NPC Standing Committee, effectively safeguarding the authority of the Constitution and laws as well as the unity of the rule of law.

Seventh, following a people-centered approach, it has actively practiced whole-process people's democracy by continuously broadening channels for the public to express their concerns and safeguarding the lawful rights and interests of the people.

Eighth, it has intensified theoretical research and public communication, encouraging cooperation between local people's congresses and universities to establish research institutions for recording and review, and supporting academic research and curriculum development in this field, thereby expanding its social influence.

China's system of recording and review is deeply rooted in the country's own legal practice and has been continuously improved along with the progress of Chinese modernization. It embodies distinctive Chinese characteristics and features.

The recording and review system is closely related to the Constitution and serves as an important constitutional oversight mechanism with

Chinese characteristics, as well as a key instrument for the NPC Standing Committee to strengthen constitutional supervision. According to the Constitution, no law, administrative regulation or local regulation shall be in conflict with the Constitution; accountability must be enforced for all acts that violate the Constitution or laws. The Standing Committee of the NPC has the authority to annul any administrative regulation or local regulation that contravenes the Constitution or laws. These constitutional provisions form the foundation of China's system of recording and review.

When carrying out recording and review, the Standing Committee of the NPC conducts not only legality reviews of normative documents such as regulations and judicial interpretations, but also constitutional reviews.

In recent years, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee has focused on advancing constitutional review in the work of recording and review. It has conducted constitutional reviews of the custody and education system, promoting the initiation of legislative procedures to abolish the system; properly addressed issues such as the cross-regional deployment of procurators in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws; and examined and addressed constitutional and Constitution-related issues concerning measures of collective liability imposed on close relatives of persons involved in criminal cases, the promotion of the use of the national common language and characters in ethnic regions, and employment restrictions on persons involved in criminal cases. These practices in recording and review have laid a solid foundation for exploring a constitutional oversight system with Chinese characteristics.

The recording and review system is closely linked to the system of people's congresses and is an important institutional mechanism for people's congresses at all levels to fulfill their legal supervision duties. The State, relying on the people's congress system, has established a supervisory framework over "the government, the supervisory commissions, the people's courts and the people's procuratorates". Within this framework, the supervision of normative documents formulated by "the government, the supervisory commissions, the people's courts and the people's procuratorates" through recording and review by the NPC constitutes a key legal oversight mechanism. Establishing and improving the recording and review system, continuously advancing its work, and resolutely rectifying unconstitutional or illegal normative documents are essential requirements for properly maintaining, improving, and operating the system of people's congresses.

The recording and review system is also closely related to the Chinese approach to democracy and constitutes an important part of implementing whole-process people's democracy. The Legislation Law, Supervision Law, and relevant decisions stipulate that if citizens or organizations believe that laws or judicial interpretations are conflicting with the Constitution or other laws, they may submit a written recommendation for review to the NPC Standing Committee, which is then examined by the working organs of the Standing Committee. This arrangement is an important institutional safeguard to ensure the public's right to know, participate, express views and supervise the work of State organs, and is a crucial institutional guarantee for practicing whole-process people's democracy. Practice has proven that the recording and review system, when effectively implemented, provides the public with an important legal channel to protect their lawful rights and interests.

The 20th National Congress of the CPC and the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee both emphasized the need to improve the recording and review system. The coming period will be critical for further promoting the implementation of the Constitution and constitutional oversight and for constructing and shaping a constitutional oversight and recording and review system with Chinese characteristics. Efforts should continue to focus on the development and capacity building of the recording and review system, with the core goal of improving the quality of recording and review. Through innovative practices, the system of constitutional oversight with Chinese characteristics can be continuously improved, producing new quality and effectiveness in recording and review work and opening up new prospects. (NPC) ■

(The author is Director of the Regulatory Recording and Review Office, Legislative Affairs Commission, National People's Congress Standing Committee)



文化圣地 齐鲁天堂

# FRIENDLY SHANDONG REMARKABLE SHANDONG

