

# NPC



ISSUE 3 · 2018

《中国人大》对外版

National People's Congress of China



## ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT TO MAKE SKIES BLUE AGAIN

ISSN 1674-3008



9 771674 300185

09

# 十三届全国人大常委会



# 第四次会议联组会议



A joint inquiry into a report on the implementation of the Air Pollution Control Law, part of the session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on July 10. Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presided over the meeting and delivered a speech. *Wang Ye*



# 2018年中非合作论坛北京

## The 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Co

### Sommet de Beijing 2018 du Forum sur la Coopération Sino

3-4 September 2018

2018年9月3-4日

3-4 Septembre 2018



## 6 Work together for common development and a shared future

# Contents

### FOCAC

**6**  
Work together for common development and a shared future

**12**  
Tangible results

### Special Report

**16**  
Chairman Li meets Russian Federation Council speaker

**18**  
Top legislator inspects, promotes work of people's congresses

### Supervision

**22**  
Top legislature adopts resolution on environmental protection

**23**  
A joint inquiry meeting held on air pollution control



**24**

Enhanced law enforcement to make skies blue again

**26**

NPC inspection report shows improved infectious disease prevention, control

**27**

Lawmakers speak highly of infectious disease prevention, control law enforcement

### Inter-Parliamentary Exchanges

**28**

NPC Vice-Chairman demands stronger inter-parliamentary exchanges for better achievement of SDGs

# 峰会 operation -Africaine



**18** Top legislator inspects, promotes work of people's congresses



**30** China adopts e-commerce law to improve market regulation



**38** China's reform picks up speed in new era

ISSUE 3 · 2018

## Legislation

**30**  
China adopts e-commerce law to improve market regulation

**32**  
Tax law revised to pave way for social equity

## Focus

**34**  
Civil code draft: Building a better society

## Reform and Opening Up

**38**  
China's reform picks up speed in new era

**40**  
A fishing village becomes an economic juggernaut

**41**  
A China perceived over 40 years

## Belt and Road

**42**  
Belt and Road lifts off

**45**  
Xinjiang's hearts, minds open up to Silk Road

COVER: The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) holds an extraordinary session on air pollution control from July 9 to 10 as apart of efforts to improve people's wellbeing by making the skies blue again. VCG



General Editorial

Office Address: 23 Xijiaominxiang,  
Xicheng District Beijing  
100805, P.R.China

Tel: (86-10)6309-8540  
(86-10)8308-3891

E-mail: zgrd@npc.gov.cn

ISSN 1674-3008

CN 11-5683/D

Price: RMB35

Edited by The People's Congresses Journal  
Published by The People's Congresses Journal

Printed by Beijing Zhong Ke Printing Co., Ltd. in China

# Work together for common development and a shared future

**Keynote Speech by Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China  
At the Opening Ceremony of the 2018 Beijing Summit  
Of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation  
Beijing, September 3, 2018**

Your Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,  
Your Excellency President Paul Kagame, chairperson of  
the African Union,  
Distinguished heads of State and government,  
Distinguished heads of delegation,  
Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, secretary general of  
the United Nations,  
Your Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson  
of the AU Commission,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Friends,

September has just set in Beijing, bringing with it refreshing breeze and picturesque autumn scenery. And we are so delighted to have all of you with us, friends both old and new, in this lovely season for the reunion of the China-Africa big family at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and in my own name, a very warm welcome to all of you, dear colleagues and guests. I also wish to extend, through you, the best regards and cordial greetings of the Chinese people to the brotherly people of Africa.

I wish to mention in particular that since the Johannesburg Summit, FOCAC has had three new members, namely, the Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe and Burkina Faso. Today, we are joined by President Barrow, Prime Minister Trovoadia and President Kabore and their delegations. Let us welcome them with a warm round of applause!

Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Over a month ago, I paid my fourth visit to Africa as the Chinese President, which was also my ninth visit to this land of great promise. During the last visit, I once again saw an Africa that is beautiful and richly endowed, that is full of dynamism in development, and I learned about first-hand the African people's ardent hope for a better future. I concluded

the visit even more convinced that Africa's development has great potential, that this great continent is full of hope, that China-Africa friendship and cooperation have broad vistas, and that China and Africa can forge an even stronger comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership!

As an ancient Chinese scholar once observed, "Only with deep roots can a tree yield rich fruit; only filled with oil can a lamp burn brightly." History follows its own rules and logic. With similar fate in the past and a common mission, China and Africa have extended sympathy to and helped each other throughout all the years. Together, we have embarked on a distinctive path of win-win cooperation.

Marching on this path, China has followed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests. China has stood with African countries. Together, we have worked in unity and forged ahead.

-- China values sincerity, friendship and equality in pursuing cooperation. The over 1.3 billion Chinese people have been with the over 1.2 billion African people in pursuing a shared future. We respect Africa, love Africa and support Africa. We follow a "five-no" approach in our relations with Africa: no interference in African countries' pursuit of development paths that fit their national conditions; no interference in African countries' internal affairs; no imposition of our will on African countries; no attachment of political strings to assistance to Africa; and no seeking of selfish political gains in investment and financing cooperation with Africa. We hope this "five-no" approach could apply to other countries as they deal with matters regarding Africa. For China, we are always Africa's good friend, good partner and good brother. No one could undermine the great unity between the Chinese people and the African people.

-- China pursues common interests and puts friendship first in pursuing cooperation. China believes that the sure way to boost China-Africa cooperation is for both sides to leverage its respective strength; it is for China to complement



President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech titled “Work Together for Common Development and a Shared Future” while attending the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 3. *Liu Weibing*

Africa’s development through its own growth, and it is for both China and Africa to pursue win-win cooperation and common development. In doing so, China follows the principle of giving more and taking less, giving before taking and giving without asking for return. With open arms, we welcome African countries aboard the express train of China’s development. No one could hold back the Chinese people or the African people as we march toward rejuvenation.

-- China takes a people-oriented approach in pursuing practical cooperation with efficiency. With top priority given to the interests of Chinese and African peoples, China advances its cooperation with Africa to improve the well-being of Chinese and African peoples and deliver more benefits to them. We will fully honor the promises we have made to our African brothers. Faced with new developments and challenges, China will continue to improve institution building, develop new ideas and expand areas of cooperation with Africa to bring our cooperation to greater heights. Ultimately, it is for the peoples of China and Africa to judge the performance of China-Africa cooperation. No one could deny the remarkable achievements made in China-Africa cooperation, not with their assumption or imagination.

-- China takes an open and inclusive approach to cooper-

ation. China is fully aware that long-term stability, security, development and invigoration for Africa is not only the longing of the African people; it is also the responsibility of the international community. China stands ready to work with other international partners to support Africa in pursuing peace and development. China welcomes and supports all initiatives that meet Africa’s interests, and believes that it should be the same with the wider international community. No one could stand in the way or obstruct international efforts to support Africa’s development.

Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Our world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century: the surging trend toward multi-polarity, economic globalization, IT application and cultural diversity, accelerated transformation of the global governance system and international order, rapid rise of emerging markets and developing countries, and greater balance in global power configuration. The well-being of people in all countries has never been so closely intertwined as it is today.

On the other hand, we also face challenges unseen before. Hegemony and power politics persist; protectionism and



The Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 3. President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech titled “Work Together for Common Development and a Shared Future” at the opening ceremony of the summit. *Liu Weibing*

unilateralism are mounting; war, conflicts, terrorism, famine and epidemics continue to plague us; security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional, remain as complex and interwoven as ever.

However, we are firm in our conviction that peace and development remain the underlying trend of our times. Indeed, they are the call of the times. The international community should take our historical responsibility and respond to the call of our times with solidarity, vision, courage and a sense of mission.

-- To respond to the call of the times, China takes it its mission to make new and even greater contribution to mankind. China will work with other countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind, forge partnerships across the world, enhance friendship and cooperation, and explore a new path of growing State-to-State relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation. Our goal is to make the world a place of peace and stability and life happier and more fulfilling for all.

-- To respond to the call of the times, China is ready to

jointly promote the Belt and Road Initiative with international partners. We hope to create new drivers to power common development through this new platform of international cooperation; and we hope to turn it into a road of peace, prosperity, openness, green development and innovation and a road that brings together different civilizations.

-- To respond to the call of the times, China will get actively involved in global governance and stay committed to the vision of consultation, cooperation and benefit for all in global governance. China has all along played its part in promoting world peace and development and upholding the international order. We call for increasing the representation and voice of developing countries in international affairs and support efforts to strengthen the South, a weak link in the global governance system, as well as efforts to create synergy in South-South cooperation. We will continue the efforts to make the global governance system better represent the will and interests of the majority of countries, especially developing countries.

-- To respond to the call of the times, China will remain committed to opening-up. Facing uncertainty and unpredict-



ability in global growth, China will continue to grow an open economy for win-win cooperation, and it will embrace an open world economy and the multilateral trading system and reject protectionism and unilateralism. No one who keeps himself in isolation on a single island will have a future.

Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

To quote a Chinese saying, “The ocean is vast because it rejects no rivers.” China, the world’s largest developing country, and Africa, the continent with the largest number of developing countries, have long formed a community with a shared future. Indeed, we share a common stake. China will work with Africa to achieve our shared goal of building a closer China-Africa community with a shared future and turn it into a pacesetter for building such a community for mankind.

First, let us build a China-Africa community with a shared future to assume our joint responsibility. We could increase political and policy dialogue at various levels, enhance mutual understanding and support on issues involving each other’s

core interests and major concerns, and boost coordination on major international and regional issues. Such efforts will enable us to uphold the common interests of China and Africa as well as other developing countries.

Second, let us build a China-Africa community with a shared future that pursues win-win cooperation. We could both seize the opportunity created by the complementarity between our respective development strategies and the major opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative. We need to see to it that the Belt and Road Initiative and the AU Agenda 2063, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development programs of African countries better complement each other. With these efforts, we could expand areas of cooperation, unlock new cooperation potential, consolidate our traditional areas of cooperation, and foster new highlights of cooperation in the new economy.

Third, let us build a China-Africa community with a shared future that delivers happiness for all of us. Making lives better for our people is what we aim to achieve in growing China-Africa relations; so we need to make sure our cooperation delivers real benefits to us both in China and in Africa. Mutual help and solidarity is what has defined China-Africa relations over the years. Going forward, China will do more to help Africa alleviate poverty, pursue development, increase employment and income, and better the lives of its people.

Fourth, let us build a China-Africa community with a shared future that enjoys cultural prosperity. Both China and Africa are proud of our splendid civilizations, and we are both ready to make greater contributions to promoting cultural diversity in the world. By enhancing exchanges, mutual learning and harmonious co-existence of our civilizations, we will inject lasting impetus into invigorating our civilizations and cultures, enriching our artistic creations, and provide rich cultural nourishment for China-Africa cooperation. With more people-to-people exchanges in culture and art, education, sports, and between our think tanks, the media, and women and young people, we will strengthen the bond between the people of China and Africa.

Fifth, let us build a China-Africa community with a shared future that enjoys common security. People that have gone through adversity value peace most. China champions a new vision of security featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We firmly support African countries and the African Union as well as other regional organizations in Africa in solving African issues in the African way, and we support the African initiative of “Silence the Guns in Africa”. China is ready to play a constructive role in promoting peace and stability in Africa and will support African countries to strengthen their independent capacity for safeguarding stability and peace.

Sixth, let us build a China-Africa community with a shared future that promotes harmony between man and nature. The Earth is the only place which we mankind call home. China will work with Africa to pursue green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable development and protect our lush mountains and lucid waters and all living beings on our planet. We will strengthen exchange and cooperation with Africa on climate change, clean energy, prevention and control of desertification and soil erosion, protection of wildlife and other areas of ecological and environmental preservation. Together, we could make China and Africa beautiful places for people to

live in harmony with nature.

Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the 2015 FOCAC Johannesburg Summit, China has fully implemented the ten cooperation plans adopted at the Summit. A large number of railway, highway, airport, port and other infrastructure projects as well as a number of economic and trade cooperation zones have been built or are under construction. Our cooperation on peace and security, science, education, culture, health, poverty reduction, and people-to-people interactions has deepened. The US\$60 billion financing pledged by China has been either delivered or arranged. These ten cooperation plans have brought huge benefits to the African and Chinese peoples. They have fully demonstrated the creativity, rallying power and efficiency of China-Africa cooperation, and lifted China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership to new heights.

To build an even closer China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, China will, on the basis of the ten cooperation plans already adopted, launch eight major initiatives in close collaboration with African countries in the next three years and beyond.

First, China will launch an industrial promotion initiative. We have decided to open a China-Africa economic and trade expo in China; we encourage Chinese companies to increase investment in Africa, and will build and upgrade a number of economic and trade cooperation zones in Africa. We will support Africa in achieving general food security by 2030, work with Africa to formulate and implement a program of action to promote China-Africa cooperation on agricultural modernization. We will implement 50 agricultural assistance programs, provide RMB 1 billion of emergency humanitarian food assistance to African countries affected by natural disasters, send 500 senior agriculture experts to Africa, and train young researchers in agri-science and entrepreneurs in agri-business. We will support Chinese companies in Africa to forge alliance of corporate social responsibilities. We will continue to strengthen cooperation with African countries in local currency settlement and make good use of the China-Africa Development Fund, the China-Africa Fund for Industrial Cooperation and the Special Loan for the Development of African SMEs.

Second, China will launch an infrastructure connectivity initiative. We have decided to jointly formulate a China-Africa infrastructure cooperation plan with the African Union. We will support Chinese companies in participating in Africa's infrastructure development by way of investment-construction-operation or through other models, with focus on enhancing cooperation on energy, transport, information, telecommunications and cross-border water resources. We will work with Africa to undertake a number of key connectivity projects. We will support Africa in developing the Single African Air Transport Market and open more direct flights between China and Africa. We will facilitate bond issuance by African countries and their financial institutions in China. On the basis of following multilateral rules and procedures, we will support African countries in making better use of financing resources of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and the Silk Road Fund.

Third, China will launch a trade facilitation initiative. We

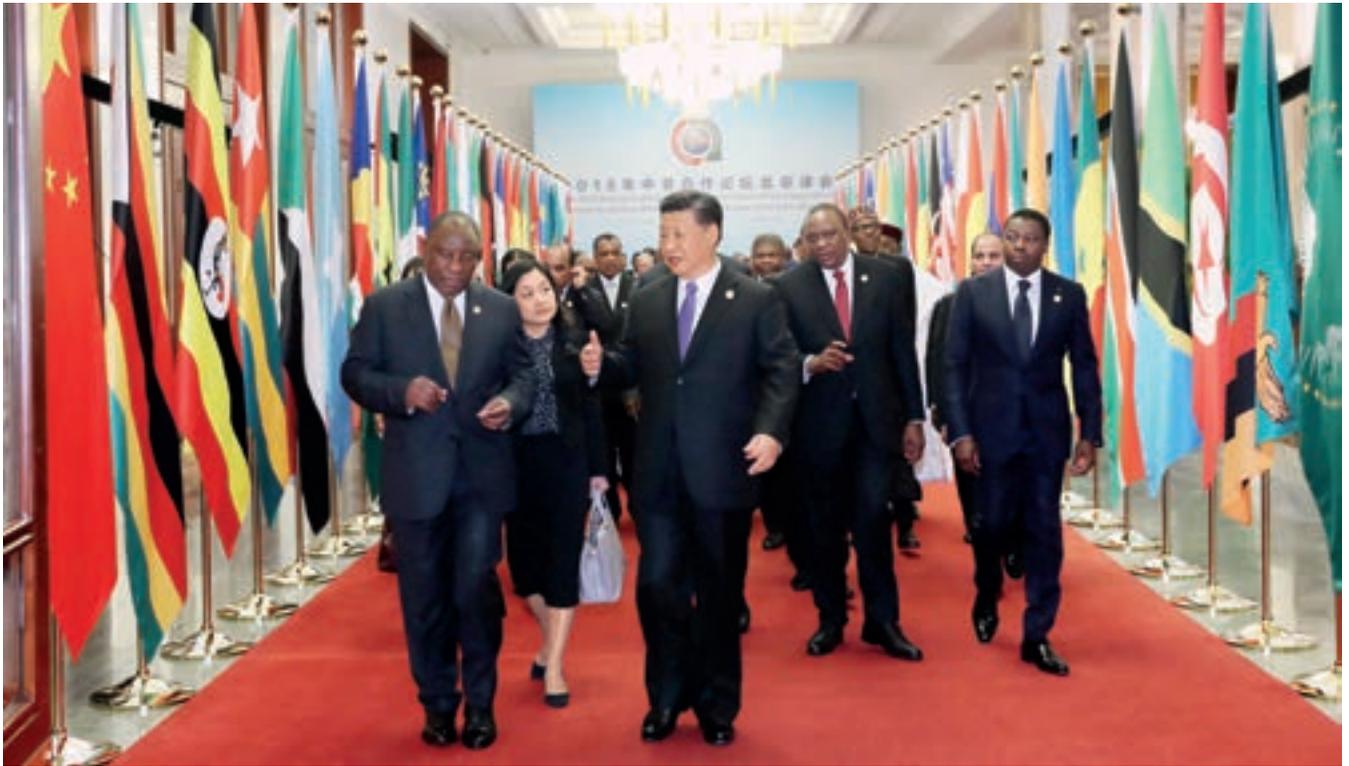
have decided to increase imports, particularly non-resource products, from Africa. We support African countries in participating in the China International Import Expo. The least developed African countries participating in it will be exempted from paying exhibition stand fees. We will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation on market regulation and between customs authorities, and implement 50 trade facilitation programs for Africa. We will hold, on a regular basis, marketing activities for Chinese and African brand products. We support the building of the African Continental Free Trade Area and will continue to hold free trade negotiations with interested African countries and regions. And we will set up relevant mechanisms to promote e-commerce cooperation with Africa.

Fourth, we will launch a green development initiative. We have decided to undertake 50 projects for green development and ecological and environmental protection in Africa to expand exchanges and cooperation with Africa on climate change, ocean, desertification prevention and control, and wildlife protection. A China-Africa environmental cooperation center will be set up, and more policy dialogue and joint research on environmental issues will be conducted. The China-Africa Green Envoys Program will be implemented to strengthen Africa's human capacity for environmental management, pollution prevention and control, and green development. A China-Africa bamboo center will be established to help Africa make bamboo and rattan products. China will also work with Africa to raise public awareness of environmental protection.

Fifth, we will launch a capacity building initiative. China will share more of its development practices with Africa and support cooperation with Africa on economic and social development planning. Ten Luban Workshops will be set up in Africa to provide vocational training for young Africans. China will support opening of a China-Africa innovation cooperation center to promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship. A tailor-made program will be carried out to train 1,000 high-caliber Africans. China will provide Africa with 50,000 government scholarships and 50,000 training opportunities for seminars and workshops, and will invite 2,000 young Africans to visit China for exchanges.

Sixth, we will launch a health care initiative. China has decided to upgrade 50 medical and health aid programs for Africa, particularly flagship projects such as the headquarters of the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention and China-Africa Friendship Hospitals. Exchange and information cooperation will be carried out on public health. Cooperation programs will be launched on the prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases, schistosomiasis, HIV/AIDS and malaria. China will train more medical specialists for Africa and continue to send medical teams that better meet Africa's needs. More mobile medical services will be provided to patients for the treatment of cataract, heart disease and dental defects. And targeted health care services will be provided to women and children of vulnerable groups in Africa.

Seventh, we will launch a people-to-people exchange initiative. China decided to establish an institute of African studies to enhance exchanges with Africa on civilization. The China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Plan will be upgraded. Fifty joint cultural, sports and tourism events will be



President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders attending the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation head for the venue of the summit's opening ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 3. *Pang Xinglei*

organized. China welcomes Africa's participation in the Silk Road International League of Theaters, the Silk Road International Museum Alliance and the Network of Silk Road Art Festivals. A China-Africa media cooperation network will be established. More African culture centers will be opened in China and more Chinese culture centers in Africa. Qualified African educational institutes are welcome to host Confucius Institutes. More African countries are welcome to become destinations for Chinese tour groups.

Eighth, we will launch a peace and security initiative. China decided to set up a China-Africa peace and security fund to boost our cooperation on peace, security, peacekeeping, and law and order. China will continue to provide military aid to the AU, and will support countries in the Sahel region and those bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Guinea in upholding security and combating terrorism in their regions. A China-Africa peace and security forum will be established as a platform for conducting more exchanges in this area. Fifty security assistance programs will be launched to advance China-Africa cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and in areas of law and order, UN peacekeeping missions, fighting piracy and combating terrorism.

To make sure that these eight initiatives are implemented on the ground, China will extend \$60 billion of financing to Africa in the form of government assistance as well as investment and financing by financial institutions and companies. This will include \$15 billion of grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans, \$20 billion of credit lines, the setting up of a \$10 billion special fund for development financing and a \$5 billion special fund for financing imports from Africa. We encourage Chinese companies to make at least \$10 billion of

investment in Africa in the next three years. In addition, for those of Africa's least developed countries, heavily indebted and poor countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries that have diplomatic relations with China, the debt they have incurred in the form of interest-free Chinese government loans due to mature by the end of 2018 will be exempted.

Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The future of China-Africa relations lies in our young people. Many of the measures in the eight initiatives I just outlined are designed to help young people in Africa. These measures will provide young Africans with more training and job opportunities and open up more space for their development. Last October, I wrote back to the exchange students of the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development. Most of them were from Africa. I encouraged them to make the best of what they have learned, aim high, and keep working hard to promote China-Africa cooperation and South-South cooperation. I believe they have new roles to play and new accomplishments to make in this regard.

"The red rising sun will light up the road ahead." I am confident that the baton of China-Africa friendship will be passed from one generation to the next and that China and Africa, working together, will build an even more vibrant community with a shared future. The day will surely come when the Chinese nation realizes its dream of national renewal and Africa realizes its dream of unity and invigoration!

Thank you. ■

# Tangible results

## FOCAC Beijing Summit pledges a community with a shared future and an empowered Africa

By Laurence Coulton and Wen Qing

President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech to the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which promised to support the future development of the African continent.

FOCAC was founded in 2000 as a platform for China and participating African nations to conduct collective discussions and consultations on matters pertaining to areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

The Beijing Summit was attended by the leaders of 53 African countries, three more than the last iteration convened in Johannesburg in 2015, with Gambia, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Burkina Faso all newcomers to this year's event. Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres and Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat were also present.

In his speech, Xi promised to support African development with \$60 billion of financial support over the next three years and beyond, and sounded a robust response to critics of Chinese engagement with Africa by clarifying the terms by which it operates.

"No one could hold back the Chinese people or the African people as we march toward rejuvenation," Xi said.

### 'Five-no' approach

Xi was keen to emphasize the mutual nature of China's relations with Africa in contrast to those between the continent and the former imperial powers that once ruled it, many of whom have become occasional critics of Sino-African ties.

"China has followed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests. China has stood with African countries. Together, we have worked in unity and forged ahead," Xi said, outlining the set of principles underpinning Chinese involvement with countries on the continent.

"We follow a 'five-no' approach in our relations with Africa: no interference in African countries' pursuit of develop-

The roundtable meeting of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 4. Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the African co-chair of the forum, chaired the two-phase roundtable meeting respectively. *Li Tao*



ment paths that fit their national conditions; no interference in African countries' internal affairs; no imposition of our will on African countries; no attachment of political strings to assistance to Africa; and no seeking of selfish political gains in investment and financing cooperation with Africa," he said.

According to Li Wentao, deputy director of the Institute of African Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, the five-no approach is an upgraded and extrapolated version of China's policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries with which it cooperates.

"Xi further clarified China's stance in its cooperation with African countries in direct response to international misunderstanding about the nature of the Sino-African relationship," Li said.

Despite historically close ties between African nations and their former colonial rulers in the years since independence swept the continent in the middle of the 20th century, decades of aid programs sponsored by Western governments have failed to register a significant impact on the continent's development.

Shou Huisheng, a researcher with the National Strategy Institute of Tsinghua University, explained that the political conditions of Western aid to Africa stifle the autonomy and internal motivation of development. This "fatal aid," Shou said, makes African countries the target of aid rather than subjects for development by binding them in obeisance to their Western donors.

Conversely, Li said, it is precisely because of the similari-



ties in the histories of China and many countries in Africa—primarily agricultural developing nations whose development was forestalled by foreign invasion and rule—that the two sides are able to understand each other better.

“China, the world’s largest developing country, and Africa, the continent with the largest number of developing countries, have long formed a community with a shared future,” Xi said.

And there are indications that the Chinese approach is working, winning the backing of people on the ground in Africa. According to a survey by Afrobarometer, a pan-African, non-partisan research network, 63 percent of respondents across 35 African countries saw China’s economic and political involvement as positive, while just 15 percent considered it negative in some way.

The figures are even more compelling in the parts of sub-Saharan Africa that have already benefited from investment in infrastructure under the Belt and Road Initiative, with some countries registering a positive response of almost 90 percent.

Africa’s leading political figures also took the opportunity to highlight the merits of Sino-African ties. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, taking to the stage after Xi, described FOCAC and Sino-African cooperation as focused on the tangible improvement of the quality of lives of all the people in Africa.

“In the values that it promotes, in the manner that it operates and in the impact that it has on African countries, FOCAC refutes the view that a new colonialism is taking hold in

Africa, as our detractors would have us believe,” he said.

Rwandan President and Chairperson of the AU Paul Kagame also stressed the health and productivity of the relationship between China and Africa.

“Africa is not a zero-sum game; our growing ties with China do not come at anyone’s expense. Indeed, the gains are enjoyed by everyone who does business on our continent,” he said.

In a further demonstration of good faith and China’s intent to facilitate real progress in Africa, Xi also announced the waiving of debt for countries in particular need.

“For those of Africa’s least developed countries, heavily indebted and poor countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries that have diplomatic relations with China, the debt they have incurred in the form of interest-free Chinese Government loans due to mature by the end of 2018 will be exempted,” Xi said.

## **\$60-billion promise**

For many observers, the most significant outcome of the Beijing Summit was China’s support plan for the continent over the next three years and beyond.

In his speech, Xi promised to “extend \$60 billion of financing to Africa in the form of government assistance as well as investment and financing by financial institutions and companies.”

According to Xi, this will take the form of \$15 billion in grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans, \$20 billion

of credit lines, the setting up of a \$10-billion special fund for development financing and a \$5-billion special fund for financing imports from Africa, with investment from Chinese companies to make up the final \$10 billion.

According to Li, the \$15 billion will be used to improve the livelihood of African people through the construction of libraries, stadiums and other public facilities, while the \$20-billion credit lines will be deployed according to the market landscape, tapping areas and industries with high potential throughout the continent.

A large part of the financing will go toward the construction of infrastructure such as roads, ports, airports and railways. This will form an infrastructure network which will contribute to the interconnectivity of African countries, according to He Rui, an assistant researcher with the China Institute of International Studies.

“This is just the first stage of Chinese investment in African development. When the continent is connected, Chinese investment can then be directed toward more advanced industries to facilitate Africa’s industrialization,” He said.

“The \$60 billion of financial support indicates China’s confidence, sincerity and determination to enhance future bilateral ties with African countries,” said Li Dan, director of the African Studies Center at the China Foreign Affairs University.

Li Dan drew parallels with China’s pledge at the Johannesburg Summit. In 2015, China also committed \$60 billion in support of African development and has either implemented or arranged the use of these funds despite the vicissitudes of the international landscape. According to Li Dan, it is a symbol of China’s friendship with and commitment to the African people that Xi has promised the same level of financial support in spite of the economic uncertainties affecting the world.

The \$60 billion of financial support is expected to be used to launch eight major initiatives in close collaboration with African countries over the next three years and beyond.

“The initiatives meet the needs of both sides, especially those African countries eager to achieve industrialization,” said Li Wentao. “China and Africa are highly complementary. China is rich in capital, technology and manufacturing capacity, all of which are necessary for African countries in the

early stages of industrialization.”

Agricultural development is crucial to the industrial progress of Africa. “Agricultural modernization is vital to some African countries still struggling to feed their populations, and modern farming is a symbol of an industrialized society,” said Li Wentao. In addition to providing 1 billion yuan (\$150 million) of emergency humanitarian food assistance, China will send 500 senior agriculture experts to Africa and train young researchers and entrepreneurs in agricultural sciences and business.

“China is also attaching great importance to capacity building through the transfer of knowledge,” said Li Wentao, so as to provide African countries with the human resources to promote their own autonomous development. China will continue to offer training opportunities, including the establishment of 10 Luban Workshops to provide vocational training for young Africans, a tailor-made program to train 1,000 African professionals and 50,000 government scholarships.

China’s knowledge transfer practices are welcomed by many in Africa. “A lot of my friends are coming here and getting education and taking back what they know to their local communities, so that they can transfer that knowledge back to the country,” said Selamawit Kassa, an Ethiopian journalist reporting from the media center for the summit in Beijing.

University programs are crucial in this regard. Statistics from the Chinese Ministry of Education show that the number of African students in China surged from 1,793 in 2003 to 49,792 in 2015, and in 2014, China surpassed the UK and the United States as a preferred destination of study for African students looking abroad, a sign that young Africans are becoming more aware of what they can learn from China.

## The road ahead

The Beijing Declaration and the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan adopted on the final day of the summit suggest that the world is entering an era defined as much by the developing world as by traditional global power brokers, with the relationship between China and Africa now the cornerstone of South-South cooperation.

Yet, despite a fraternal relationship dating back to the 1950s, there remain some barriers to the success of China-Africa ties.

He Rui believes that the key to the immediate success of the pledges made by Xi lies in guaranteeing that funds are used both effectively and scientifically to effect inclusive development with benefits that reach the African people.

“In the years since the 2008 financial crisis, there has been a pessimistic feeling among the international community toward African development. But recently, there has been a surge in optimism, partly due to the fruitful outcomes of Sino-African cooperation,” he said.

The figures indeed show good cause for positivity. According to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, the total value of trade between China and Africa rose by \$205.5 billion between 2000 and its peak in 2014, despite an inevitable dip in 2009 in the wake of global financial turmoil.

Yet the numbers also reveal a potential obstacle to bilateral trade. Chinese exports to Africa stood almost level with its imports from the continent in 2014, but by 2016 a noticeable deficit had emerged. In 2015, China’s exports to Africa were



Passengers pose for photos at the Nairobi railway station in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on June 1. The China-funded Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway is estimated to have boosted the African country’s GDP by 1.5 percent and have provided nearly 50,000 jobs to locals. *Wang Teng*



The Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 3. *Liu Weibing*

more than 50 percent higher than its imports, and while this gap narrowed in 2016, it did so as a result of a decrease in China's exports rather than a significant increase in the import of African goods.

There are signs that a resolution to this issue is already well underway and China's economic restructuring, along with sustained focus on investment in infrastructure, training, knowledge transfer and commercial investment, can not only boost the number of enterprises producing goods which are competitive in overseas markets such as China, but also create new jobs, opportunities and wealth for a generation of

African youth.

"We still need more jobs because Africa has a lot of youth and unemployment rates are still very high in African countries. So I expect more investment and I expect more jobs from Chinese companies, to actually see win-win cooperation between Africa and China. Knowledge transfer is the key and capacity building is very important," said Selamawit.

"My expectation is that as time goes on the relationship will become stronger than it is today... We hope that the momentum will be maintained," said Ahmed Wakili Bello, a Nigerian journalist reporting on the summit. (Beijing Review) ■

## FOCAC Beijing Summit highlights

### 2 Two documents

- The Beijing Declaration—Toward an Even Stronger China-Africa Community with a Shared Future
- FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2019-21)

### 3 Three new members

- The Gambia
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Burkina Faso

### 5 Five-no's

- No interference in African countries' pursuit of development paths that fit their national conditions
- No interference in African countries' internal affairs
- No imposition of China's will on African countries
- No attachment of political strings to assistance to Africa
- No seeking of selfish political gains in investment and financing cooperation with Africa

### 6 Six goals for a shared future

- Assume joint responsibility
- Pursue win-win cooperation
- Deliver happiness for all
- Enjoy cultural prosperity
- Enjoy common security
- Promote harmony between man and nature

(Source: Beijing Review)

# Chairman Li meets Russian Federation Council speaker

**L**i Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), held talks with Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko on July 4, in which he stressed the need to "provide legal support for promoting the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination."

Li said with great attention and promotion by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, China-Russia relations have witnessed rapid development and reached their best stage in history.

Mature and stable relations between the two countries are not only the precious treasure of both countries and peoples,

but also important support for global peace and stability, he said.

"China stands ready to firmly deepen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination and safeguard each other's interests and common interests against the backdrop of complicated and volatile international situations," Li said.

Pointing out that President Xi and President Putin announced 2018 and 2019 as years of China-Russia local cooperation and exchange, Li said local cooperation plays a unique role in China-Russia relations.

He called on both sides to "promote the implementation of the consensus reached by the two heads of States, pro-



Li Zhanshu (5th L), chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, and Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko (6th R) hold talks and co-chair the fourth meeting of the cooperation committee between the NPC and the Russian parliament in Beijing on July 4. *Pang Xinglei*



Li Zhanshu (R), chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, shakes hands with Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on July 4. *Sheng Jiapeng*

## **Mature and stable relations between China and Russia are not only the precious treasure of both countries and peoples, but also important support for global peace and stability.**

mote the integration of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union, expand the scope and depth of bilateral cooperation, provide legal support for bilateral trade exchanges, major cooperation projects and new areas of cooperation, and inject strong impetus to the development of bilateral relations.”

Li briefed the Russian delegation on how the NPC serves the country’s overall development. He said the NPC and its standing committee always perform their duties in accor-

dance with the law and focus on meeting the priority tasks of the CPC and the country, adding that China is ready to exchange experience with Russia on State governance.

Li and Matviyenko also co-chaired the fourth meeting of the cooperation committee between the NPC and the Russian parliament in Beijing.

Both sides agreed to use the exchange mechanism to make plans for cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries, promote cooperation under local, bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, and enhance economic and trade cooperation as well as people-to-people exchanges.

Matviyenko said Russia and China have set examples for new type of relations between countries featuring non-alignment, non-confrontation, and not targeting at any third party.

She said the Russian Federation Council stands ready to enhance cooperation with the NPC, strengthen exchanges on legislative experience, deepen cooperation within the framework of multilateral parliamentary organizations, and promote the establishment of a cooperation mechanism for legislative bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization countries. (Xinhua) ■



# Top legislator inspects, promotes work of people's congresses

**C**hairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee Li Zhanshu, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made inspection tour in East China's Jiangxi and Fujian provinces in late July.

## Promoting work of people's congresses

Chairman Li stressed the importance of planning, arranging and advancing the work of people's congresses in accordance with the overall work of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the country during an inspection tour in Jiangxi

Province from July 19 to 23.

Li visited Ganzhou, Nanchang, Jiujiang, and Jingdezhen, among others.

Li called for dedication to forestall and defuse major risks, carry out targeted poverty alleviation, and prevent and control pollution, as well as secure a decisive victory in finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

During the inspection, Li visited and held symposiums with officials from local people's congresses, discussing how to best serve the overall work of the Party and the country.

Li asked them to uphold Party leadership in all aspects and step up the work of people's congresses, making sure the



## Chairman Li communicated with locals and officials to better understand the development of the local economy and society and the work of people's congresses.

Party's decisions and plans are implemented.

Li communicated with locals and officials to better understand the development of the local economy and society and the work of people's congresses during his visit.

While visiting Ruijin, where the Long March began, Li shared the education and inspiration he learned from the heroic stories of the Chinese Communists and said the spirit of martyrs must be inherited and the revolutionary tradition must be promoted.

He also visited various local enterprises from several different industries, including new energy, electronic information, and aircraft manufacturing, and inspected poverty relief work, environmental protection, and ceramic relics protection.

Li Zhanshu (2nd R, front), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, inspects JL MAG Rare-Earth Co., Ltd. in Ganzhou City, Jiangxi Province, July 20. *Huang Jingwen*

Li Zhanshu (C), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, talks with a villager at the clinic of Yangshan Village of Yeping Township in Ruijin City, Jiangxi Province, July 20. *Huang Jingwen*





### Stressing people's congresses' role in law-based governance

Li has called for giving full play to the important role of the people's congresses in advancing law-based governance in all fields, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Li stressed the significance of people's congresses in providing rule of law measures for high-quality development, reform and opening-up, and socialist modernization.

Li made the comments during a tour in Fujian Province from July 25 to 28.

Visiting cities of Quanzhou, Fuzhou and Nanping, Li looked into the development of reform and opening-up and the work of people's congresses in these cities.

The first stop of Li's tour is Jinjiang, a city administered by Quanzhou. He visited the Jinjiang City Exhibition Hall and a number of private enterprises, holding talks with officials, the people and entrepreneurs to gain an in-depth understanding of the "experience of Jinjiang" summarized by comrade Xi Jinping.

When Xi worked in Fujian between 1985 and 2002, he inspected Jinjiang seven times. Summarizing Jinjiang's success story in 2002, he said the city's achievements were due to a localized market-oriented economy, hard-working locals, honest market players and effective local government.

"The 'experience of Jinjiang' summarized by Xi serves as a guide to the reform and development of Jinjiang and Fujian as a whole, and is still playing a guiding role at present," Li said, calling for more efforts in learning Xi's theories and



**Chairman Li called for efforts to vigorously promote education of rule of law, carry forward the spirit of the Constitution and increase the public's awareness of rule of law.**



Li Zhanshu (L, front), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, visits a new energy company in Nanping, Fujian Province, July 27. *Shen Hong*

Li Zhanshu (C, back), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, visits villagers and village cadres of Meipo Village in Zhenghe County of Nanping, Fujian Province, July 27. *Shen Hong*

practices during his work in Fujian.

Li also visited new material and new energy enterprises, the Internet-of-Things industrial base and the big data industrial park, trying smart products and learning the development of digital economy.

He encouraged the enterprises to accelerate industrial transition and upgrading, and raise the ability of making innovations.

During his tour, Li visited staff of the provincial people's congress and heard advice of officials and deputies to people's congresses at provincial, city, county and township levels.

"As the organs of State power, people's congresses and their standing committees are at the forefront in developing democracy and the rule of law, playing a major role in advancing law-based governance in all fields," Li said.

"We must ensure the Party's leadership over lawmaking and the leading role of people's congresses in lawmaking, adapt to the needs for reform, development and stability, and make constant efforts to improve the system of laws," Li said.

Li told lawmakers at local levels to make laws according to actual conditions and feature local characteristics while taking the overall interests into account.

Encouraging lawmakers to exercise the right of oversight endowed by the Constitution to crack hard nuts, Li urged them to ensure that the Constitution and laws be implemented effectively, and that all work be carried out in accordance with law.

Li called for efforts to vigorously promote education of rule of law, carry forward the spirit of the Constitution and increase the public's awareness of rule of law. (Xinhua) ■



Li Zhanshu (C), chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presides over the closing meeting of an extraordinary session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on July 10. *Wang Ye*

## Top legislature adopts resolution on environmental protection

China's top legislature concluded a two-day extraordinary session on July 10, with the adoption of a resolution on environmental protection and pollution control at its closing meeting.

While presiding over the closing meeting, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, said the session is aimed at better implementing major decisions and plans of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on pollution prevention and control, as

well as contributing people's congresses' strength to environmental protection.

The top legislature's session is held every two months, but can be convened temporarily for special purposes. A report on the implementation of the Air Pollution Control Law was reviewed by legislators at the session.

The NPC Standing Committee sent four teams to eight provincial-level regions to check the implementation of the law from May to June. They also entrusted local legislatures

in the other 23 provincial-level areas with inspections.

Members of the NPC Standing Committee spoke highly of the work by the inspection teams and voiced unanimous support for the report, Li said.

They also stressed the importance of law enforcement, green development, and raising awareness of environmental protection, adding that efforts should be made to control emissions discharged by diesel-powered vehicles, according to Li.

He said remarkable achievements have been made in pollution control, but the situation on air pollution remains severe.

Oversight by lawmakers is an important part of the supervision system of the Party and the State, which is entrusted by the State and people and with legal effect, Li said.

Such supervision is aimed at ensuring the comprehensive and effective implementation of the Constitution and laws and safeguarding the people's rights and interests, he said.

Priority should be given to major issues concerning the overall situation of reform, development and stability and prominent problems of public concern in the work of over-

sight, Li noted, calling for more powerful and effective supervision by lawmakers with larger authority.

According to the resolution approved at the closing meeting, Party leadership must be upheld in building an ecological civilization and the most rigorous legal system on environmental protection must be in place.

It called for efforts to promote efficient enforcement of environmental laws and regulations and encourage the public to protect environment through legal means.

Calling on all relevant departments to implement the resolution, Li urged them to speed up the building of the ecological civilization system under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee and fully promote green development.

Li said great attention must be paid to solving prominent environmental problems so as to meet people's increasing demand for a beautiful environment and step up the building of a beautiful China.

On the afternoon of July 10, the NPC Standing Committee held a chairpersons' meeting presided over by Li, and decided to put the draft resolution for vote at its closing meeting, which unanimously adopted. (Xinhua) ■

## A joint inquiry meeting held on air pollution control

**T**he Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) held a joint inquiry into a report on the implementation of the Air Pollution Control Law on July 10.

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presided over the meeting and delivered a speech.

The NPC Standing Committee sent four teams to eight provincial-level regions to check the implementation of the law from May to June. They also entrusted local legislatures in the other 23 provincial-level areas with inspections.

During the inquiry, legislators asked questions about measures to prevent and control air pollution, control over emissions discharged by diesel-powered vehicles, industrial structure adjustment, and efforts to raise public awareness of the law, among others.

State Councilor Wang Yong and officials from the Ministry of Transport, State Administration for Market Regulation, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Justice, and those in charge of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate answered the questions.

Li called for implementation of laws and decisions on ecological and environmental protection to prevent and control pollution.

The State Council and departments will uphold a new vision of development, implement the three-year action plan on winning the battle for blue skies, and enhance the work on air pollution control, said Wang. (Xinhua) ■

**Li Zhanshu called for implementation of laws and decisions on ecological and environmental protection to prevent and control pollution.**



A joint inquiry into a report on the implementation of the Air Pollution Control Law, part of the session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee, is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on July 10. Du Yang



Aerial photo taken on April 30 shows the Baiyangdian scenic area in Xiongan New Area, North China's Hebei Province. *Shen Bohan*

# Enhanced law enforcement to make skies blue again

**T**he Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) held an extraordinary session on air pollution control from July 9 to 10 as apart of efforts to improve people's wellbeing by making the skies blue again.

A report on the implementation of the Air Pollution Control Law, which uncovered problems and put forward targeted measures, was submitted for review at the session on July 9.

When delivering the report, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said since the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress in 2012, central authorities have waged a war on air pollution with unprecedented strength and pragmatic measures.

Environmental protection awareness has risen markedly among society due to strengthened legal support. But pollution caused by structural layout and slack law enforcement

and supervision remains prominent, Li said.

Stating that making the skies blue again is the top priority for pollution control, Li called for efforts to comprehensively and efficiently enforce the Air Pollution Control Law and control pollution through legal means.

China has identified preventing and controlling pollution as one of three "tough battles" in the process of building the moderately prosperous society, along with forestalling and defusing major risks, and carrying out targeted poverty alleviation.

The 13th NPC Standing Committee has put air pollution inspections high on its agenda in its first year of performing duties.

The report on the implementation of the Air Pollution Control Law, which was originally scheduled for the session in August, was deliberated at the extraordinary session in advance.

## Progress since 2012

According to the inspection report, China's air quality has improved across the country and the implementation of the action plan on air pollution control has seen positive achievements.

The average density of PM10 in 338 Chinese cities at prefecture level and above in 2017 decreased by 22.7 percent compared to 2013 levels, while the average density of PM2.5 in major areas including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta, fell 39.6 percent, 34.3 percent and 27.7 percent respectively, said the report.

China cut steel production capacity by 170 million tonnes, coal by 800 million tonnes, and cement by 230 million tonnes over the past five years, the report noted.

The country's coal consumption dropped 8.1 percentage points while the proportion of clean energy in total energy consumption increased by 6.3 percentage points over the past five years, it said.

## Problems & solutions

According to the report, the main reasons for air pollution in some regions are irrational industrial structure and layout, and unreasonable energy structure and transportation structure.

Traditional industry accounts for 70 percent of the entire industry and the heavy chemical industry makes up 70 percent of the traditional industry in Shandong, it said.

The report said about 78 percent of the country's freight volume were carried by diesel-powered vehicles, which discharged over 60 percent of the country's total vehicle emissions. Shandong is home to over 1.72 million diesel-powered vehicles, accounting for 10.2 percent of the national total and ranking first in China, followed by Hebei Province.

In another case, Linfen City in Shanxi Province was found to have fabricated environmental monitoring data from April 2017 to April 2018, with major enterprises failing to publicize their pollutant discharging information timely, accurately and completely.

The report also raised a number of suggestions to fix the problems, calling for efforts to formulate supporting policies and strengthen supervision on law enforcement.

A regulation on issuance of pollutant discharging licenses should be in place by the end of 2019 to manage stationary pollution sources and coordinate efforts to control multiple pollutants, it suggested.

Environmental protection authorities are asked to put into force a list on toxic and harmful air pollutants by the end of this year, it said.

Local legislatures are encouraged to formulate laws on air pollution control ahead of national legislation and provincial-level people's congresses and their standing committees should make or revise their regulations according to reality, it said.

## Innovative inspection on law enforcement

The NPC Standing Committee sent four teams to eight provincial-level regions to check the implementation of the

## China has identified preventing and controlling pollution as one of three 'tough battles' in the process of building the moderately prosperous society.

law from May to June. It also entrusted local legislatures in 23 other provincial-level areas with law enforcement inspections.

In Linzhou, central China's Henan Province, a leading local official said that the first thing he does in the morning is to open the window and check whether Taihang Mountain can be clearly seen. "I immediately get nervous if the smog in the city obscures the mountain," the official said, hinting at his increasing sense of responsibility.

China has formulated a series of measures to ensure governments and enterprises bear due responsibilities in air pollution control in recent years, making it clear that the major official of an administrative region shoulders ultimate responsibility in environmental protection in the region.

Targeting at perfunctory local officials, the inspectors innovated their mean of inspection by holding a symposium attended by representatives of legislature at all levels and the public, as well as inviting local officials and business owners to sit a pop quiz on air pollution control.

"The attendees are required to finish 10 questions within five minutes," said Zhang Shuli, deputy head of the Department of Environmental Protection of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Cheng Lifeng, a member of the inspection team and NPC Standing Committee, said the quiz results showed that studying the law is still not enough for some officials and business owners, and some are even unfamiliar with important laws and regulations.

"Leading Party and government officials must strengthen legal study and improve their abilities to control air pollution through legal means," Cheng said. (Xinhua) ■



A demolition site is covered by nets to minimize spread of dust in Chang'an District of Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, December 20, 2017. *Shao Rui*

# NPC inspection report shows improved infectious disease prevention, control



Wang Chen, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, delivers the report on the enforcement of the law on the prevention and control of infectious diseases during the 5th meeting of the 13th NPC Standing Committee on August 28. *Li Jie*

**C**hina has seen benefits from the implemented law on the prevention and control of infectious diseases, according to a report on the enforcement of the law submitted on August 28.

No large-scale outbreaks or epidemics of infectious diseases have been seen in recent years as result of proper prevention and control, said the report, which was submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee for deliberation at the 5th meeting of the 13th NPC Standing Committee from August 27 to 31.

Wang Chen, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, read the report, which is based on a round of inspections conducted by the NPC Standing Committee running between May and July in eight provincial-level regions.

China has set up an online infectious disease reporting network, the largest worldwide, which displays all reports from centers for diseases prevention and control at or above county-level nationwide, the inspection report said.

Special subsidies on a number of key programs such as the prevention and control of AIDS, tuberculosis and schis-

tosomiasis increased to 9.6 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion) in 2017 from 5.6 billion yuan in 2013, along with the country's growing financial commitment to fight infectious diseases.

The report also mentioned several challenges, including higher dissemination risks due to increased population mobility, deficient quarantine and monitoring on transportation of live animals and birds, and insufficient efforts to curb sexually transmitted diseases spread through unprotected sex.

It suggested more medical aid should be offered to patients with specific infectious diseases, as well as more investment by the central government to prevent and control infectious diseases in border areas.

It also called for strengthened regulation over vaccines, saying governments and departments of all levels should put the safety and quality of vaccines first.

Official data showed that a total of 19,796 people died from infectious diseases on the Chinese mainland in 2017.

The infectious diseases prevention and control law was enacted in 1989 and revised in 2004 and 2013. (Xinhua) ■



Aid workers transport the wounded to the ambulance at a drill in Xingtai, Hebei Province, on May 25. *Zhu Xudong*

Children in Linxu Huayang Kindergarten learn how to wash their hands properly from professional staffs of Yaohai District Center for Diseases Prevention and Control in Hefei, Anhui Province, on June 8, 2016. *Xie Chen*



# Lawmakers speak highly of infectious disease prevention, control law enforcement

**C**hinese lawmakers spoke highly of the implementation of the country's infectious disease prevention and control law during panel discussions at the ongoing session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee on August 30.

The lawmakers held the discussions while deliberating a report based on a round of inspections conducted by the top legislature between May and July in eight provincial-level regions that was submitted to the NPC Standing Committee Tuesday.

Li Rui, a lawmaker, said an efficient system of infectious disease prevention and control had been set up in recent years. "Public health care infrastructure has been continuously improved, and effective steps such as immunization programs have also been taken."

The lawmakers offered advice concerning a number of

challenges mentioned in the report, such as higher dissemination risks due to increased population mobility, deficient quarantine and monitoring on transportation of live animals and birds, and insufficient efforts to curb sexually transmitted diseases spread through unprotected sex.

"Prevention and control at primary-level should be strengthened," said Jia Ting'an, a legislator, who suggested that medical personnel at primary-level institutions should be better trained and, operations should be well regulated to improve warnings for infectious diseases.

"Prevention and control of zoonoses, which were involved in several epidemics in recent years, should be placed high in our work," said Li Xueyong, a lawmaker.

"Education regarding the law on infectious disease prevention and control also needs to be provided to a wider range of people," Li said. (Xinhua) ■



Wang Chen (C, rear), a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, addresses the opening ceremony of the “2018 Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Parliaments of Developing Countries” co-held by China’s NPC and Inter-Parliamentary Union in Beijing on September 10.

## NPC Vice-Chairman demands stronger inter-parliamentary exchanges for better achievement of SDGs

By Jiang Zhuqing

Parliamentarians and researchers from a number of developing countries gathered in Beijing from September 9 to 18 to seek stronger inter-parliamentary exchanges to better achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) raised by the United Nations.

Wang Chen, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, addressed the opening ceremony of the “2018 Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for

Parliaments of Developing Countries”.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by President Xi Jinping five years ago, has achieved outstanding results and become an important platform in the building of a community of shared future for mankind, said Wang.

China will vigorously uphold a new concept of morality and interests and stick to win-win strategy to push forward the development of countries along the Belt and Road Initiative and the implementation of SDGs as well, Wang added.

Besides, it is crucial for developing countries to enhance exchanges and cooperation to realize common prosperity,

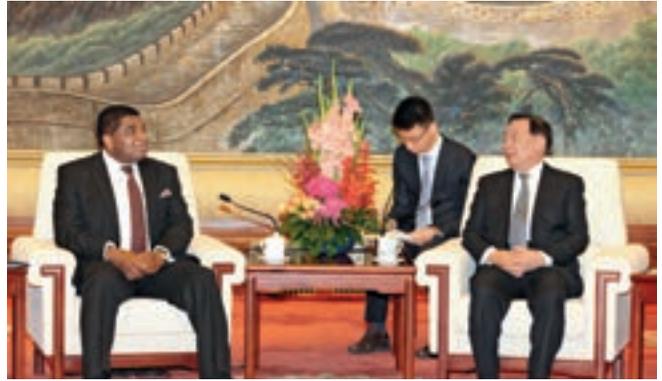
said Wang.

NPC, which is the top legislature in China, is willing to share its experiences of governance and rule of law with other developing countries' parliaments, he added.

Besides, the holding of the seminar is aimed to conduct pragmatic and effective cooperation and create a sound legal environment and bright future for developing countries, Wang said.

The nine-day-long conference, which was organized by NPC and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has attracted parliamentarians from Ethiopia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tanzania, as well as NPC deputies and researchers from China.

Before the opening of the seminar, Wang met with the IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong. The two leaders exchanged views on the future cooperation between NPC and IPU. ■



**Wang Chen (R), a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, meets with Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Secretary General Martin Chungong in Beijing on September 10.**

## >>> Read more

The National People's Congress of China and the Inter-Parliamentary Union jointly held the "2018 Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries" in Beijing. This seminar, themed on "Stronger Inter-parliamentary Exchanges for Better Achievement of the SDGs", is a major part of the program initiated by the National People's Congress and the IPU for the capacity building of the parliaments of developing countries.

By enhancing mutual exchanges and learning, this seminar provides a platform for improving the capacity building of the parliaments of developing countries, thus enabling them to jointly explore the path to sustainable development. 42 parliamentarians and officials from 7 countries, including Ethiopia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tanzania, attended the seminar.

Workshops and discussions focused on four topics, namely the role of legislative bodies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative and achieving common development, innovative development and well-being for all (clean drinking water and sanitation, affordable and sustainable clean energy), and railway-related legislation. Parliamentarians were actively engaged in the discussions and interactions, sharing their national experience on achieving sustainable development and exploring how to jointly tackle with the challenges and difficulties faced by countries together.

All parliamentarians participating in the seminar agreed that it was of great significance to strengthen communication and interactions, so as to draw upon each other's experience on development and translate economic complementarities into impetus for development. Legislatures should actively engage themselves in closer and more practical exchanges and cooperation, with a view to creating a sound legal and policy environment for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. China redoubles its efforts in synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative

and actions of participating countries to implement their Sustainable Development Agendas. This initiative is of good faith and real results, which will provide valuable opportunities for achieving sustainable development.

Parliamentarians pooled their wisdom as regards how to achieve sustainable development. They believed that more value should be added to raw materials in economic cooperation, so that developing countries could gain more from trade. They emphasized that while working on poverty reduction, we should also protect natural resources. It was their suggestion that countries should not only strengthen economic and trade cooperation, but also to tighten cultural and people-to-people exchanges, to ensure that economic development benefits the people and friendship between countries are deeply imbedded in people's hearts.

Besides Beijing, parliamentarians were also involved in exchanges with People's Congresses in Shanxi Province and Jiangsu Province. They visited projects that embodied new achievements of China's reform and opening up and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. To see the building of new energy projects highlighted their visit.



**Wang Chen (C, front), a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, has a group photo taken with participants.** (Photos by courtesy of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China)



VCG

# China adopts e-commerce law to improve market regulation

**C**hina's top legislators passed an e-commerce law aimed at improving regulation of the flourishing market.

It was adopted after a fourth reading at the bi-monthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) that ended on August 31.

The law, which is set to "protect legal rights and interests of all parties" and "maintain the market order," requires all e-commerce operators to fulfill their obligations to protect consumers' rights and interests as well as personal information, intellectual property rights (IPR), cyberspace security and the environment.

"The law specifies regulations concerning operators, contracts, disputes settlement and liabilities involved in e-commerce as well as the market development," Yin Zhongqing, a lawmaker, said at a press conference held by the General Office of the NPC Standing Committee on August 31.

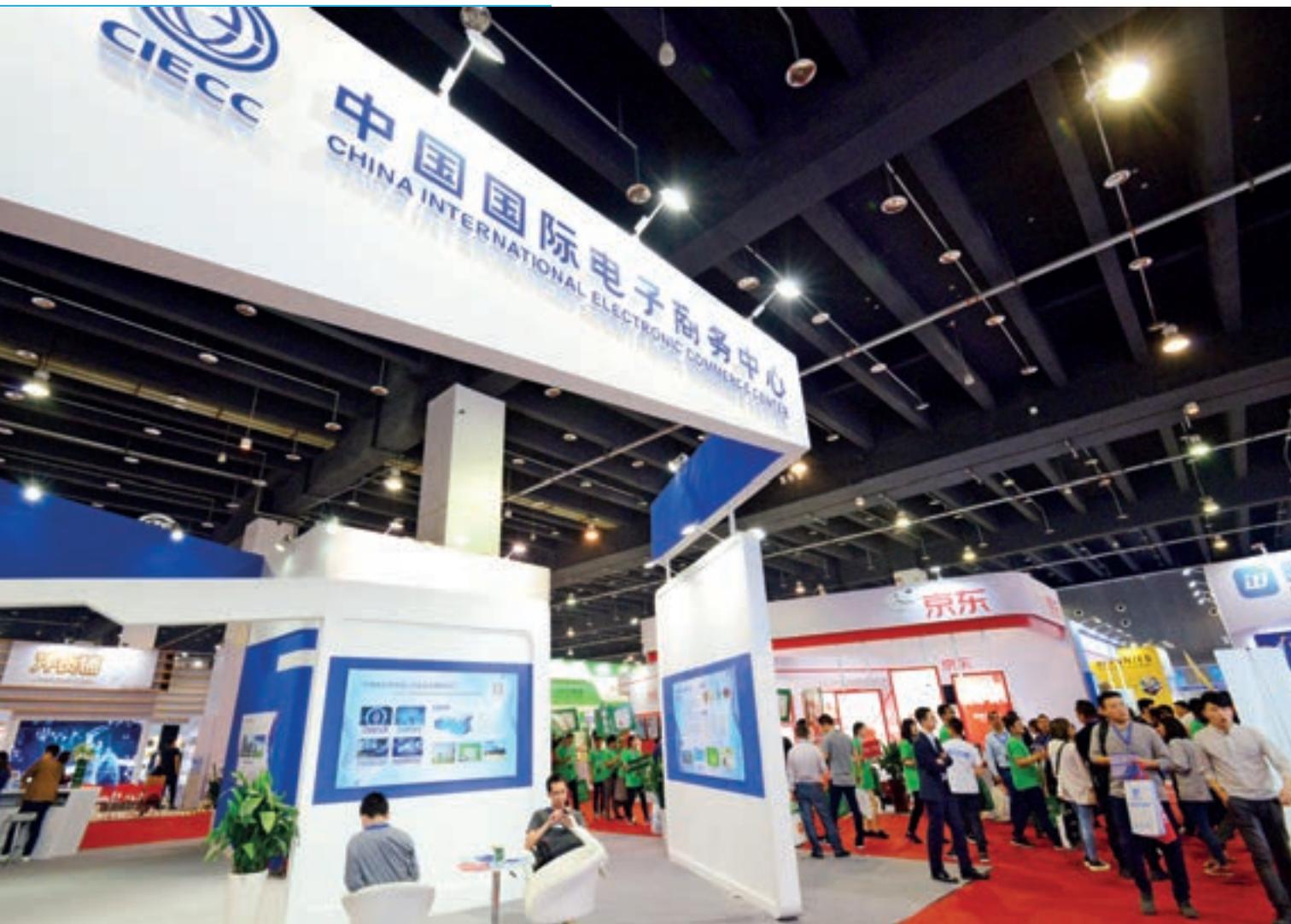
The law, which clarifies e-commerce operators into e-commerce platform operators, merchants on e-commerce platforms, and those doing business on their own websites or via other web services, covers not only famous platforms such as Alibaba's Taobao but also those selling goods via social networks including the popular chatting app WeChat.

The law puts more emphasis on the obligations and responsibilities held by platform operators, the most advantaged players in the country's e-commerce market, and strengthens protection for the relatively disadvantaged con-



The staff work hard in an e-commerce enterprise. VCG

**The e-commerce law requires all e-commerce operators to fulfill their obligations to protect consumers' rights and interests.**



The 2018 China International E-Commerce Expo and the First Digital Trade Expo are held at the International Expo Center in Yiwu on April 11-13. VCG

sumers, according to Yin.

According to the law, which paid great attention to consumer's privacy, options and rights to know, operators must follow related laws and regulations when collecting and using consumers' personal information. Operators should clearly point out tie-in sales to consumers and cannot assume consent.

The law also bans e-commerce operators with dominant market positions from excluding or restricting competition. Platform operators who unreasonably restrict transactions on their platforms may face a penalty of 500,000 yuan (\$73,260), or up to 2 million yuan in serious cases.

A penalty of the same range may also be applied to platform operators if they fail to take necessary steps against IPR infringement by merchants on their platforms that they are aware of or should be aware of.

"The law prioritizes supporting and promoting the sustainable and sound development of e-commerce, which is an emerging industry," Yin said.

The country promotes cross-border e-commerce, and

supports the participation of small and micro businesses, said the law, which stated that operators engaging in cross-border e-commerce should abide by laws and administrative regulations regarding import and export.

China's cross-border e-commerce trade saw its turnover rise 80.6 percent from 2016 to 90.24 billion yuan last year. While official data shows a sharp rise in complaints lodged related to cross-border e-commerce. Milk, milk powder and other foods, diapers, health care products and cosmetics are the goods involved in the most complaints.

The law also said the State Council, local governments at or above county-level as well as related departments should take measures to support and promote environmentally friendly packaging, storage, and transportation in e-commerce, adding that delivery service providers should use eco-packaging.

The draft e-commerce law was first reviewed in December 2016 then later deliberated in October 2017 and June 2018 by the NPC Standing Committee.

The law will take effect on January 1, 2019. (Xinhua) ■

# Tax law revised to pave way for social equity

**O**n August 31, 2018, the revised Individual Income Tax Law was adopted in an effort to pursue fairer income distribution and statutory taxation.

The new law states that the minimum threshold for personal income tax exemption will be raised from 3,500 yuan (about \$513) to 5,000 yuan per month or 60,000 yuan per year.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference, Vice Minister of Finance Cheng Lihua said the standard has fully taken into consideration the factors of per capita consumption expenditure of urban residents, average burden of the employed and the consumer price index.

Those with a monthly income below 20,000 yuan will see their tax cut by over 50 percent, Cheng said.

## Fairer income distribution

The law defines resident individuals and non-resident in-



A female taxpayer focuses on the new policy concerning the individual income tax law in the tax service office in Rizhao, Shandong Province. VCG

dividuals as two types of taxpayers. In addition, the length of residence used to distinguish between the two groups will be adjusted to 183 days from the previous 365.

Resident individuals refer to those who have a residence or reside in China for a total of 183 days in a tax year while receiving an income either from home or abroad. They should pay income tax in accordance with the law, it stated.

Non-resident individuals are those who have no residence and reside in China for less than a total of 183 days in a tax year. They should pay their tax on the income they receive in China in accordance with the law.

The tax year runs from January 1 to December 31, it stated.

“The purpose of tax reform is to better adjust income distribution and achieve tax burden equitableness by enabling lower-income people to pay less taxes and higher-income groups to pay more,” said Zhang Bin, an expert from the National Academy of Economic Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Revisions to the law have lived up to the will of the people and are conducive to improving tax equity, thus enabling taxation to better play its role in adjusting income distribution, said Zhang Chunxian, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, during panel discussions.

The individual income tax was the third major contributor to China’s total tax revenue, following value-added tax and enterprise income tax. In 2017, China collected individual income taxes worth nearly 1.2 trillion yuan, about 8.3 percent of the total tax revenue.

## Statutory taxation

The majority of taxes in China have been levied through formal or provisional regulations issued by the State Council until 2013, when the Communist Party of China Central Committee said in a reform decision that it would “implement the principle of statutory taxation.”

Two years later, the revised Legislation Law made it clear that a tax can only be levied and the tax rate be set with the endorsement of the law.

The revised individual tax law also adds spe-



The minimum threshold for personal income tax exemption is raised to 5,000 yuan per month. VCG

## The standard has fully taken into consideration the factors of per capita consumption expenditure of urban residents, average burden of the employed and the consumer price index.

cial expense deductions for items like caring for the elderly, children's education, continuing education, treatment for serious diseases, as well as housing loan interest and rent.

According to the law, the State Council should set the range, standards, and enforcement steps for the special expense deductions and then report to the NPC Standing Committee.

"To make the tax-deductible items clear in the revised law embodies the principle of statutory taxation," said Li Wanfu, head of the Institute of Tax Science of the State Administration of Taxation.

Wang Dongming, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said during panel discussions that the revisions will help lower-and-middle income groups increase their income, and then bridge the income gap and advance a more reasonable and orderly pattern of income distribution.

### Reform benefits shared by all

According to the law, the previous method of taxing monthly income will be replaced with a new calculation which focuses on taxing annual income.

The law states that tax authorities should provide taxpayers with information on their income and withheld tax.

The current law has undergone seven revisions since it was enacted in 1980 when the original threshold for individual income tax exemption was 800 yuan per month.

It was raised to 1,600 yuan in 2005 and 2,000 yuan in 2007. The current threshold is 3,500 yuan according to the revision made in 2011.

The new law will come into force on January 1, 2019 while part of the clauses including the minimum threshold for personal income tax exemption will go into force on October 1 this year. (Xinhua) ■

# Civil code draft: Building a better society



VCG

**S**ix draft sections on specific areas of civil law were submitted to China's top legislature on August 27, beginning the second phase of formulating the country's long-expected civil code. Let's have a look at some highlights in the draft.

The six draft sections, namely provisions on property, contract, personality rights, marriage and family, inheritance, and torts, consist of 1,034 articles.

Many of them were copied from existing laws in respective areas, but changes were also proposed.

The first part of the code, General Provisions of the Civil Law, was adopted on March 15 last year and entered into force on October 1.

The six draft sections were submitted as a package and may be put through follow-up readings for further deliberation, reviews, and revisions in different batches.

After that, the revised draft sections will be combined with the General Provision to form a draft civil code and submitted to the plenary session of the NPC in March 2020.

## Marriage and family section

### Cooling-off period before divorce

The draft on marriage and family stipulates that a divorce

**The revised draft sections will be combined with the General Provision to form a draft civil code and submitted to the plenary session of the NPC in March 2020.**

application may be revoked by either side of the couple within the cooling-off period of one month after it is received by the authority.

According to Shen Chunyao, head of the Legislative Affairs Commission under the NPC Standing Committee, the provision is meant to reduce hasty decisions.

Also, considering the changes in the country's demographic situation, provisions related to family planning in current laws are not included in the draft.

### Removal of family planning in draft doesn't mean end of policy

Removing stipulations regarding family planning from a draft civil code does not indicate China will end its family

planning policy, legislators and law professors said.

Family planning-related clauses in the current Marriage Law and Adoption Law have been dropped in a draft of the marriage section of the civil code.

Given the country's demographic situation, the decision has triggered widespread speculation as to whether it is meant to pave the way for the abolishment of the country's decades-old family planning policy.

However, legislators said there's a special law on family planning, so there's no need to include similar content in the marriage section while drafting the civil code.

Related regulations can still be found in the Population and Family Planning Law.

Jiang Yue, a law professor at Xiamen University, said based on her research birth-related content is not written into civil codes in more than 20 countries and regions.

## Personality rights section

### Sexual harassment

Those who sexually harass others through words or behavior, or by taking advantage of their position, will face potential civil liabilities if they are sued by their victims, according to the draft.

Companies should also take measures to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as provide reporting channels for victims and punishment for offenders, the draft added.

"Sexual harassment in uneven relationships, such as between teachers and students or bosses and subordinates, will attract stricter punishment if the draft is passed," said Zhao Hui, a Beijing lawyer.

### Rights of deceased protected

The draft says if the rights of a deceased person, including name, portrayal or honor, are infringed, the spouse, children or parents can file a civil liability case against the violator.

"The related regulations can better protect the rights of the deceased," said Meng Qiang, a civil law expert from the China Law Society.

### Privacy protection

"The draft for the first time clearly defines privacy, and has detailed regulations on the protection of privacy and personal information," said Meng Qiang, a civil law expert from the China Law Society.

According to the draft, individuals have the rights to privacy, which refers to private space, activity and information, and no entities or individuals should infringe upon the private rights of people through spying, invasion or disclosure.

## Torts section

### Punitive damages for environmental violations

According to the draft, punitive compensations will be imposed on those who intentionally violate laws and regulations and damage the environment.

It also stipulates restoration obligations.

The draft also requires parties of a contract to follow con-



A couple with their children in Dongguan, Guangdong Province, on April 14, 2017 VCG



A residential building in Beijing VCG

ventional practices to save resources and reduce pollution with good faith while fulfilling the contract.

### Accident compensation

The question of whether a driver needs to pay compensation if a colleague carools and is injured in a traffic accident has been controversial for a long while.

The draft on torts stipulates when a non-operational vehicle is involved in a traffic accident that causes the carpooler injury, the driver's liability for compensation should be mitigated or exempted. However, this rule doesn't apply if the incident is due to intentional misconduct or gross negligence

on the part of the driver.

The stipulation protects the victim on the one hand and takes into consideration the driver's favor to the victim on the other hand, said Xie Hongfei, head of the civil law office at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Law. It's also good for maintaining a helpful social environment.

## Inheritance section

### Print, video wills proposed

The draft on inheritance includes printed and video wills in keeping with the development of science and technology, said Yang Minglun, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission under the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

The draft amended the regulation on will validity by deleting the priority of notarial wills in inheritance law to respect the true will of the testator, Yang said.

The draft stipulates ways to select a heritage manager, and the manager's responsibilities and rights to make sure the estate is properly managed and divided, safeguard the interests of inheritors and creditors and reduce disputes, said Shen Chunyao.

In order to protect creditor interests and make sure related taxes are paid, the draft stipulates the heritage can be divided after the deceased's debts are paid off and related taxes are paid.

## Profits generated from the public parts belong to all property owners.

## Property rights section

### Property owners' rights protected

The draft strengthens protections for the rights of property owners.

"In practice, some property management companies profit from repurposing the public parts of a property and putting up advertisements on outer walls or elevators of a building without seeking opinions from property owners," said Shen Chunyao, chairman of the Commission for Legislative Affairs of the NPC Standing Committee.

It says a decision should be made collectively by property owners before public parts of a property are repurposed or used for business operations. Profits generated from the public parts belong to all property owners.

In addition, land use rights of residential properties will be extended automatically after the 70-year use rights expire, according to the draft. The fees for renewing the rights will be charged according to related laws and regulations.



The vehicle stream on Jishuitan Overpass on the morning of September 25 in Beijing VCG

## Contract section

### Draft law gives lessees priority to rent property

The draft on contract gives priority to the lessee to lease. It stipulates that when tenancy expires, a home lessee has the priority to lease the property on equal conditions.

It also stipulates that when tenancy expires and the lessee continues to rent the lease, if the leaser doesn't raise an objection, then the original lease contract is valid, but with an unspecified term.

### E-contract formed after buyer submits order

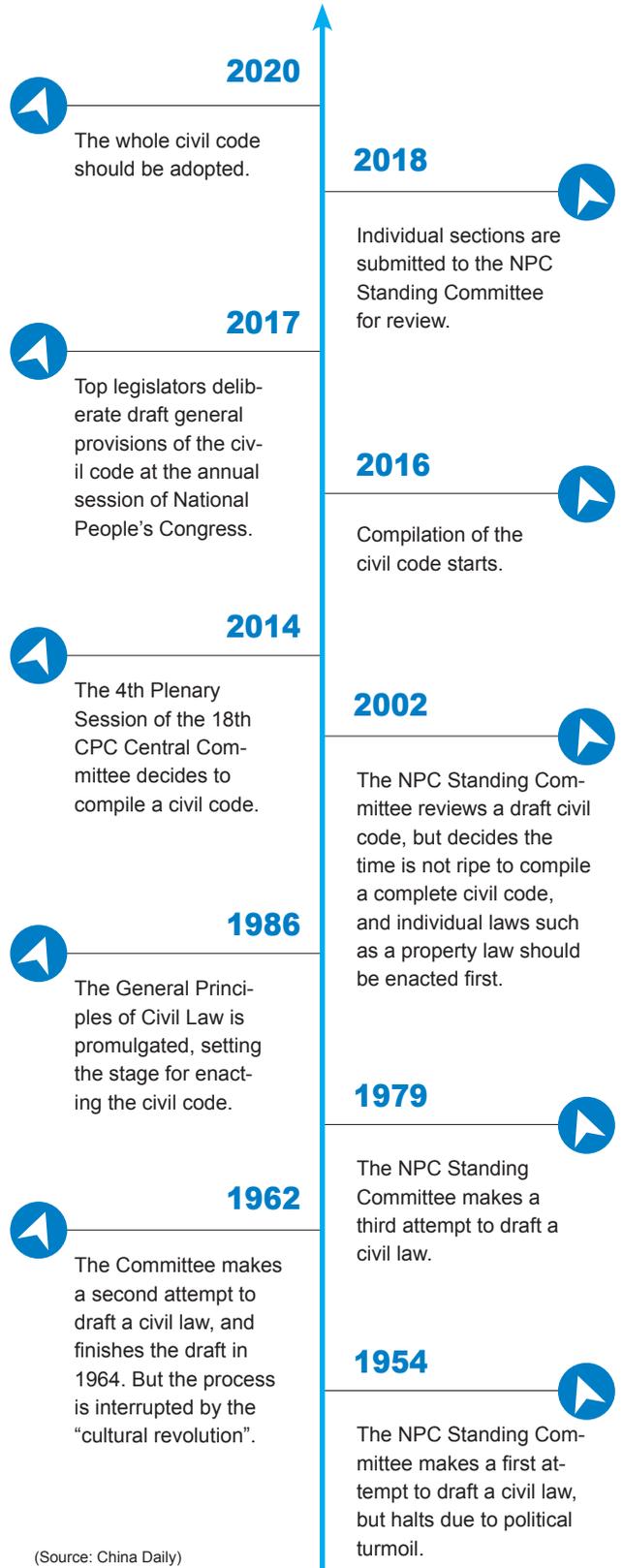
The draft on contract makes rules on the conclusion and execution of e-contracts to adapt to the fast growing e-commerce and digital economy and regulate electronic transactions.

The draft stipulates that an e-contract is formed after a buyer submits an order, unless the parties have agreed otherwise.

If a buyer purchases a commodity and it is delivered by express delivery, the delivery time is when the buyer signs to receive the delivery.

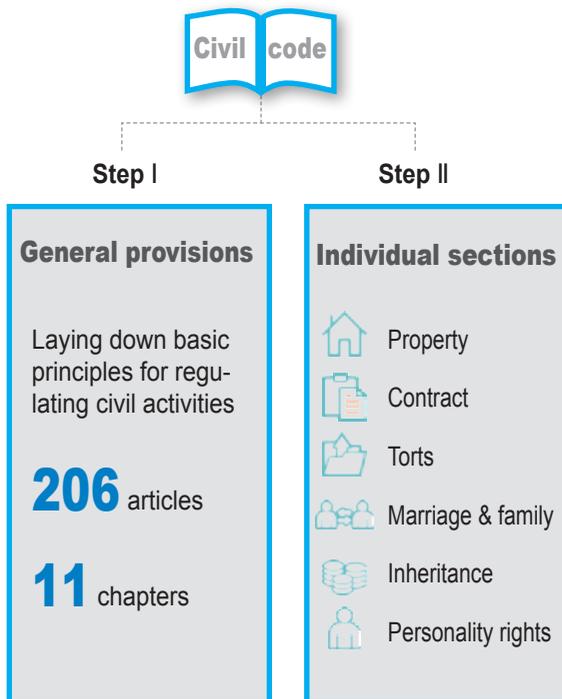
If a buyer purchases a service, the delivery time is when an e-receipt or receipt is produced. If there is no time on the e-receipt or receipt or the time is different from the time of service, the delivery time is when the actual service is rendered. (China Daily) ■

## How the civil code evolves?



(Source: China Daily)

## How is the civil code enacted?



# China's reform picks up speed in new era



A light show themed “Splendid New Era” makes its public debut in the Futian CBD in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. *Chen Wen*

About 40 years after China set sail on its voyage of reform and opening-up, the journey is still at full speed and heading towards ever greater goals.

At the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress held in October last year, President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of Central Military Commission, outlined new moves to deepen reform in all areas.

In his report to the Party congress, Xi listed “continuing to comprehensively deepen reform” in the basic policy to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era.

The report proposed 158 reform measures and clarified important reform areas and key sections, including the supply-side structural reform which gives priority to improving the quality of the supply system.

## Unshakeable resolve

During his first inspection tour to east China’s Jiangsu Province after the Party congress, Xi made important instructions on reforms of State-owned enterprises, economic restructuring in regions running out of natural resources, and rural vitalization.

In the following months, from southern Hainan Province, central Hubei Province to eastern Shandong Province, Xi has as always taken the lead in guiding deepening reform in all areas to make new advances.

At its first meeting in mid November 2017, the leading group for deepening overall reform of the 19th CPC Central Committee, headed by Xi, set the principles of carrying out reforms and underscored systematic, unified and coordinated action in pushing forward those tasks.



## China's continued reform and opening-up is advancing with a strong momentum and being welcomed worldwide.

An action plan from 2018 to 2022 has been issued, elaborating on who, when and how to carry out the 158 reform measures.

Xi has repeatedly voiced his resolve to continue reform.

"China's reform will cover more areas, and more and stronger steps will be taken in pursuing this endeavor," Xi said at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Da Nang, Vietnam, in November 2017.

At the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference in April, Xi called reform and opening-up "China's second revolution" that had not only profoundly changed the country but greatly influenced the whole world.

"We should endeavor to advance structural reform, remove all institutional barriers to innovation and fully unlock innovation potential and energize the market," Xi said on July 25 when addressing the BRICS Business Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### Profound changes

At its annual session in March, the National People's Congress adopted an amendment to the Constitution, which laid the solid foundations for long-term, comprehensive reform.

At the same time, a large-scale reform of Party and State institutions was unfurled. In less than three months, the country established and restructured 25 Party and government institutions.

Several promising areas have been selected to be pilots for advancing reform and opening-up.

In April, Hainan Province, a special economic zone of 30 years, received the guidelines on supporting its efforts to deepen reform and opening-up from the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.

Since the announcement of its founding in April last year, Xiongan New Area, sitting at the center of the triangular area formed by Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei's provincial capital Shijiazhuang, has been gradually materializing Xi's strategic vision.

At a July meeting of the central committee for deepening overall reform, Xiongan was granted greater powers to conduct reform and take the initiative of reforms in innovative development, city governance and public service.

### Opening wider

From the Hainan pilot free trade zone in the south to Xiongan New Area in the north, China has been opening its doors wider and wider by rolling out more reform measures nationwide.

Reform measures formulated on a basis in pilot free trade zones have been copied and promoted elsewhere in the country.

China has also been gearing for the China International Import Expo, which will be held in Shanghai in November.

People now need to come to an exit-entry administration bureau just once to finish necessary paper work.

A mechanism for solving trade, business and investment disputes along the Belt and Road has also been set up.

From elderly services to medical insurance, from education to employment, from economic development to social causes, China has implemented a series of targeted reform measures to meet the people's need for a better life.

China's continued reform and opening-up is advancing with a strong momentum and being welcomed worldwide. The 2018 China Business Climate Survey Report, released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China, revealed that 74 percent of its members plan to expand investment in China, the highest percentage in recent years. (Xinhua) ■

# A fishing village becomes an economic juggernaut

By Zhou Mo

**F**our decades ago, Shenzhen was just a small fishing village adjacent to Hong Kong. Today, the city in southern Guangdong province is the country's high-tech and innovation hub.

It's known as China's Silicon Valley and is the headquarters of internet and telecom giants Tencent and Huawei, thanks to the country's reform and opening-up policy.

With a population of more than 12 million, Shenzhen's rapid growth arose from cultivating emerging industries, including the internet, new-generation information technology, new materials, new energy and biological medicine. Beyond that, energy conservation, environmental protection and the cultural and creative industries have played a key role.

Last year, the added value of emerging industries in Shenzhen amounted to about 918 billion yuan (\$132 billion), increasing 13.6 percent compared with a year earlier and accounting for 40.9 percent of the city's GDP, according to official statistics.

The bioindustry saw the most robust growth, with added value expanding 24.6 percent year-on-year, followed by the internet industry at 23.4 percent.

The metropolis is now home to more than 11,000 national high-tech enterprises.

"Shenzhen's high-tech industry has already formed an in-

tegral industry chain. It has an internationalized supporting system at its back," said Huang Dinglong, chief executive of artificial intelligence company Malong Technologies.

The local government has attached great importance to research and development. Last year, Shenzhen's investment in R&D reached over 90 billion yuan, accounting for 4.13 percent of its GDP, on par with Israel and South Korea, which lead in that category.

Local policies have provided a sound breeding ground, allowing high-tech enterprises to grow in a sound environment, said Yan Qin, general manager of Direct Genomics, a company specializing in genomics.

"They don't have an extra burden, as the local government offers great support to them – for example, helping them with initial funding and understanding government policies."

In addition, with its proximity to the international financial center of Hong Kong, Shenzhen has also developed strengths in capital, with a large number of small enterprises being able to secure venture capital at early stages, Yan added.

Over the 40 years since the reform and opening-up policy was launched, Shenzhen has been an economic miracle by global standards, with its GDP growing at more than 20 percent a year on average.

In 1980, it was chosen as China's special economic zone, which entitled it to more market-oriented and flexible economic policies.

Since then, Shenzhen's economy has seen explosive expansion, from under 200 million yuan to 2.2 trillion yuan in 2017, which is more than 10,000 times bigger and on course to surpass Hong Kong.

Qu Jian, vice-president of the China Development Institute, said the city has transformed from a traditional economy reliant on resources and labor to a modern economy fueled by innovation.

"The reason so many technologically innovative enterprises have been created in Silicon Valley is that talent across the world is flocking into the area," Huang said. "It's the same for Shenzhen."

Yan, meanwhile, said local high-tech enterprises have a shortage of professional managers, who he believes play a vital role.

"Shenzhen needs to introduce more professional managers who have worked at Fortune 500 companies to improve management so that the city's high-tech industry can achieve better growth," he said. (China Daily) ■



A night view of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on May 27 VCG

# A China perceived over 40 years

**T**hat is a trip he will never forget. In August 1975, as a member of the US first Congressional delegation to China, Adlai Ewing Stevenson III visited China for the first time.

Stevenson remembered the delegation arrived in Shanghai before taking train to Beijing, where they met then Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping.

The US legislators visited China's major cities and rural areas during the 10-day trip. What he perceived then was poverty and the alienation of the people. "People in the streets did not dare be seen talking to foreigners."

"I remember bicycles. I don't remember any automobiles except our own automobiles." That was Stevenson's first impression of China.

Four years afterward in 1979, Deng visited the United States, and Stevenson was in his company. "I gave him a tour of Washington, took him to the Jefferson Memorial and showed him our Capitol."

"He was not a great communicator," Stevenson told Xinhua. But "he began the reform, and changed the world."

Coming from a political family in the US state of Illinois and serving as US senator from 1970 to 1981, Stevenson has had many chances to visit China in different capacities after retiring from politics.

He launched a joint venture in China to introduce advanced communication technologies in the 1990s, and acted as co-chairman of Huamei Capital, a US-China joint venture located in Chicago helping Chinese companies to invest in North American market in the 2000s.

As the chairman of the nonprofit Midwest US-China Association, Stevenson co-hosted China-US West Economic Cooperation Forum in Beijing in 2005.

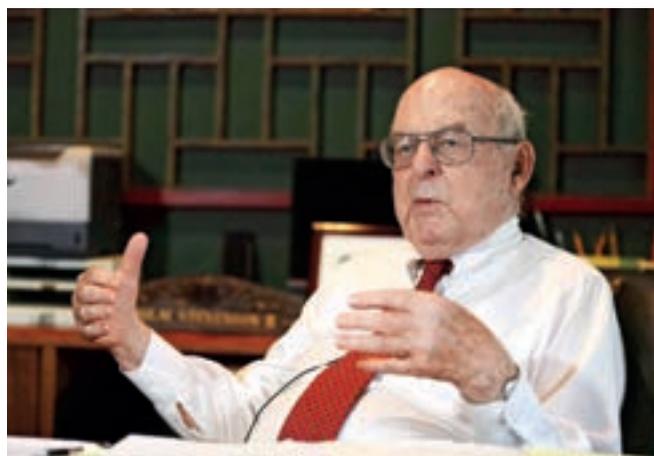
"I commuted back and forth. Every time I went back to China, it was a different China by every dimension," recalled Stevenson, who is now an honorary professor of China's Renmin University.

"It became more and more developed, more and more crowded. Buildings are everywhere and streets are filled with automobiles, just a totally different country," he said.

"We tried to travel by train so we can see China on the ground, but pretty soon we were traveling by plane and then we could reach more places in China," he added.

Stevenson praised China's achievements in its "very rapid" development since reform and opening-up.

"China never has so many people lifted out of poverty so fast... and its opening up and economic reforms began only



Adlai Ewing Stevenson III, former Illinois senator, speaks during an exclusive interview with Xinhua in Chicago, the US, on July 16. *Wang Ping*

40 years ago," he said.

"We started the internet for China, now China has more internet users than in the US," Stevenson said. "China's development has been very, very, very, very rapid."

"It is much more open to foreign investment; it has cracked down on corruption," he commented.

"The changes are too big and too many to enumerate," Stevenson stressed.

And China has gone further beyond those. "China now promotes the development of other countries through investment in infrastructure... Now China's influence spreads everywhere with its investment," he added.

Besides family photos, most of the photos presented on the wall and on the table in Stevenson's study were either taken in China or showing Stevenson being together with Chinese people.

"Now I travel and speak freely in China, and in English," Stevenson said with a happy smile. "I may have more good friends in China than here in the United States."

Stevenson still remembered well his last trip to China in May 2016. "Three reception dinners were given in my honor, and I have friends from all over, new friends as well as old, join me to welcome me, toast me."

"They all joined together and sang Auld Lang Syne. That was very touching," the 88-year-old said. "I would love to go back." (Xinhua) ■

# Belt and Road lifts off

By Zhao Lei

**T**he international cooperation based on the Belt and Road Initiative has made great strides since it was first conceived five years ago.

The initiative, which aims to promote common development, has won wide recognition from the international community. To date, China has signed cooperation deals with more than 100 countries and regions as well as international organizations to jointly advance the Belt and Road Initiative. The core ideas of the initiative have also been accepted and written into the final documents of many important international organizations and institutions including the UN, the G20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Along with its broad acknowledgment in the world arena, the initiative is also becoming key to China's taking part in global governance and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.



VCG



A freight train loaded with imported finished vehicles arrives at a railway container terminal in Xi'an, Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, June 13. *Li Yibo*

## A new type of public good

Traditional globalization is often referred to as modernization dominated by the West in the world systems theory, but the target of the Belt and Road Initiative is to build a world of common modernization. The world systems theory was first put forward by US sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein, who considered integration and inequality the two most important features in the capitalist world economic system. In his theory, global division of labor and world commodity exchange relations are the two major factors that bind all members of the international community firmly into a huge net that is the world economy. However, integration does not automatically lead to equalization.

The world economy is still a hierarchical structure consisting of the core, semi-periphery and periphery. Developed countries such as the UK, the United States and Japan are at the core of the system. Some moderately developed countries are on the semi-periphery of the system and a large number of developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and even some Eastern European countries, are on its periphery. With their superior position, those countries at the core can take advantage of the rest of the countries in both production and exchange.

The Belt and Road Initiative stands for a new type of globalization. With a basic logic of decentralization, it advocates common, fair and inclusive development. Therefore, the initiative is essentially opposed to colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism. In the past five years, the construction of Belt and Road projects demonstrated a noticeable feature: most projects were built in peripheral or semi-peripheral coun-



The construction site of a bridge along the China-Laos railway on May 2 in Vientiane, capital of Laos *Liu Ailun*

tries, such as the five Central Asian countries and the 16 Central and Eastern European countries. Many of these countries are landlocked nations, like Laos, Ethiopia, the Czech Republic and Kazakhstan. They enjoy few benefits from globalization mostly due to their geographical position. The Belt and Road Initiative, which promotes policy coordination and facilitates connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds, can help transform these landlocked nations into land-linked countries, making them indispensable nodes in the globalization grid, which fully embodies the global governance principles of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration. The initiative is an excellent example of public goods provided by China to promote world development.



The arrival ceremony of the first Volvo block train, which carried 123 brand new Volvo cars made in Northeast China, at the Zeebrugge Port in Belgium, on June 30, 2017. Ye Pingfan

## Expanding cooperation

Since the beginning of the year, unsavory comments about the Belt and Road Initiative have been increasing. In contrast to five years ago when critics accused China of exporting excess capacity and competing with the United States for geopolitical supremacy, negative narratives now focus on alleged violation of international rules and debt-trap diplomacy by China.

While none of these accusations are well grounded, China needs to readjust its approach as it continues to advance the Belt and Road Initiative.

Many Chinese companies engage in capital-intensive projects overseas such as the Gwadar Port, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and the China-Belarus Industrial Park. But infrastructure construction is only part of the story. It is equally crucial for China to invest more in sectors such as education, medical care and agriculture so that the Belt and Road Initiative can benefit local people in a more tangible way.

Furthermore, it is unfair that China's performance is too often judged by only Western research institutes. China needs to conduct more quantitative research into the Belt and Road Initiative based on its own indexes. With inclusiveness serving as one of its most essential traits, the initiative is open to different opinions. It is ill-advised either to exaggerate its importance or to reject its achievements.

In addition to research and consultation, it is imperative that China offer premium financial services. For example, in Africa, insufficient funds have long been a bottleneck constraining development on the continent. China can be a reliable partner as it takes a long view. China's investment goals are to help African countries promote indigenous industries

so that they can sustain their development. After building roads, ports and power plants, Chinese companies should work to enhance local production capacity. Products can not only meet domestic demand but can also be exported to earn foreign exchange. Institutions that finance this development should be results-oriented and transparent.

## Focused on the future

At a symposium marking the fifth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative on August 27, President Xi Jinping called for efforts to push for progress in projects that deliver real benefits to local people, and to keep expanding the market while maintaining trade balance.

He advocated a policy system of financial support for the initiative and encouraged non-governmental fund sources to invest in infrastructure and resource development projects in Belt and Road countries.

Xi pointed out that jointly pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative was not only aimed at economic cooperation, but also an important pathway to improve global development patterns and global governance and to promote the healthy development of economic globalization.

Indeed, the Belt and Road Initiative is intended to provide badly needed support to countries along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes. China, a developing nation that suffered from backwardness and dire poverty in the past, fully understands the concerns of its partners. It will never attempt to subordinate others, but will always seek win-win outcomes, a value that is in the DNA of the Chinese people. (Beijing Review) ■

*(The author is a professor of world studies with the Chinese Academy of Governance.)*

# Xinjiang's hearts, minds open up to Silk Road

By Wang Jingzhong and Miao Xiaojuan

**A**t a cafe in Kashgar's renovated old town, a German family of four sat in the morning sunshine debating which type of grape was the tastiest or most succulent.

"We bought a hundred types of Turpan grapes to eat in the car. They were all different, and each of us had our favorite," said Achim Loeffler, director of a Shanghai-based chemical firm.

"But other than that, everyone was amazed by the deserts, the mountains, the culture and the food. There was absolutely no disagreement on how delicious the lamb, noodles or naan bread were," his wife, Ute, added, while their son and daughter chuckled in the background.

After living in China for two and a half years, the Loefflers chose northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the heartland of both the ancient and modern Silk Roads, as the destination for the family's last trip before moving back to Germany.

"I'm curious about the old Silk Road, and I like the idea of the modern one linking the East with the West," Loeffler said, "On the trip, we saw a lot of work going on, especially in new infrastructure."

"Kashgar, for example, is old, but also very new," he added.

The ancient oasis city of Kashgar, in the westernmost part of China near the border with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, was an important staging post on the original Silk Road and has been revitalized as a bustling hub of business and different cultures.

From Kashgar to Pakistan's Gwadar Port, there will be new roads, railways, and pipelines along the 3,000-km China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that connects the northern and southern routes of the modern Silk Road.

A one-billion-dollar renovation project has transformed most of the substandard housing in Kashgar's old town into sound, earthquake-proof buildings, while retaining the area's traditional Uygur charm.

The old town is now a mainstay of the local economy, a favorite among young and old, locals and newcomers. Neither the mercantile culture nor the entrepreneurial spirit has waned over time.

A kilometer away, inside the Id Kah Mosque, tourists stop to stare at a wall-sized wool carpet as a tour guide explains that the 56 pomegranate flowers symbolize the unity of China's 56 ethnic groups, a sentiment echoed by President Xi Jinping when he said that all ethnic groups should hold together like pomegranate seeds to achieve national rejuvenation.

The Belt and Road Initiative was proposed by Xi in 2013 to boost world trade and connectivity through a land-based Silk Road Economic Belt and an oceangoing 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Nowhere exemplifies the initiative better than Xinjiang, which accounts for a quarter of China's land boundary.

Home to dozens of ethnic groups, it occupies a sixth of China's territory, although habitable oases only cover 9 percent of its area. Despite the barren landscape, Xinjiang is a frontier of cultural exchanges, transportation, and trade.

## Key pass

In his 1893 adventure novel "Claudius Bombarnac," Jules Verne envisioned a "Grand Transasiatic Railway" running from the Caspian Sea to Beijing. Back then, the idea of a rail link across Eurasia was almost as absurd as launching men to the moon with a cannon.

Men have, of course, since reached the moon, though not by cannon, and the dream of the railway has become a reality. But even the sci-fi writer could not have imagined the scale of today's China-Europe freight rail lines, the arteries of the modern Silk Road.

Between March 2011, when the first line opened, and the end of June this year, over 9,000 trips delivered nearly



A merchant from Pakistan presents his jewelry in Kashgar, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, July 10. Zhao Ge

800,000 containers of goods, connecting 48 Chinese cities with 42 cities in 14 European countries. The cost of rail freight is only 20 percent of the cost of moving cargo by air, and three times quicker than shipping by sea.

Centuries ago, the Alataw Pass—about 460 km west of Urumqi, Xinjiang's regional capital, and 680 km northeast of Almaty, the biggest city in Kazakhstan—was a windswept route through the mountains for traders on horseback. Now, 70 percent of westbound freight trains pass through it, with the roar of locomotives drowning out the howling wind.

China exported more than it imported on those trains until the Belt and Road Initiative addressed the imbalance. Zhao Jie, a Chinese waybill translator in Dostyk, the first Kazakh port after the pass, has noticed an increase in the variety of imports.

“When I started the job in 2013, the list of imported goods for translation was much duller, mostly steel and ore,” he said. “Now we import electronics, mechanical parts, drone accessories, red wine, baby formula and even polyester.”

The Alataw Pass has become one of the busiest trading posts on the border, linking Central Asia, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region by rail, road, air, and pipeline.

China's first cross-border crude oil pipeline, operational in 2006, from the Caspian Sea to the Alataw Pass, now brings in 12 million tonnes of crude oil every year.

“With China and Kazakhstan each holding 50 percent, the pipeline is a great example of our close partnership and the success of the Belt and Road Initiative,” said Yao Yage, head of the pipeline's operation center in the Alataw Pass.

## Trading hubs

Apart from being connected to raw materials and markets, the first bonded zone in Xinjiang gives the Alataw Pass an extra edge. More than 400 companies have established bases there since 2014, and total trade volume has risen to about \$8.7 billion.

A local private food-processing plant now has a 4,000-sq-meter warehouse and is building a 20,000-sq-meter new one, plus a 1,000-tonne flour mill. Its manager, Hu Xuming, said, “Our annual imports of Kazakh wheat will reach a million tonnes in five or 10 years, and we will store and process all the raw materials here to be cost-competitive.”

About 300 km southwest of the Alataw Pass, exporters in Horgos are grateful for improved customs clearance and simplified procedures. Yu Chengzhong, CEO of Jinyi International Trade Corp, the biggest local fruit and vegetable exporter, said the benefits have been immediate.

“It used to take 10 to 15 days to transport goods from Horgos to Russia, but now it only takes five,” he said. “Customs clearance in Kazakhstan used to take a whole day, but now it's only two hours.”

When Yu, from central China's Henan Province, arrived in Horgos more than 30 years ago, he struggled to make ends meet by selling fruit on the street. Now his company exports 70,000 tonnes of produce each year to neighboring countries and has increased the incomes of 1,000 farming households across China.

“The Belt and Road Initiative is a golden opportunity, a

blessing for all,” Yu said. “I have never seen Xinjiang safer or more flourishing than it is now.”

Despite being one of the most remote and inhospitable spots on earth and the youngest city along the Silk Road, Horgos does not lack creativity. Among the city's initiatives are an economic development zone and an international cooperation center.

Established in 2010, the economic development zone ensures that companies registered there enjoy a five-year tax holiday and are exempt from local corporate tax for the subsequent five years.

The international cooperation center, straddling the China-Kazakhstan border, is the world's only cross-border free-trade zone. The movement of personnel, vehicles and goods in the zone is unrestricted, and stores and visitors pay less or no tax.

Last year, the 5.28-sq-km center welcomed over 5.5 million visitors from China and abroad, 33 times the number in 2012 when it opened, and spending hit 1.7 billion dollars, almost three times as much as in 2016.

Horgos literally means a place where caravans pass, as it used to be a trading post along the northern route of the ancient Silk Road.

In Kazakh, Horgos is known as Khorgos, a place where wealth can be accumulated. That resonates with what it is becoming today—a regional hub of trade and commerce, a portal for China's opening-up to the west and a linchpin of the Belt and Road Initiative.

## Bigger dreams

The initiative isn't just powering development in Xinjiang.

Last year, China's imports from countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative rose by nearly 27 percent, compared with an 18.7-percent increase in overall imports, and its trade with those countries topped 1 trillion dollars, up almost 18 percent year on year.

While protectionism threatens to derail global trade, the Belt and Road Initiative looks set to define the 21st century by cutting global deficits in peace, development and governance. Over a hundred countries and international organizations are now on board.

As Xi said in an article published last month, the initiative offers a pathway to common development through improved infrastructure and connectivity and greater synergy of development strategies.

In just five years of experimentation and exploration, with visions becoming promises and promises turning into projects, the Belt and Road Initiative has emerged as one of the most important globally beneficial projects for international cooperation in modern history.

Projects in Xinjiang only scratch the surface of the opportunities under the initiative, and changes are first felt in Silk Road locations like Kashgar, the Alataw Pass and Horgos.

The most powerful change, however, is probably the changing perspectives.

As the Loeffler's 19-year-old son, Tobias said, “I knew little about the Silk Road, but now I am intrigued. After living in a foreign country like China, I know how much there is to see and do, and how great it can be.” (Xinhua) ■

# Belt and Road Initiative in five years

In just five years, the Belt and Road Initiative has grown from a concept to a key platform for building a community with a shared future for mankind and a well-received international public goods.

The following are some key facts about it.

-- In the autumn of 2013, respectively in Kazakhstan and Indonesia, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

-- The initiative's top-level design has been completed, with basic structures set up. Important resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly and Security Council contain reference to it.

-- As of July 2018, more than 100 countries and international organizations had signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with China, extending the initiative's scope from the Eurasian continent to Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the South Pacific region.

-- On November 8, 2014, China announced contributing \$40 billion to set up a Silk Road Fund to support the Belt and Road projects.

-- On March 28, 2015, China released the vision and actions on jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

-- On December 25, 2015, the China-initiated new multilateral financial institution Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was established.

-- On May 14-15, 2017, the first-ever Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held in Beijing, attended by State and government leaders of 29 countries. The more than 1,600 participants came from over 140 countries and 80 international organizations.

-- On October 24, 2017, pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative was written into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China.

-- About 95 percent of the 279 items on the outcome list of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation had been accomplished as of July 2018. The 14 others are being worked on.

-- As of August 26, 2018, the number of China-Europe freight trains has reached 10,000.

-- In the past five years, China's trade in goods with countries along the Belt and Road exceeded \$5.5 trillion. Chinese direct investment in the non-financial sectors of these countries reached \$80 billion.

-- In the past five years, China set up 82 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in countries along the Belt and Road, investing \$28.9 billion and creating about 244,000 local jobs. As of May 2018, China had signed 16 free trade agreements with 24 countries and regions, nearly half of which are countries along the Belt and Road.

-- In the first seven months of 2018, Chinese companies raised investment in 54 countries along the Belt and Road. The \$8.55-billion newly added investment represented an 11.8 percent increase year on year. New construction contracts along the Belt and Road worth \$57.11 billion.

-- Under the initiative, China has set up 81 education institutions and projects as well as 35 cultural centers in countries along the Belt and Road. In the first half of 2018, China spent over 270 million yuan (around \$39.3 million) on the Silk Road scholarships. (Xinhua)



Photo taken on September 8 shows the "Golden Bridge on Silk Road" structure in Beijing, capital of China. VCG

"Sky Lake" Songtao Reservoir

# Danzhou

A land of poetry

CHINA  
HAINAN

