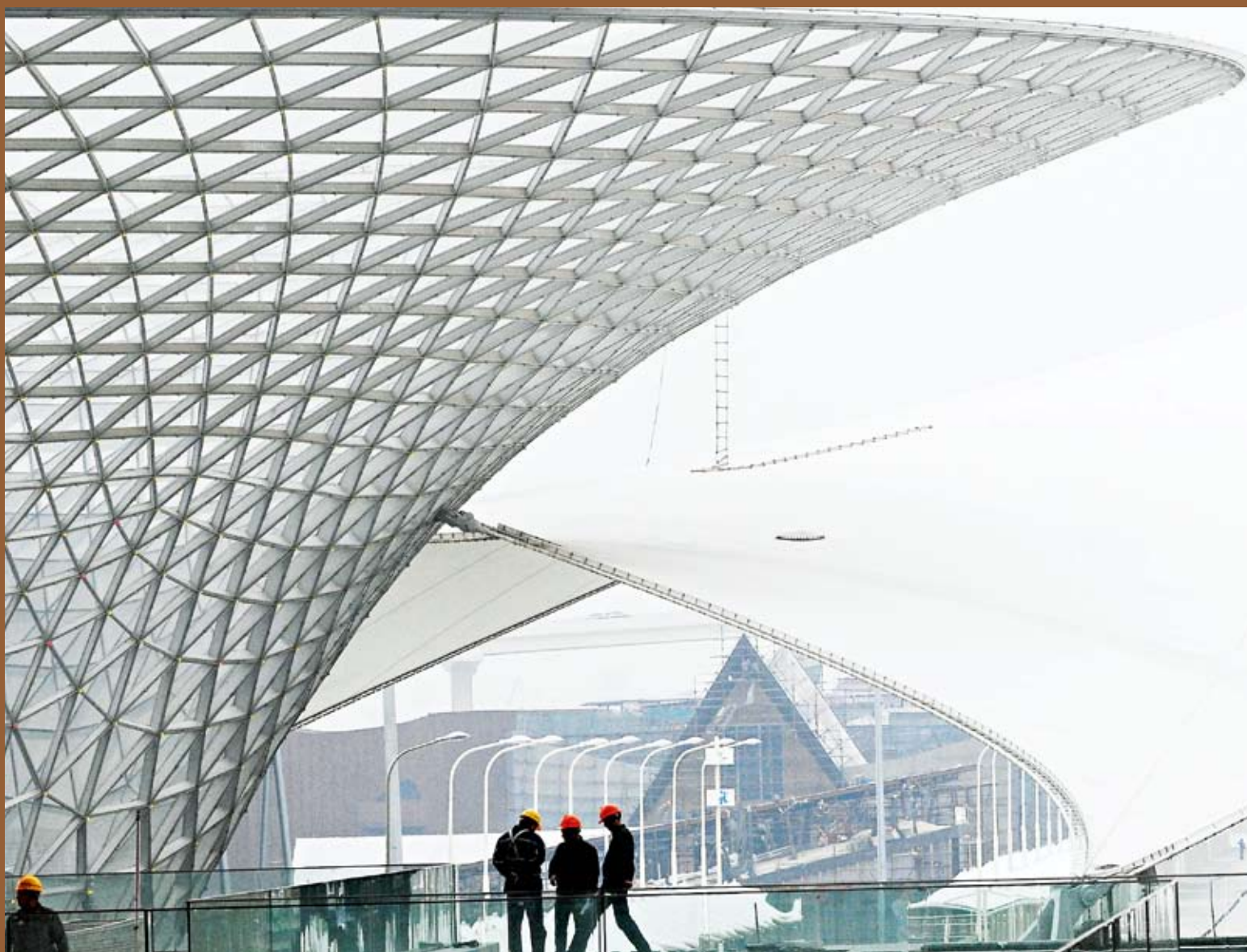


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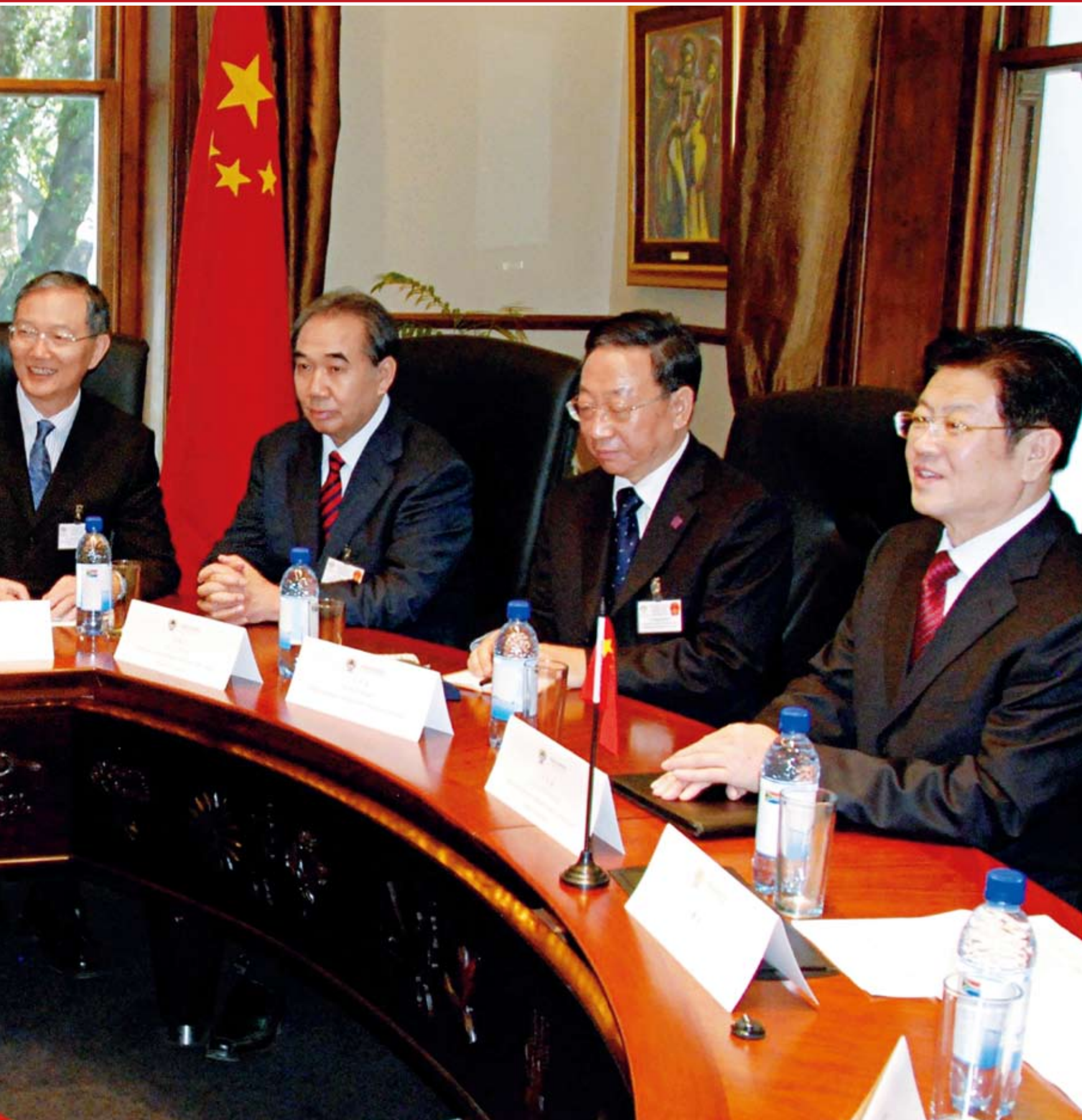


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**Deepen friendship, seek cooperation
and mutual development**

Chinese Premier's 60 hours in Copenhagen





Wang Zhaoguo (first from right), member of Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, holds a talk with the acting chairman of the National Provincial Affairs Committee of South Africa on November 3rd, 2009. *Li Jianmin*

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On November 3, 2009, Wang Zhaoguo (right), member of Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, holds a meeting with the vice speaker of the South African National Assembly. *Li Jianmin*



Wang Zhaoguo, member of Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, meets Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, who is the "caretaker president" of South Africa in Cape Town, on November 4, 2009. *Li Jianmin*



Aneerood Jugnauth (right), president of Mauritius, meets with Wang Zhaoguo, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, in Port Louis on November 7, 2009. Wang is on an official visit to Mauritius. *Li Jianmin*

Deepen friendship, seek cooperation and mutual development

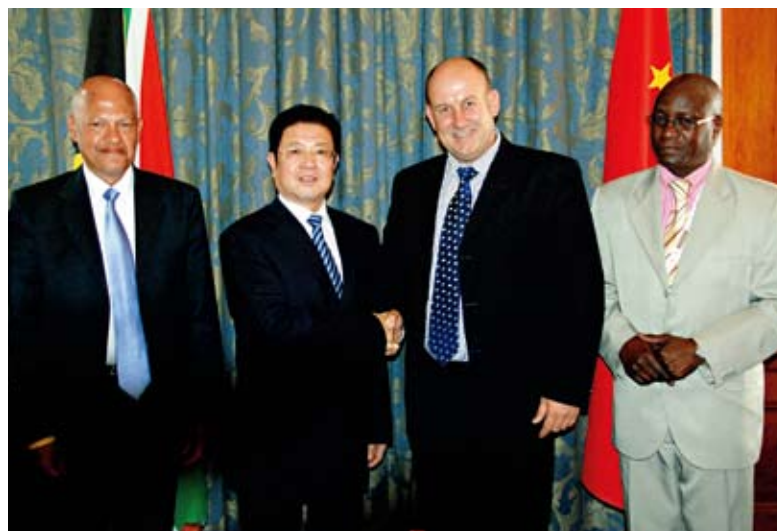
The visit of Wang Zhaoguo, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, to South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya

By Ren Da

Wang Zhaoguo, member of Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, paid a friendship visit to South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya on November 1-12, 2009.

During the scorching summer days in the south hemisphere, Wang met with the government officials, parliament leaders and people from all walks of life. They discussed issues con-

cerning bilateral relations, exchanged opinions on relations between NPC and the three parliaments and other international and regional issues of mutual interest. The visit is a great success since it deepens friendship, enlarges the consensus, enhances the cooperation and mutual development between these countries.



Wang Zhaoguo, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), meets with Athol Trollip (second from right), leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa on November 4, 2009. *Li Jianmin*

Wang Zhaoguo, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, meets with Rajkeswur Kailash Purryag, speaker of Mauritian National Assembly, in Port Louis on November 7, 2009. Wang is on an official visit to Mauritius. *Lei Ming*

Promote bilateral ties, increase parliamentary exchanges

Though China and Africa are far from each other, the both sides have enjoyed a traditional friendship for quite a long time. To enhance the cooperation and friendship between developing countries, include African countries, is the cornerstone of China's independent and peaceful diplomatic policies. In recent years, with the establishment of new strategic partnership between China and African countries, the Sino-African relationship has entered a new era of development. South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya, despite the difference in their populations, national territories and economic development and cultural traditions, are the traditional friendly partners of China. The relationship between China and these three countries is an epitome of the profound and diverse Sino-African relations.

While meeting the governmental leaders, the Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee stressed that the Chinese Government pays high attention to the development of Sino-African relationship. He expressed China's willingness to accelerate the high-level communication, deepen the practical cooperation, bring the bilateral relationship to a new stage and benefit the bilateral economic development and happiness of the peoples.

When meeting with the parliamentary heads, Wang said that the communications between the NPC and the parliaments are an important part of the Sino-African relationships.

The continuous development of bilateral communication and cooperation plays very important role on multilateral occasions, such as the parliament association conferences and other events as well.

South Africa, which is the locomotive of African economy and one of the most important countries of mineral resources, is one of the major developing countries. Since China and South Africa set up diplomatic relationship 11 years ago, the bilateral relationship has developed rapidly. Both countries take the other as mutual strategic cooperative partners. In international and regional affairs, South Africa keeps a very good communication and cooperation with China. The year 2006 witnessed the establishment of a regular exchange mechanism between the Chinese NPC and the South African National Congress.

During the meeting with Sisulu, chairman of the National Congress of South Africa, Wang stressed that the establish-

Though China and Africa are far from each other, the both sides have enjoyed a traditional friendship for quite a long time.

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During the meeting with Sisulu, chairman of the National Congress of South Africa, Wang stressed that the establish-



Being the legislative capital of Republic of South Africa, Cape Town is the country's second largest city. The Cape of Good Hope, a rocky headland on the Atlantic coast, is the southern tip of Africa. CFP

ment of regular exchange mechanism between Chinese NPC and South Africa's National Congress opened a new age for the cooperation between the two countries. Sisulu echoed that the National Congress of South Africa is willing to devote to the acceleration of the friendly cooperation in all fields and the mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

When meeting with Mauritius National Congress Chairman Rajkeswur Purryag, Wang said that the NPC and the National Congress of Mauritius has been keeping a very good term on exchanges and cooperation during a long period of time. The mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples has been greatly increased and the content of the bilateral ties

enriched. The NPC is willing to make efforts with the National Congress of Mauritius, further increase and enrich the level of exchanges. Rajkeswur Purryag told Wang that the visit indicates that the Chinese Government pays great attention to the bilateral relationship with Mauritius. The National Congress of Mauritius is willing to enhance the multi-level exchanges with the NPC and further develop the bilateral friendly relationship and increase the mutual understanding between the two peoples.

At the conference with the chairman of Kenya National Congress, Kenneth Marende, Wang said that parliamentary co-operations are playing very important roles in their national

political life respectively. To enhance the mutual exchange and cooperation between the two will be conducive to overall relationships. The NPC pays much attention to the friendly exchanges with its Kenyan counterpart and is willing to further develop the mutual high-level exchanges between the special committees and friendship groups. China is willing to share experiences with the National Congress of Kenya on legislation, supervision, state administration and humanity improvement and to develop cooperation in all the possible trades and fields. In his turn, Kenneth Marende told Wang that Kenya is glad to further develop cooperation with China on trade, tourism, education and other fields. By working closer with the NPC, the Kenya National Congress is willing to devote to the future mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of the two countries and accelerate the bilateral relationship.

To cope with international financial crisis by accelerating win-win cooperation

The outbreak of international financial crisis in 2008 has led to enormous pinch on the world economy. It also influenced China's trade and cooperation, especially the collaborations between Chinese enterprises and those from the three African countries. During his visit, one of the most frequently mentioned topics is how to accelerate the mutual beneficial cooperation and cope with the international financial crisis.

During his meeting with Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, acting president of South Africa, Wang pointed out that the relationship between China and South Africa has entered a new stage of overall cooperation, mutual beneficial and development. Not long ago, during the 64th Congress of UN, President Hu Jintao and President Jacob Zuma reached a new consensus on further strengthening the practical cooperation in every field. China is willing to work together with the South Africa to implement the consensus and further strengthening the cooperation and improve the levels of cooperation for a better development of mutual relationship. Motlanthe agreed with Wang's opinion, saying that South Africa is ready to further develop relationship with China, to enhance practical cooperation in all fields and accelerate the development of bilateral relationship.

Kenya, which locates in eastern Africa and is famous for its East Africa Rift Valley, plays a vital role in regional affairs. The relationship between China and Kenya is a long-term and friendly one. The Kenya government proposed a "Looking Eastwards" strategy, focusing on the cooperation with China and accelerates the friendly cooperation in all fields.

Wang told Kenyan leaders that China and Kenya has already established long-term, stable, mutual beneficial friendly



Citizens of Cape Town in a gala. CFP



Local residents dance on the beach of Mauritius. CFP

cooperative relationships. The bilateral relationship between the two is in a new development stage. The exchange and cooperation between the two countries in politics, economy and trade, humanity, and other fields has been deepened continuously and has already made great achievement. China is willing to cope with international financial crisis hand in hand with Kenya and further develop the bilateral friendship in all pos-

sible fields.

Kenya President Mwai Kibaki told Wang that Kenya took China as a reliable friend. Kenya admired the great achievements on modernization constructions made by China and expressed gratitude towards China for its aid. Kenya is willing to make efforts together with the Chinese Government to strengthen the cooperation and therefore bring benefits for both countries and their people.

During his visit, the 4th Ministerial Conference of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held in an Egyptian city Sharm-el-Sheikh. At his meeting with Kenya Prime Minister Raila Odinga, Wang said that, on behalf of the Chinese government, Premier Wen Jiabao announced eight new measures to promote the China-Africa cooperation. NPC will actively implement the measures in order to benefit the African people. Odinga told Wang that China is one of the first countries that acknowledged Kenya as an independent country. After the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relationship, China and Kenya have been keeping a very close relationship and the cooperation in many fields. He expressed this thanks for the new measures launched by the Chinese government and noted Kenya is willing to work hand in hand with China to deepen the practical cooperation with China and realize mutual development.

Deal with climate change through cooperation

Located in the southwest part of the Indian Ocean, the island country Mauritius is called a “paradise.” It is also named “African Hawaii” for its beautiful scenery, richness and peace. The deep blue bay is one of the best places to enjoy the Indian Ocean coral while taking a glass-bottom ship. The enthusiastic people of Mauritius are good at singing and dancing. In the 37 years after the establishment of diplomatic relationship, both countries have made great achievements in politics, economy, culture and many other fields as well.

As an island country, climate change is one of the most attentive issues that Kenya concerns. Also, climate change is one of the common challenges that the human kind is facing today. While discussing the countermeasures in coping with world climate changes, Wang said that President Hu Jintao had already announced China’s stand and opinions on the climate changes. China understands and supports the African developing countries, especially countries like Mauritius in their concerns and reasonable proposals on the climate changes.

During his visit, Wang introduced China’s policy and stance on dealing with climate change. He reiterated that international society should stick to the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility”; the developed countries should take



Aborigines of Kenya. CFP



An elephant drinks water in Nairobi, Kenya. CFP



Kenyan Samburu dancers. CFP

the responsibility of reducing mid-term emission and provide technical, financial and capability construction support for developing countries.

The leaders of the three countries appreciated China's active measures on coping with climate changes and showed their support and knowledge on China's stand. South Africa indicated that South Africa held similar stand on climate change with China. It hoped to strengthen cooperation with China to accelerate the developed countries providing more financial and technical support for developing countries. Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam told Wang that he had listened to the speech delivered by President Hu Jintao at the summit UN Conference on climate changes. Through this visit, he further understood the measures the Chinese government has taken to

deal with climate change. He thought that China and Mauritius shared a lot of common opinions on climate change issue and he hoped that more cooperation between the two countries would come into being.

From Cape Town to Port Louis and then to Nairobi, from Cape of Good Hope to Blue Bay to East Africa Rift Valley, during his 10-day trip, Wang travelled more than 35,000 kilometers in distance. The purpose of this visit is to deepen friendship, accelerate the cooperation, seek future development and accelerate peaceful and mutual prosperity of the harmonious world.

The effective and pragmatic visit of Wang is a great success. It will accelerate the establishment of new strategic partnership between China and African countries. ■

Food safety, a long journey ahead of China

By Yu Hao



An inspector examines the quality of food from a supermarket. CFP

On June 28, 2008, the No.1 PLA Hospital in Lanzhou, Gansu Province received an infant patient suffering from kidney stones. The distressed parents said the kid had taken the Sanlu infant formula, produced by the Sanlu Group located in Shijiazhuang, since birth. Later on, the Gansu Provincial Department of Health received some other cases about infants having urethral stones. In mid-July, they launched an investigation about the issue and reported it to the Ministry of Health (MOH). Within two months, the number of infant patients climbed to 14.

By September 11, similar cases were reported in other provinces and regions like Shaanxi, Ningxia, Hunan, Hubei, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangxi and Jiangsu. Initial investigations indicated that the formula produced by Sanlu Group Co. Ltd. based in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, might have been polluted by adding melamine.

On September 13, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council kicked off the first-class emergency response for serious food safety issues. A leading group was set up to handle the incident. Gao Qiang, the then MOH Party Secretary, said at

a press conference, “The polluted Sanlu infant formula issue is a severe food accident. Some suspects have blended melamine into the milk with the aim to increase the content of protein.”

On December 31, the prosecutor accused Tian Wenhua, the former chairperson of Sanlu Group, Wang Yuliang, the former deputy general manager, Hang Zhiqi, another former deputy general manager and Wu Jusheng, former manager of Department of Milk Resources, were responsible for the production and sale of contaminated formula powder and milk. They should be subject to the Criminal Law. Li Changjiang, head of the General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine, resigned from his position to assume responsibilities. A number of city officials in Shijiazhuang, including Party Secretary Wu Xianguo, Mayor Ji Tangchun, vice-mayors Zhang Fawang and Zhao Xinchao and Jiang Hongjiang, all resigned or were dismissed from their posts.

A major shift from hygiene to safety

After four rounds of discussions during the past 3 years, the day of February 28, 2009 witnessed the approval of the Food Safety Law by the NPC Standing Committee. At the same time, the Food Hygiene Law, adopted on October 30, 1995, was annulled on June 1, 2009, when the Food Safety Law came into force. The wording change from “hygiene” to “safety” in the law indicated a big transition on legislative concepts and the supervision mode on food safety.

“The promulgation of the law witnessed four rounds of deliberations by two succeeding NPC Standing Committees. The occurrence of Sanlu Incident altered the planned legislature procedure. The top legislature then made a decision to listen to more public opinion on the draft of the law, which finally got approved on February 28,” NPC officials said.

A NPC Standing Committee supervision panel was dispatched to Heilongji-

ang Province on November 16 to oversee the implementation of the law. Food safety concerns the health and life of the people, said the panel, adding that more efforts should be made to let the whole society know the content, basic legislative concept and significance of the law.

After four rounds of discussions during the past 3 years, the day of February 28, 2009 witnessed the approval of the Food Safety Law by the NPC Standing Committee.

On November 18, the team inspected the Grand Heihedao Shopping Mall in Heihe, a city that is opposite to the Blagoveshchensk of Russia on the other side of the river. Being a multifunctional port city, Heihe is the nearest and largest port along the 4,300-kilometer Sino-Russian borderline. In recent years, the city’s government has expanded the trading area to all its suburban area, attracting thousands of Russians every day. The number of Russian consumers was less than 100 in the past.

Standing before the booths, the inspection team exchanged views with commercial tenants and Russian tourists on whether they know the adoption of the Food Safety Law as well as its influence to food market.

According to the 2009 Inspection Plan of the NPC Standing Committee and the arrangement on the Food Safety Law enforcement inspection, five panels had been set up under the leadership of five



A local resident purchases vegetables at a shopping mall of agricultural products in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. CFP



Inspectors check the trademarks on food products at a supermarket in Dongcheng District in Beijing on December 29, 2009. *Lao Luo*

vice-chairpersons. From late September to late November, the five teams went to 10 provinces and regions, including Beijing, Hebei, Shanxi, Heilongjiang, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Guangxi and Chongqing. Besides, the NPC Standing Committee also demanded local people's congress standing committees to organize inspection tours in other provinces, regions and municipalities. In February 2010, the inspection teams will submit their reports to the 13th Conference of the 11th NPC Standing Committee.

Law enforcement inspection is an important component of NPC Standing Committee's supervision efforts.

Less than half a year has passed since the Food Safety Law came into force on June 1, 2009. For what purpose the NPC Standing Committee organized the law enforcement inspections within a short period of time? The NPC magazine interviewed NPC Standing Committee mem-

ber Bai Keming, who is a vice leader of the inspection teams.

"Food safety, which relates with livelihood of the people, is one of the focal issues attracting public attention. The Food Safety Law is the legislative basis of food safety work. To conduct enforcement inspection of the law, which took effect months ago, indicates that the committee paid high attention towards food safety," said Bai.

According to Law on the Supervision by Standing Committees of People's Congresses at All Levels, law enforcement inspection is one of the major and frequent tasks of the standing committees above county-level. It is also one of the important components of the socialism supervision system with Chinese characteristics. The purposes of law enforcement inspection are to ensure the implementation of the Constitution and laws, to safeguard the legal interests of the public and legal persons.

The legislature departments do not deal with concrete cases and problems directly, but to supervise the enforcement of laws. As for the specific problems and cases found in the inspection, these teams will report to the standing committees, which then discussed and delivered them to law enforcement departments for treatment. As a result, the standing committees at various levels are the main body of law implementation inspection; Law implementation authorities at the same level are liable to supervision.

The law enforcement inspection teams can adopt various ways to fulfill their tasks. For example, they may conduct on-the-spot surveys without prearrangement: rush to the related units to get the first-hand information. Also the inspection teams may choose one or several units to conduct thorough investigations. Or they may deliver certain questionnaires or surveys. It is important to carry out the implementation inspection with efficiency and get rid of the formalism. The inspection tour should be undertaken in a pragmatic way by fully listening to public opinion.

With the consideration of the short time since the promulgation of the Food Safety Law, the inspection efforts aimed to propel the implementation of the law and government departments to improve work style, Bai said. At the same time, such a move is also to improve the current situation of food safety and the health of the public. The focus of this inspection tour is to sort out the overall information on the enforcement of the Food Safety Law, to tackle difficulties and problems as well as to solicit suggestions and advices.

Enhance the awareness of the whole society on food safety

The key issues during the inspection tours include how the State Council and its departments and local governments above county-level carry out and oversee the Food Safety Law and how the food producers and operators follow the law.

Detailed inspections include: information on the coordinating mechanisms, monitoring system set up by the State Council and local governments, functional adjustment, personnel construction; the promulgation of local regulations and abolition of contradicted ones; promotion of the law and food safety knowhow; information on food operators and producing enterprises; suggestions and advices on how to enhance and improve the food safety in the future.

According to the results of the law implementation inspection tours, the State Council and related organizations and the governments at province-level and all the parties involved have attached great attention to the promotion, education and training of the law.

Since the enforcement of the law, the State Council and local governments at province-level spared no efforts to publicize the law, organizing seminars, workshops, food safety month (or week). In some provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities), knowledge contests were organized. Companies of produce, logistics and cater sectors voluntarily launch food safety training among their staff to increase their awareness of the law.

Through the above-mentioned promotion, the awareness and knowledge of the public and the food enterprises employees on the law increased greatly.

Supervision on food safety involves several sectors, which might involve a lot of contradictions. How to ensure the law enforcement departments not to shed their responsibilities when dealing with problems occurred during producing, logistics and cater of food? Bai brought out five suggestions based on his law enforcement inspection tours. Firstly, to speed up the monitoring system on food safety through further specifying the duty of each departments; Secondly, to enhance

the leading and coordinating roles of the local governments above county-level; Thirdly, to enhance the supervisions of the public and media; Fourthly, to accelerate the honesty and integrity among the enterprises; Fifthly, to carry out the food safety monitoring system.

Currently, there are more than 448,000 food producing or processing enterprises in China. About 80 percent of them are small-scale ones each with less than 10 staff. During this round of inspection, a main problem is that it is difficult to define the main body of supervision to the small enterprises, because they always engage in food producing, operation and cater. To make the situation more complicated, loopholes and overlaps existed

during the supervision field; besides, different provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) have to deal with different situation. That is the most difficult part in monitoring effort, Bai said.

At present, the law authorizes local governments at province-level to draft specific administrative measures to manage the small-scale food producers and peddlers. So far, the local governments are making specific administrative measures to monitor the food producers and small peddlers.

At the end of 2009, the two major suspects involving in the tainted milk powder scandal were sentenced to death and executed by the Higher People's Court in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province. ■



Children at a kindergarten in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, learn food safety knowhow by making cakes.

Huan Wei

NPC oversees how governments spend 4 trillion stimulus money

By Li Xiaojian

NPC Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo conducts a field research at an IT company that affiliates with the Hefei University of Technology on July 6, 2009. Jin Guolin



Song Jixing gets excited whenever he recalls what happened to him that day. It was a happy surprise for him.

That was six months ago, on June 2. A group of strangers suddenly showed up when Song was working in a field in Zhongmou, a county of Zhengzhou, Henan Province. He didn't know what was going on.

These people turned out to be a research team sent by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, to inspect the country's irrigation infrastructure constructions.

Ismail Tiliwaldi, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, headed the inspection team. He asked Song if the drought earlier this year would affect the harvest. Pointing to the golden wheat in his field, Song answered, "No, it won't hurt the harvest, thanks to the improved irrigation system."

A resident of Cha'eran village, Song has seven mu of farmland. He does not need to pay for the water, but the electricity used in the irrigation. The power expenditure is 0.65 yuan per kilowatt hour, or 100 to 200 yuan a year, about one third less than those of the previous years.

The village has more than 3,000 residents, but had only 30 wells in 2006. With the financial support from the government, the village has dug nearly 100 more wells, each of them can provide water for 20 to 30 mu of farmland.

Most of the land in Zhongmou needs irrigation water from wells. Chinese government has been investing heavily in building the irrigation facilities in this Central China county in recent years. Statistics show that by now, the county has built 14,945 wells, more than 97 percent of them were equipped with electricity-powered irrigation systems.

Zhongmou was just one of the stops the NPC research team made on their



An indemnificatory housing project in Songjiang District, Shanghai. CFP

The NPC has been exploring new ways of work supervision in a bid to help the country's economy walk out of the shadow as soon as possible.

field trip across the country. In response to the international financial crisis, the NPC has been exploring new ways of work supervision in a bid to help the country's economy walk out of the

shadow as soon as possible.

The field research program, which will inspect projects of affordable housing, irrigation, technological transformation and innovation, and those related to education and health care, was kicked off in Beijing in May. The four areas were the most important parts Chinese Government has spent in its 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package to fight the economic crisis.

In three months, the inspection teams' footsteps covered nearly every province or region of the nation.

The team submitted a report to the meeting of the Standing Committee of the 11th NPC in the end of October. The suggestion based on this report, will prompt relevant government bodies to improve their work and make sure the central government's policies on economic growth, people's welfares and



Headed by Gao Qiang, an indemnificatory housing investigation group dispatched by the NPC Standing Committee, carries out an on-the-spot research in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province. Gao is also the head of the Budget Work Commission, NPC Standing Committee. Xie Sufang

social stability were carried out accordingly.

“Every cent comes from the people. We must be responsible for the people”

China's economic growth slowed down as a result of the impact of global financial turmoil in the second half of last year.

In response, the central government

decided to boost the domestic consumption, change the export-oriented developing mode, adjust the economic structure, and work hard on fixing some social and economical problems concerning the people's interests.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, stated in a report that the most important work for the Standing Committee is to oversee the full implementation of the government policies. The field inspection program was created to review the key infrastructure projects, so as to ensure the central government's goal of economic devel-

opment this year is finished as planned.

According to the government work report at the second session of the 11th NPC, the central government invested a total of 908 billion yuan this year in affordable housing, education, health care, culture, environmental protection, technological renovation, farmland irrigation, railway, highway construction and the building of new homes for people affected by last year's earthquake.

The report said that the government investment must be used at key areas that would help fight the economic crisis, and the weakest points of the economic and social development. It should not be used to general manufacturing industries. The local governments should encourage enterprises to increase their investment in research and development.

“Every cent of our money comes from the people. We must be responsible for the people,” said Wu. He added that the inspection teams should provide valuable advice to help the governments improve their work style, avoid blind urban expansion or repetitive infrastructure constructions and make sure the central government's policies were carried out.

Keep a close eye on 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package

On May 26, the NPC Standing Committee officially launched the program to inspect major public investment projects at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Each led by a vice-chairman of the Standing Committee, the research groups would check out the implementation progress of major policy decisions in every department, inspecting whether the investment usage, capital allocation, matching funds, implementation progress and investment performances are

in line with State regulations and discussing current problems and next step work plan.

From May to August, the research groups were dispatched to 18 provinces to start work.

On October 28, Shi Xiushi, director of NPC Financial and Economic Committee, announced the report issued by the research groups at the second plenary session of the 11th meeting of the 11th NPC.

Shi said that by the end of August, the central government has issued 717 billion yuan construction funds to major public investment projects, which accounted for 79 percent of the budget. Among the fund, protective housing construction funds accounts for 95.5 percent of the budget, amounting to 47.1 billion yuan. The funds to education, health and other social undertakings reached 85.3 billion, equivalent to 92.1 percent of the budget.

Furthermore, 50.8 billion yuan subsidy funds for technological innovation were invested, accounting for 80.3 percent of the budget, while 69.5 percent of the budget has been materialized in agricultural projects.

The projects have achieved certain degrees of results with the efforts of the central and local governments, but the research groups also exposed difficulties and problems in these projects.

Firstly, some projects were not well prepared without a solid planning. For example, the plausibility research to some technological innovation projects was not adequate, which were not closely connected with the restructuring of the key industries.

Secondly, local governments were confronted with difficulties in providing matching funds due to the fall of fiscal revenues this year.

Thirdly, some projects lacked coordination, others were not carried out resolutely. In some education and health projects, the local governments

arranged funds for only major projects while excluding infrastructure and accommodation for teachers and medical staff.

Fourthly, unclear responsibilities and unsound mechanisms increased the difficulties. Some places were complaining that there were no solid systems to make sure the funding, operation and maintenance go smoothly.

Lastly, uneven and slow progress. By the end of August, the government has finished 23.6 percent of the investment in the affordable housing projects, which amounted to 39.49 billion yuan. The governments have only finished 26

“The NPC should continue to strengthen supervision, push the local governments to improve their work, and make the 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package a satisfying project to all the people.”

percent of investment in the secondary vocational education, and 25 percent in health projects.

Through meetings or personal talks, the research groups communicated with the local governments and related departments, and gave them suggestions for improvement. They advised to invest in the right fields and make sure the portfolio is well proportioned. At the same time, the investment should make full use of the complementary fund in

accordance with government policies and center on the efficacy while performing our responsibilities. The government should continue to deepen the system reform and build it into a well-rounded one. In addition, it is also urgent to build a complete and sound legal system.

Supervision takes effects

With the supervision of NPC's inspection groups, Shi Xiushi was pleased to see that some of the problems have been gradually resolved. According to Shi, 11 major projects related to people's livelihood were lagging behind due to cumbersome procedures and the 32.8 billion yuan fund invested in 2009 hasn't been in place yet. Via active supervision and coordination, the research groups urged related departments of the State Council to accelerate working pace to ensure the funds in place by the end of 2009.

Many members of NPC Standing Committee were happy to see the effect of the inspection groups, and said this innovative way of supervision should continue next year.

According to Zheng Gongcheng, a member of the NPC Standing Committee, the inspection program is a good beginning, and it should be regular work for the authorities.

Another member, Fu Guihua, believed that the NPC Standing Committee has set an example for the whole country. She hoped all local levels of the people's congresses play their roles to intensify the supervision.

“The NPC should continue to strengthen supervision, push the local governments to improve their work, and make the 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package a satisfying project to all the people,” said Tang Xiaoquan, a member of the NPC Standing Committee. ■



On March 7, 2009, NPC deputy Mao Fengfei(center) takes out an ear of corn during a panel discussion of Liaoning Province in the Second Session of the 11th NPC Conference in Beijing. He suggested the government to raise grain prices in order to increase the farmers' income. *By Xing Shiwei*

Mao Fengmei speaks on his 17 years of NPC membership

A candid mouthpiece for farmers

By Li Xiaojian

NPC deputy Mao Fengmei is famous for his outspoken expression about the concerns of farmers.

Despite his tight schedule, Mao spared some time with NPC reporter recently. A native of Northeast China, he is talkative and humorous in reviewing his working experience as a NPC deputy.

Mao was born in the year 1949, when the New

China was founded, in a village called Dalishu (Big Pear Tree), Fengcheng City in Liaoning Province. In 1980, he was selected as the leader of the village and became the Party branch secretary in March 1983. Since March 1992, he has been working as the general manager of the village-run company. Also from that year, he has been elected as the deputy of the 8th, 9th, 10th and the 11th NPC in succession.

During the interview, Mao kept mentioning some information like, “I was born into a peasant’s family”, “I am a representative of farmers”, “Being a NPC deputy, it’s my honor to speak for the interest of mass of farmers.”

As a farmer, Mao knows well what the farmers are thinking and feeling. It also explains why his remarks reflect the actual interests of the farmers.

During his four tenures of being an NPC deputy, Mao hammered out more than 100 proposals and suggestions, many of which had been adopted by relevant departments.

Not long after he was firstly elected as NPC deputy, Mao said he was surprised to find that electricity prices in cities were lower than those in rural areas.

“How strange! As you know, people in cities made more money than farmers did. But why the latter had to pay more for power?” Mao told the journalist. “Farmers living around my hometown complained a lot on this. I had thought that was unique in Liaoning. But some friends in Heilongjiang Province told me that the situation in many places was almost the same.”

During the 8th NPC session, Mao submitted a proposal on bridging the power price gaps between rural and urban areas. As a result, the National Grid enlarged investment into rural areas and the gap between electricity costs in cities and countryside is narrowing constantly.

On the conference of the 9th NPC, Mao proposed to waive the agricultural taxation. At that time, many deputies disagreed with Mao, claiming that the collection of agricultural taxes can be traced back to thousands of years ago. So how this can be cancelled in such a short period of time? But Mao stuck to his opinion and went to meet the Minister of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, Mao didn’t get an answer immediately. “From then on, I kept making this same proposal for six years until the central government canceled agriculture taxation at last,” Mao said proudly.

On the session of the 10th NPC, he put forward seven proposals, ranging from increase of investment and financial credit to agricultural sector, to encouraging and supporting the development of collective economy and management of land in rural areas.

Since 2008, China’s economy has suffered from the most severe challenges in the new century because of international financial crisis. To deal with

the crisis, the government has taken a series of measures to ensure the stable increase of economy, people’s livelihood and to adjust the economic structure and expand domestic demands. Hence, deputy Mao holds that the key factor for the expansion of domestic demands and economic development is to the vast rural market. Traditional concepts among Chinese farmers are to save money for a peaceful life in their old age instead of consuming.

To solve this thorny problem, Mao has carried out serious profound researches, suggesting that the government should increase the prices of grains to increase farmers’ income. Also he proposed the government to enhance social security in rural areas. On the 2nd meeting of the 11th NPC this year, Mao brought out more than 10 proposals, covering the above-mentioned ideas.

Having served as a NPC deputy for many years, Mao was puzzled why the living conditions of farmers cannot be increased rapidly. “For those farmers who live in the grain production areas, they have so much land in their hand, but why can’t they enjoy a better life?”

After conducting on-the-spot research, he drew a conclusion that the reason lied in the low prices of grains. Before the implementation of opening-up and reform policy, the average salary for workers was 30 yuan per month and now it has increased 40 times today. But for the prices of grains only surged 10 times. So in this situation, how can the living standards of farmers be improved?

“I’ve also studied the grain prices in other countries, whose governments usually provide mountains of grain subsidies to their farmers,” said Mao, adding it is not practicable to allow the grain prices skyrocketing because some dwellers in urban areas cannot afford that. As a way out, it is more convenient for the government to provide more direct subsidies to the farmers.

“It’s hard to predict when this issue can be solved. But I will keep on working on it,” Mao told the NPC magazine. “I think the grain prices should be raised, otherwise the farmers cannot tolerate anymore. Being an NPC deputy, it’s my responsibility to reflect the real situation. With the development of State power, I am sure it will be solved.”

Proposals like the above-mentioned ones are numerous.

Mao said that he was born into a peasant’s family,

“It’s hard to predict when this issue can be solved. But I will keep on working on it,” Mao told the NPC magazine.

so he knew the real life in the rural area. It is crucial for the Party and government to adopt suitable measures to help deal with rural problems. “By reflecting the actual life of farmers, I can deserve the title of an NPC member,” said Mao.

So it is reasonable to believe that Mao has fulfilled his responsibilities of being an NPC deputy. On how to better play a role in speaking for the people and doing things for them, Mao told the press that the NPC Standing Committee pays more attention to the advices and proposals submitted by its deputies. When dealing with these proposals, government and its related organizations showed a careful attitude. He also suggested that NPC deputies to study the

changing situation, listen to people’s voice and put forward feasible proposals and advices.

To sum up his 10-year experiences of being an NPC deputy, Mao noted that good proposals and advices are focal, forward-looking and feasible.

For example, after the closing of the 17th Congress of the CPC, the CPC Central Committee noted in its report “Let the Sunlight of Opening-up and Reform Policy Shine over Both the Urban and Rural China.” So he mapped out a proposal on solving the social welfare of aged farmers. From this year, the government has started to solve this problem and taken measures to promote new old-age insurance system across the country. ■

An interview with 11th NPC deputy Juma Taier Mawla Hajj

Social development: Cornerstone of the freedom of religious belief

By Li Zhihong

When talking about the relation between religion and stability, Juma Taier Mawla Hajj noted, in time of war and poverty, to seek the freedom of religious belief is like to fish in the air due to the lack of a stable and harmonious environment. Social development serves the cornerstone of the freedom of religious belief. Without development, the society makes no progress, and thus, the freedom of religious belief and equal rights of religious belief will be nothing but lip services.

Juma Taier, nearly 70, has experienced both the old and the new societies, witnessing the prosperity of religion in Xinjiang step by step.

Born into a poor peasant’s family in Kashgar in 1940, Juma Taier’s childhood was not full of sweets, but hunger. During the War of Resistance against Japan, all ethnic groups in the region eagerly looked forward to the victory, he said. Most

of the local people, especially the Uyghurs, were expecting peace and stability – their eagerness was beyond people’s imagination today.

Juma Taier recalled, before liberation, the freedom of religious belief was nothing else but a heartfelt distress in Uyghur muslims. He told the NPC magazine a sad story of his parents, which demonstrated the wretched situation of Kashgar religious believers at that time.

In his memory, Juma Taier’s parents toiled all through day and night for the landlord, paying little attention to the growth of children. After work, the hungry brothers and sisters surrounded their parents, crying for something to eat. Although Juma’s parents worked hard, they still could not make the ends meet. The family had to live on potherb or some roughage. Despite this, they had never had enough to eat. On festival days, the best thing they could get was a pancake made of corn flour. It was



Deputy of the 11th National People's Congress Juma Taier Maw-la Hajj. Li Zhihong

their dream to eat dry noodles with sauce or pilaf.

Juma Taier said, in those days, when starvation was rampant, the villagers didn't have time to pray. Because one had to pray 3-5 times a day and each lasted for quite a while, and the landlord gave them no time to conduct religious service. Juma Taier's parents often mentioned that they want to go to church, but it remained lip-deep. They wished Allah to know that even though they were poor, they were reverent worshipers. They hoped that one day Allah would bless them with a better life and a happy family.

In the region of Kashgar, scratches might be found on the brick wall of the mosque gates. It stands for a fervent request made by women to-

wards Allah after they suffered from domestic violence or grievances. But back then, females were not allowed to step into a mosque. So this was the only way for them to express their grievances. The more marks one could find on the mosque wall, the more suffering local women have got. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, this phenomenon has gradually disappeared. Today, women living in villages would think it ridiculous and absurd. But at that time, most peasants in the region lived a dog's life, never mentioning the freedom of religious belief at all.

Juma Taier said Uyghurs make up 92 percent of the total population in Kashgar, Xinjiang. That is to say religious believers account a big margin of local people.

Religion is not only a belief among local people but also meat and drink to its followers. In other words, to respect religion means to respect its believers. Since the Chinese Communist Party took power, it has attached great importance to religious belief and freedom. The Party's policy has won the genuine affection and support among all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

After the liberation, the CPC distributed farmland, farm tools and cows and sheep to the poor peasants, who then became masters of the region.

Since liberation, Juma Taier said the government has allowed local farmers to build mosques in their own villages. Some aged people, who had difficulties in walking to faraway mosques for a religious service, decided to build mosques near their homes. Visitors who have been to Kashgar may know that there are about 3,000 mosques in 2,000 villages – in some village, there might be 7-8 mosques. That is to say the CPC respects the religious belief and customs among Uyghurs.

There is a saying among Uyghurs in Xinjiang: We have gained human dignity after our religious rights and belief got respected. We believe that we will live a well-off life under the leadership the Party.

Juma Taier said the government's respect for religious rights is not lip service but action. After liberation, religious infrastructures, social environment and religion-related installations in Kashgar got improved. By the same token, conditions for religious believers are also improving. To ensure that all ethnic religious followers can have a

The Party's policy has won the genuine affection and support among all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

good command of knowledge for a better life, the government invested greatly on the building of schools. Kashgar has a large number of population and religious believers. The local government built a teachers' college. Moreover, it also established a much-awaited religious school, which ensured the Muslims to study and discuss the Koran. Now the region has become a prestige place in the Islamic world. Id Kah Mosque has become widely recognized by Muslims worldwide. A number of big wheels, such as former Iranian president, have given high remarks to local government's religious policies and its respect for religion.

In the year of 2008, when the Beijing Olympic Games torch relay kicked off in Kashgar, the first torch-bearer set off at the square in front of the Id Kah Mosque. Such an arrangement not only demonstrated to the century-old Olympic spirit but also the respect that the Chinese Government has shown to religious people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

Strolling along the streets in front of the Id Kah Mosque, one could easily find flock of business-women, which was regarded as a kind of disrespect toward religion.

Juma Taier said now the society has made tremendous progress that different ethnic people enjoy equal rights. For example, lots of women used to wear headscarf. Nowadays, few women use it any more, instead they love to don beautiful clothes like their Han peers. Many people even have their hair curved. All this reflects the rapid development of the society as well as the integration of all ethnic groups in the region.

Juma Taier said as the society develops, the number of farmers in Kashgar decreases rapidly. Many rural residents have moved into the cities to launch their business. The number of farmers who engaged in industrial and service sectors has been on the rise year on year. Therefore, it's safe to conclude that without liberation, the Uyghurs would not be able to enjoy freedom, and without development, Uyghur as well as other ethnic groups in the region would not be freed out of hard work.

Juma Taier said rapid social development has brought about tremendous benefits to ethnic people in Xinjiang. For example, as time passes, many mosques which were built after the liberation have

become shabby. Although the local government of Kashgar has a tight budget, it spared a large amount of money for reinforcement and restoration of these old mosques. Muslims used to kneel down on land. After liberation, they knelt down on mats. Now the government has equipped rugs for all the mosques.

Apart from the religious development, State development and improvement of life standard, ethnic people in Xinjiang are deeply moved by the waiving of economic burdens, such as medical cost. They are also given subsidies on purchase of agricultural machinery and home appliances. Low income families can enjoy basic living allowances. Children can enter nearby schools or kindergartens. People can have asphalt road right in front of their houses. They are living a life they never dreamed of. In one word, local farmers are enjoying more and more benefits with the development of the nation.

Juma Taier said, there were no more than 5 people in Kashgar who could afford a pilgrimage to Mecca in the past. Today, the number of pilgrims from the city would surpass 500 every year. Thus, it is suffice to say that the society has progressed and the farmers are getting rich. Now they can fulfill their dreams to travel abroad. It also proves that religion and the society are developing inter-actively.

Juma Taier said, just like religion, the rapid development of the society requires communication and cooperation. Uyghurs in Kashgar share the same beliefs and similar customs with those living in neighboring countries. After reform and opening-up policies adopted, many Uyghurs went abroad to search for further development.

Such a development is like a double-edged sword. On one hand, many local residents' income increased steadily. On the other hand, quite a few of people turned into a threat to China's security and people's life and assets under the influence of certain foreign forces. The July 5 Urumqi incident was a latest example, indicating those rioters were seduced by overseas adverse forces. The Koran advocates people to love peace and unity and oppose violence and killing. Allah will not forgive those who planned and organized the Urumqi riots by making an excuse of religion. All ethnic groups in

the region will not forgive them either. As a result, they will be subject to criminal law. Their names will be engraved with disgrace in the course of history.

Juma Taier said the Urumqi riot taught people a lesson, making them more united than ever. People would cherish social stability and unity as well as the achievements that have been made over the past years. People from all ethnic groups have expressed their will to safeguard regional stability, fight against Terrorists, Separatists and Extremists, and battle against those terrorists who are under the disguise of religion.

Juma Taier Mawla Haj, Uyghur, was born in October 1940 in Kashgar, Xinjiang. He is NPC deputy, vice-president of China Islamic Associa-

tion, vice-president of Xinjiang Islamic Association, deputy director of Kashgar Islamic Association, Imam and Hateep of Id Kah Mosque.

Located in the center of Kashgar city, Id Kah Mosque has a history of 500 years. “Id Kah” means “a place of praying and celebrating in festivals.” As the biggest mosque in China, it is a famous mosque around the world. Juma Taier is Imam (or the person who is in charge of the mosque) and Hateep (or the person who teaches religious text in the mosque) in the Mosque.

“Mawla” is a title given to Islamic clergy. Uyghur Muslims in China use “Mawla” to refer to Imam. It is also used to refer to a man with honor and integrity. Hajj refers pilgrimage who have been to Mecca. ■

The Id Kah Mosque locates at the center of the city of Kashgar.

Li Zhihong





NPC deputy Kelsang Drolka (right), who is the leader of a village in Tibet, briefs the development of the region in Washington, the capital of US on March 16, 2009. *Yuan Man*

Tibet is not some people's decoration: NPC Tibetan delegate

By Li Wenzheng

In the eye of Kelsang Drolka, who is the head of a village in Tibetan Autonomous Region, the life fortune of the three generations in her family represents an epitome of Tibet's changes during the past 50 years.

"My parents never had a chance for schooling when they were young. I had studied in middle school for four years. My three sons have been to university!" said Kelsang Drolkar, a deputy to the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) and a member of an NPC Tibetan delegation, which paid a visit to the United States and Canada for the first time in March.

"They (parents) even didn't have enough food and clothes at that time," said the 47-year-old Kelsang Drolkar, whose village is some two kilometers away from Lhasa, capital city of Tibet.

"They didn't have personal freedom then, and

even their marriage was not at their own choice," she said. Her mother had never met her father before but had to marry him at the order of the nobles.

Kelsang Drolkar said her mother, now living an easy life, always regretted that she could not read and write. "However, all her three grandsons went to college. That has partly made up for her regret," she said.

Kelsang Drolkar's parents were both *tralpa* in Tibet before 1959, when a democratic reform started there to overthrow Tibet's feudal serfdom system and liberate about 1 million serfs and slaves. *Tralpa* at the time referred to people who tilled plots of land assigned to them and had to provide corvee labor for the serfowners.

In the old Tibet, more than 95 percent of Tibetan population were serfs; the other 5 percent of the people were serf owners, who occupied the most wealth produced by the serfs.

"Today there are more than 1,700 people living in my village, do farming, raising cattle and doing business. The average income of the villagers last year reached 6,800 yuan. The housing space per person is 50 square meters; About 300 families moved in new houses, equipped with tap water, electricity and coal gas," said Kelsang.

As to the new houses, Kelsang said it is a welfare project under the support of governmental subsidies which is not only suitable for dwelling but also is in line with ethnic characteristics.

Now in Kelsang's village, most families have telephones, mobile phones and TV sets; some villagers have bought their own computers.

When recalling the changes of the life of Tibetan people, the NPC deputy said, "We have marital law to ensure that we can choose our partners at our will. My husband was my own choice – his working place was not far away, so we became acquaintance with each other and fall in love before marriage."

In old Tibet, women's position was very low. A woman was not permitted to look at a man's lower body, said the delegate.

"Now men and women are equal. In our village, many wives are the master of the families," Kelsang said. "As a head of the village, I am proud to lead the whole village onto a happy road."

Kelsang and her six brothers and sisters were born after the democratic reform. As a result, going to school is not a mission impossible any more.

"All of us can read books — I had been to middle

school for four years. My brothers and sisters even became teachers afterward.”

Like all the mothers in the world, Kelsang attaches great importance to her children’s education. She said all the children have done a good job in their studies, making her feel very proud.

She told reporters that the eldest child works for the famous Qinghai-Tibet Railway after graduation from university; the other two sons have entered South Central University for Nationalities and Tibetan University respectively.

“I’ve told my sons that you should thank not only me, but also our nation,” Kelsang told reporters. “Before going to university, they needn’t to pay school tuitions, incidental expenses and textbook fees thanks to national assistance.”

Every morning, Kelsang’s mother together with other seniors in the village would like to go to Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple, which is 1 kilometer from the village, on walk or by bus. “To pay a scripture wheeling or not is the personal choice of the villagers,” noted the NPC delegate.

Because the youngest son majored in dance in Tibetan University, Kelsang also pays close attention on the traditional culture. She told reporters that she had studied Chinese, but she speaks Tibetan in daily life.

In Lhasa streets, signboards are written in bilingual — Tibetan and Chinese, but Tibetan is always on top. During Tibetan traditional festivals and activities, local people would dance and sing in Tibetan costume.

“Some people claim Tibetan culture is disappearing, how strange!” Kelsang said she was puzzled. “My feeling is just the opposite — the ethnic culture of Tibetans prospers.”

“Tibet is not the decoration of some people. Tibetans’ life is becoming better and better, keeping improvement with the development of society,” she said. “If our parents wanted to keep the society unchanged, we don’t consent; if we want to keep the society the same, our children would disagree,” said Kelsang excitedly.

Since Kelsang’s village is quite near to Lhasa, villagers have a clear memory of the “March 14 riot.” Kelsang said, “Those people didn’t do peaceful parade, instead they disturbed social order by beating, smashing, robbing and burning shops. A total of 18 people were killed during the incident and dozens of shops were burnt. Our normal business could not continue and students couldn’t go to school as usual.”

The regional government of Tibet decided to set

up a commemoration day to mark the emancipation of millions of serfs in the region. Keslsang said her village will hold celebrations to mark the important day.

“Before going abroad for the visit to the United States and Canada, villagers told me that if I missed the celebrations, they would arrange another celebration for me after I returned home,” Kelsang said.

“This memorial day is very important,” she said. “Every one of us should love our motherland and remember the history.”

Summing up the visit, Kelsang said she was touched very much.

“Many Westerners have no idea about the past and the present of Tibet. The reality of region is not like what they had heard of. If they have listened to those who live in Tibet and visit there in person, I strongly believe that they would correct their misconceptions,” she said.

Her efforts were not made in vain. Lanny J. Davis, who served as special counsel to former US president Bill Clinton from 1996 to 1998, said after attending a press conference of the delegation in Washington D.C. that he was impressed by the delegates, especially Kelsang Drolkar.

“The lady from the rural area was very powerful and eloquent in her simplicity, in her truthfulness and in her feelings about the progress of her people,” he said. “I’m moved by some people not being high officials, but being from a serf’s family whose ancestors were basically slaves,” he said.

He said a complete lack of information has led the American people, including himself, to incorrect impression about what the facts are about Tibet.

“They (Americans) have only heard one side of narratives that are not accurate historically or not complete. What we need now is that the Americans get a balanced presentation about the facts about Tibet,” he said.

During the meetings in the United States and Canada, the delegation encountered many questions concerning Tibet, ranging from freedom of religious belief, human rights, economic development, environmental protection and cultural preservation there.

“It is natural that differences exist. I think great efforts should be made to improve exchanges so as to improve people’s knowledge and understanding of Tibet,” said Shingtsa Tenzincho-drak, a living Buddha, also head of the delegation. ■

“They (Americans) have only heard one side of narratives that are not accurate historically or not complete. What we need now is that the Americans get a balanced presentation about the facts about Tibet.”



Makyeame Restaurant on the Barkhor Street, Lhasa, Tibet. Gesangdawa

The sun shines over Lhasa

By Niu Qi, Zhou Yan and Bianbaciren

A chilling wind blew in from the street of Lhasa as the first daylight appeared in the east in the early spring morning of March 10. The city has returned to its normal rhythm on the last day of the Tibetan New Year holiday.

It also marked the final day that all temples and lamaseries in Lhasa popularized Buddhist service among the followers. Oodles of shops are arrayed on both sides of the Barkhor Street that surrounds the Jokhang Temple. Amid prayers' pattering, mountains of Tibetan handicrafts, such as figures of Buddha, Tonka, Pulu, jade products and precious stones cast unique glamour in these shops.

Stall owner Ciwang, together with his family, was carefully arranging the bracelets and statuary sold in the booth. As an experienced peddler, he returned Lhasa early from his hometown with the hope to start an auspicious beginning in the New Year.

"Shops around are all open," said Ciwang, smiling. "We'd better make preparations for upcoming midseason of tourism in advance."

On the street to the Ramoche Temple, stevedores were busy with unloading brick tea from a freight truck. The owner of a snack bar concentrated on the mixture of vermicelli. Across the street, a man's voice from a loudspeaker in a clothes shop repeated, "Sell-off. Don't miss it." Meanwhile, the slogan that reads "Warmly celebrate the establishment of Surf Emancipation Day in Tibet" scarcely faded with the ending of the Tibetan New Year holiday. National flags fly high on both sides of the streets and the entrances to markets under the bright plateau sunshine.

Though the Tibetan New Year has come to an end, the city of Lhasa remained its tranquility and ardor.

Biancuo, a 62-year-old citizen, rose up early in the morning and went to the Ramoche Temple to pay worship service. On her way back, she stopped before a volunteer booth to measure her blood pressure. Worried for her high blood pressure, she waited in line with dozens of others for her turn.

"Your blood pressure is a little higher. Take some medicine for mitigation after returning home," sug-

gested the medical worker at the booth. The volunteer booths not only offer blood pressure measuring service for free but also offer haircutting and bike repairing.

Dislike the earthy issues occurred on the street, traditional debate on Buddhism went on as usual. On the square before the Sera Monastery, two lamas in their 40s answered queries raised by a group of monks. Though most of the lama on the square remain quiet, four young others vied each other to bring out questions. Some people were pushed to the ground in order to get an advantageous position in raising questions at first, which made the audience burst into laughter.

Sitting in the shade of the square, 85-year-old Luoga, whose one eye is blind, enjoyed listening to the hot debate. "Since I was 13 years old, I have practiced scripture wheeling on the Linkuo Road in all weathers," said the senior monk.

Guo Haoran, a tourist from Guangdong Province, watched attentively the Buddhism debate and said he was touched by the unique lifestyle of Lhasa. "I visited Norbulingka yesterday and met a warmhearted lama, who chatted with me for seven hours from 2 pm to 9 pm," Guo said.

Blocked by floating clouds, bright sunshine cast large shadows on the worshippers lingering on the Potala Palace. A large-screen TV broadcast the special customs that Tibetans celebrate the New Year as swarms of tourist took photos under the monument to mark the emancipation of serfs after democratic reform.

In Gamagongsang Community, which was seriously destroyed by mobs during the "March 14 riot" last year, residents now live a quiet life. A Uyghur girl was airing clothes, while kids ran around a group of seniors who were playing chess.

"What a fine day!" said Luobu, who rocked a scripture wheel with the company of a pet dog. Strolling on Linkuo Road, the old man's peaceful face radiated under the bright sunshine in the plateau city. ■



Barkhor Street, Lhasa.
Pubuzhaxi



Lot-drawing from the golden urn

By Zhang Baoshan

November 29, 1995 – the 8th day of the 10th month in Tibetan calendar – was a big day, which prognosticates good luck according to Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Lights were all on and the air was heavy with the aromatic perfumes at dawn in Jokhang Monastery, the spiritual center of Tibet. Crowds of people were seen sitting before and on both sides of the Sakya-muni Buddha, waiting the starting a grand ceremony.

In the ceremony, the reincarnated soul boy to succeed the 10th Panchen would be chosen through “lot-drawing from the golden urn.” According to Tibetan Buddhism, the reincarnation system for the Living Buddhas is realized through the way of lot-drawing from the golden urn among the candidate boys.

Tibetan Buddhism, also called Lamaism, is a traditional religion popular in Tibet, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and neighboring regions. The deceased Living Buddha is believed to reincarnate into a newborn baby – the soul boy, according to the reincarnation theory of the Tibetan Buddhism. The Tibetan Buddhism canon says Buddhist followers would select 3-4 babies, who are born at the time of the death of the Living Bud-



The golden urn and ivory-made lots. Established in 1793 by Emperor Qianlong of Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), lot-drawing from golden urn has become a national rule and religious ritual. Two 34cm high golden urns were granted by the Emperor Qianlong: One is kept in Potala Palace and the other in Yonghegong Lama Temple in Beijing. *Tudeng*

dhas, as candidate boy. The final soul boy will be selected through lot-drawing from golden urn.

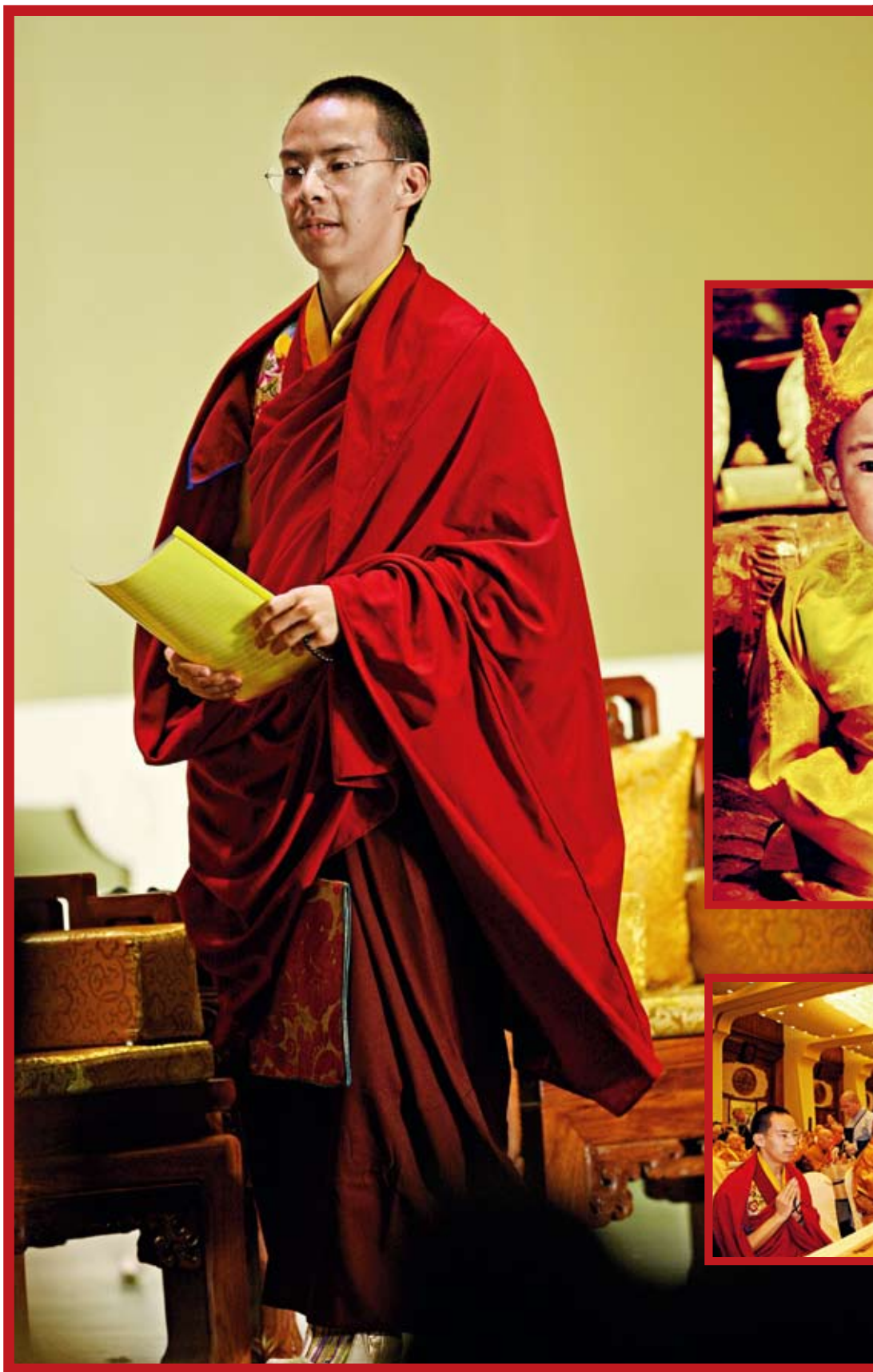
Established in 1793 by Emperor Qianlong of Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), lot-drawing from golden urn has become a national rule and religious ritual, playing a significant role to ensure the smooth continuation and transfer of religious power. Such a system also guarantees the stability and development of Tibet by giving top authority to the central government on the incarnation of Living Buddhas.

The first Living Buddha selected by lot-drawing from golden urn among the candidate boy is the 11th Panchen Gyaencaen Norbu to succeed the late 10th Panchen after the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

The selecting procedure of the candidate boys was strict compliance with religious rituals and conventions, such as lake observation, divinations and identifying objects left behind the 10th Panchen as well as a comprehensive analysis of his countenance and auspicious signs,

three most brilliant boy candidates were picked up eventually.

On the early morning of November 29, 1995, the Jokhang Monastery in Lhasa witnessed the whole process of lot drawing from the golden urn. The ceremony was chaired by State Coun-



The 11th Panchen. Liu Yu, CFP





Built in 1447, the Tashilhunpo Monastery in Rigaze, Tibet has a history of more than 500 years. *Jue Guo*

cilor Luo Gan, who was the representative dispatched by the State Council. Other officials attending the event included Gyaincain Norbu, chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region Government, and Ye Xiaowen, head of the State Administration for Religious Affairs, both served as special envoys of the central government. Regional officials and high-ranking lamas from Tibet and other places also appeared the ceremony.

On 5 am, Luo Gan read out the official approval by the State Council on the regional government's request to pick up three boys as candidates for the lot-drawing from golden urn to be the soul boy, who will succeed the 10th Panchen.

"In answer your request, the State Council agrees the three boys to be candidates of the soul boy to succeed the 10th Panchen.

According to historical convention, a ceremony of lot-drawing from golden urn will be held before the Sakyamuni Buddha at the Jokhang Monastery to select the soul boy.

According to historical convention, a ceremony of lot-drawing from golden urn will be held before the Sakyamuni Buddha at the Jokhang Monastery to select the soul boy. The ceremony should be chaired by a representative dispatched by the State Council. After the ratification of the State Council, the soul boy selected will be the 11th Panchen Erdeni.

November 25, 1995

The State Council of the People's Republic of China"

When Luo finished reading, the audience broke into warm applause. After that, Gyaincain Norbu announced "the opening of the ceremony for the selec-

tion of the soul boy to succeed the 10th Panchen through lot-drawing from the golden urn" both in Mandarin and Tibetan.

The golden urn, under the escort of two lamas, was carried

in both hands to put on the desk that stands at the center of the hall. Workers uncapped the urn and took out the ivory drawing lots, sticking the names of candidate boys both in Tibetan and Mandarin prepared beforehand. Then the lots were placed onto the tray.

Gyaincain Norbu said, “Now it’s time to select the soul boy.”

Representative, special envoy dispatched by the State Council, regional officials, high-ranking lamas as well fathers of the three candidate boys went up to check the names on the lots. Minister Ye examined carefully the lots one by one, put them into yellow ribbon bags and sealed.

“The names of the candidates have been correctly written and well sealed,” Ye said.

Lama Ciren, director of the democratic management committee of the Tashilhunpo Monastery, knelt before the statue of Sakyamuni Buddha and the golden urn. He inserted all the three lots into the urn and shook a couple of times before getting the lid on it.

Gyaincain Norbu said loudly, “Now put the golden urn before the statue of Buddha and pray.”

The two escort lamas then laid back the golden urn before the statue of Buddha. The lama chanting group recited in unison jipingjing (golden urn sutra) and shangshigong, so did the high-ranking lamas at the site.

After sutra chanting, Gyaincain Norbu announced, “Now let’s invest Bomi Qiangbaluozhu, chairman of Tibetan Branch of the Buddhist Association of China, who is also a member of the soul boy seeking group, to conduct lot drawing.”

The whole Buddha hall became silent. The two escort lamas once again lay the golden urn upon the desk at the center of the hall.

Bomi Qiangbaluozhu, an esteemed high-ranking lama and scholar in Tibetan Buddhism in his 70s, kowtowed towards the statue of the Buddha and prayed a moment. He uncapped the lid and rolled the lots for several times. Finally he picked up a lot and handed it to Gyaincain Norbu, who then announced loudly, “Gyaencaen Norbu from Lhari County wins the lot.” He showed the lot to the audience, then to State Council representative, envoys, regional officials, high-ranking lamas as well as the father of the selected boy. After being checked carefully, the name lot was then inserted into the sacred vessel besides the golden urn.

Pingla, vice-director of the democratic management committee of the Tashilhunpo Monastery, took up the rest two lots and showed them to State Council representative and envoys, regional officials and high-ranking lamas as well as the fathers of the other two boys. Pingla reported, “The rest lots have been checked and no mistake was found.” He then picked up the names on the lots and put them onto the tray.

“The rest lots have been checked,” Gyaincain Norbu spoke

loudly, adding that, “Gyaencaen Norbu, whose father is Suolangzhaba and mother Sangjizhuoma, was born on February 13, 1990 at Lhari County in northern Tibet. He would be the 11th Panchen Erdeni after being approved by the State Council.” During the whole process of the ceremony, the host used bilingual language both in Tibetan and Mandarin.

After the selection, representatives and religious followers burst into acclamation and threw away Tibetan barleys, which symbolize luck and perfection, and petals into the air to express their congratulations.

The escort lama then displayed the golden urn and the selected lot before the statue of the Sakyamuni Buddha

The whole ceremony of lot drawing from golden urn came to an end. ■



Jewelry-decorated pagoda of 10th Panchen's remains in the Tashilhunpo Monastery.

Wang Linan

Climate deal falls short

— Nations not pinned down to carbon-emissions cuts

By Kang Juan

China welcomed yesterday the outcome of a historical UN climate summit, a day after a nonbinding deal reached in Copenhagen was attacked for falling short on concrete steps against global warming.

Environment observers warned that any operational agreement in the future would require actions from the US, which was blamed by Greenpeace for failing to “take any real leadership and dragging the talks down.”

In a statement on the foreign ministry’s website, Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi outlined the “positive results” of the two-week conference: successfully maintaining the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility,” which took a step forward with regards to developed countries’ mandatory emissions cuts and developing nations’ voluntary mitigation actions, and a broad consensus on long-term global targets, funding, technology support to developing countries, and transparency.

Yang didn’t specifically mention the “Copenhagen Accord” reached Saturday, which set a goal of “jointly mobilizing” the \$100 billion-a-year climate aid for developing nations by 2020 but does not pin down industrialized countries to targets. That will now be subject to continuing talks next year.

Five countries, including China and the US, agreed on disputed key elements, with a further 21, including Britain, signing on for the text as a whole. That still left more than 160 countries on the outside, mainly poorer nations that stand to lose the most from climate change.

China’s foreign ministry spokesman yesterday hit out at critics of the closed nature of the accord, saying Beijing had always maintained close contact and coordination with all countries during the summit.



Two giant ice penguins, carved by some environmentalists, stand side by side with the little mermaid statue in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, on December 20, 2009. *Wu Wei*





The world largest office building, which is powered by solar energy, came into operation in Dezhou, Shandong Province on December 24, 2009. CFP

“China is a developing nation, we firmly maintain the development rights of developing countries, and firmly maintain the unity and coordination of emerging nations,” Qin Gang said in a statement on the ministry’s website.

The deal, however, lacked many elements environmentalists considered crucial, including firm targets for mid- or long-term reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions and a deadline for concluding a binding treaty next year.

Greenpeace commented on Saturday, “There is nothing fair, ambitious or legally binding about this deal. The job of world leaders is not done.”

“The blame for failure mostly lies with the rich industrialized countries, which have the largest his-

toric responsibility for causing the problem. In particular, the US failed to take any real leadership and dragged the talks down,” it said.

Obama, rescheduled for the climax of proceedings, came “just to reiterate what is in the draft legislation [on climate change] prepared by Congress.” Maybe that’s why he invited laughter from the reporters present when he said in his speech, “I come here today not to talk, but to act.”

“Some even saw the US president as an active obstacle to a real agreement – alienating the Chinese with a demand for inspections, which he then effectively retracted,” London’s Daily Telegraph wrote yesterday. “For all the efforts of Obama’s people to present him as key to a deal, his reputation suffered

in Copenhagen – along with many other totems of idealism.”

Pang Jun, a scholar at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at the Renmin University of China, noted that China has made a reasonable compromise by accepting a term requiring developing counties to report every two years on their voluntary actions, subject to “international consultations and analysis.”

“However, without explicit commitments of financial assistance and technological transfer from rich nations, the developing world would find it unreasonable to accept external monitoring and verification of their greenhouse-gas emissions efforts,” Pang added.

Pang conceded that a promise of \$30 billion over the next three years in climate aid from rich to poor countries, with shares taken by the EU, Japan and the US, was a real achievement.

Talks go on, but can the climate wait?

Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University, said the outcome is disappointing but not surprising, as carbon-emissions reduction is in essence a development issue that involves redistribution of re-sources, depending on the economic growth patterns of all countries and people’s lifestyles.

British Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband insisted the outcome was not a failure, “We recognize there could have been more ambition in parts of this agreement. Therefore, we have got to drive forward as hard as we can toward both a legally binding treaty and that ambition,” he said.

For at least the next several years, the lack of a binding treaty may result in a piecemeal response to climate change, with action being taken largely on a national and regional level.

Carbon emissions have increased an average of 2 to 3 per-cent a year in the past decade. Even if countries live up to their commitments on reductions, a gap remains between the nations’ combined pledges and what would be required to avert the risks of disruptive changes in rainfall and drought, ecosystems and polar-ice cover from global warming, scientists say.

The New York Times commented yesterday that the current approach to tackling the threat of a warming planet “has become unworkable,” and coordinating international efforts to reduce emissions could occur with a much smaller group of nations,

Carbon emissions have increased an average of 2 to 3 per-cent a year in the past decade.

roughly 30 countries responsible for 90 percent of global-warming emissions.

“This smaller group of nations will meet periodically to tackle a narrower agenda, such as technology sharing or the merging of carbon-trading markets, without the chaos and posturing of the UN process,” it suggested.

Pang Jun, however, believed that there is no better platform for multi-lateral consultations over climate change than the existing talks under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), although the current mechanism may not be an ideal or the most effective way.

China’s position is that the UNFCCC should remain as the main platform for climate-change talks, while negotiation on other occasions could serve as a supplement, not a replacement, Pang added. ■

Qiu Wei contributed to this story



Solar energy equipment is installed on the top of buildings in Dezhou, Shandong Province.
CFP

Chinese Premier's 60 hours



in Copenhagen



Editor's note: Xinhua correspondents Zhao Cheng and Tian Fan, who accompanied and covered Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's tour to the Copenhagen climate talks in December, recall in this following special report what they witnessed at the summit in the Danish capital. There have been different interpretations on the outcome over the past few days, but people have to recognize that international cooperation to cope with climate change has moved a step ahead in the right direction, through the joint efforts of the international community. The summit delivered hope and confidence to the world.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao delivers a speech during the Copenhagen Climate Summit Conference on December 18, 2009. *Wu Wei*



Li Zhaoxing(center), head of NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, discusses climate change issues with participants attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. CFP

In this process, China showed the greatest sincerity, tried its best and played a constructive part.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao left Beijing for the climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 16, when pessimism and disappointment were simmering among negotiators, who, after about 10 days of bargaining, felt a bridge to span their rift seemed a mission impossible.

“It will be a tough task. Now I can feel how heavy my duty is to attend the meeting on behalf of the Chinese government,” Wen told reporters aboard his plane en route to Copenhagen.

Nevertheless, Wen said he was confident that the talks would bear fruit. “No matter what the result is, China’s action plan will not change, its voluntary reduction target will always be non-negotiable, and its determination in hitting the target will never waver.”

Whirlwind talks

Wen’s schedule on December 17 was almost fully occupied by meetings with world leaders.

During the meeting with Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Wen suggested that in order to achieve an outcome for the conference, all parties should stick to the consensus they had reached while leaving differences for future negotiations.

“Now it seems to be the only way out. If we can reach a resolution of such a kind, it could well be an achievement of the talks,” Wen said.

In his talks with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Wen said, “It is unrealistic to hope to fill the gap between nearly 200 countries in fewer than two days. China and the people of the world all wish for the success of the meeting, and the current priority is to crystallize a consensus.”

He told the UN chief it was important to use the political aspiration to deliver confidence and hope to the world.

The Chinese premier’s meeting with representatives of island countries and developing nations lasted for over two hours, the longest during his stay in Copenhagen.

Wen said although China had always urged developed nations to fulfill their funding commitments, China would not vie for even a cent with other developing countries if such a fund were available. In addition, China would continue to assist those countries to cope with climate change.

Wen’s whirlwind negotiations that afternoon involved British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.

Once again, Wen urged all parties to stop pointing fingers at each other or bargaining at the critical moment of the talks. He said China’s commitment on mitigation actions is “unconditional and non-negotiable.”

Mysterious meeting

At a banquet hosted by Danish Queen Margrethe II on December 17, Wen was told that the United States would hold a small-scope meeting between several countries’ leaders after the dinner.

During his talk with one foreign leader, the Chinese premier learnt China was on the list of the meeting’s participating countries while he himself was not invited and neither did the Chinese delegation receive a notice for the mysterious meeting. Why was the Chinese delegation not informed?

Wen took the incident seriously and returned to his hotel immediately to call an emergent meeting to study countermeasures for the situation.

On behalf of the Chinese delegation, China's vice Foreign Minister He Yafei came to the meeting and expressed strong dissatisfaction at the ulterior motive for not informing China.

He said that the meeting should be transparent and no participants should impose their will on others. Any scheme agreed behind closed doors would probably lead to a fruitless summit.

Unexpected delay

On the second morning of his stay in Copenhagen, hours before the final summit segment of the UN climate change conference, Wen met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who had just arrived.

Both leaders held that no matter what happened, the two countries should keep in close touch and firmly defend the interests of developing countries.

At 9:45 am, Wen arrived at the main venue of the conference, 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled opening. However, neither the host Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen nor the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon were present, even at 10 am.

People were guessing what was wrong, but no one came to explain the reason for the delay. It was not until 11:30 that Rasmussen announced the opening of the summit.

Wen was the first to deliver a speech, entitled "Build Consensus and Strengthen Cooperation to Advance the Historical Process of Combating Climate Change."

In the speech, using 2,000-odd Chinese characters, Wen made it clear what China thought about, had done and would do to cope with climate change. At the end of his speech, Wen made a serious promise.

"It is with a sense of responsibility to the Chinese people and the whole of mankind that the Chinese government has set the target for mitigating greenhouse-gas emissions. This is a voluntary action China has taken in the light of its national circumstances. We have not attached any condition to the target, nor have we linked it to the target of any other country," Wen said.

"We will honor our word with real action. What-

ever outcome this conference may produce, we will be fully committed to achieving and even exceeding the target."

Last-minute effort

After US President Barack Obama's speech, Chinese Premier Wen held talks with him in a meeting room just behind the summit venue. The two leaders agreed that the participating countries of the conference should achieve a political resolution as soon as possible and continue cooperation on climate change.

Following the talks, Wen asked members of the Chinese delegation to inform the Group of 77 and other BASIC countries of the Sino-American talks, aiming to speed up negotiations between developing and developed countries.

Some countries were drafting an announcement of the conference's possible failure, and certain foreign leaders even criticized China.

At the Bella Center, the venue of the conference, journalists started to pack their bags. People around the world were wondering how and when the Danish government would declare the failure of the largest and highest-level climate change conference in human history.

It was Wen who played a key role in the last-minute attempt to exchange ideas and reach a consensus.

Wen decided to meet other leaders of the BASIC countries again and make a final attempt. At the same time, President Obama said he wanted to have a second meeting with Premier Wen, who agreed.

The BASIC countries' leaders agreed to reach a consensus on key issues and then negotiate with the US and European countries.

At 6:50 pm, when the BASIC leaders were reviewing their final common position, President Obama showed up, surprising those in the room. Wen stood up and politely invited Obama to join them.

Applause was heard as the BASIC countries finally reached agreement with the US on the wording of some key issues. The US said it was willing to consult with the European Union.

An hour later, news came that the parties concerned had agreed on the draft and were ready to submit it for voting, nine hours after the scheduled conclusion of the conference. (Xinhua) ■

Applause was heard as the BASIC countries finally reached agreement with the US on the wording of some key issues.

Warm words & lofty goals necessitate cold decisions & painful cuts

High hopes for low-carbon economy

By Chen Xiaomin



A geothermal project launched by Sinopec Star Petroleum Co., Ltd with the aims to push forward low-carbon lifestyle. CFP

Hearing the strange announcement, economists were surprised, polluters acted nervously and the emissions traders probably all jumped for joy.

Ten days ahead of the Copenhagen summit, China made three breathtaking if non-binding commitments. First, China declared its aim to cut carbon intensity – carbon per unit of Gross Domestic Product – 40 to 45 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels. Second, China said it would aim to derive 15 percent of primary energy from non-fossil fuel sources by 2020. Third, China aims to increase its forest coverage to 40 million hectares in 2020 from 2005 levels.

Mainland pundits immediately began prognosticating on the arrival of the low-carbon economy, demanding detailed en-

ergy restructuring plans to meet the astronomical-sounding targets.

With 40-45 percent targets, the low-carbon economy must soar to new heights, said Zhang Jianjun, director of the Department of Sustainable Development and Climate Change at PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting China. More work would need doing on secondary industry including both economic restructuring and the application of clean technology.

Clean technology and economic restructuring has enabled China to fulfill the targets of its 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010), according to a McKinsey & Company report. These twin pillars of a low-carbon economy would continue to play vital roles in the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015).

Targets

The 40-45 percent target is by no means China's first emissions reduction target. In its 11th Five-Year Plan, the government vowed to slash energy consumption per unit GDP production by 20 percent. China also set goals of a 10 percent cut in sulfur dioxide release and Chemical Oxygen Demand per unit GDP production from 2005 levels.

Clean technology will have achieved 12 percent cuts in unit GDP energy consumption by the end of 2010, the report noted. Clean technology applications included solar energy, wind power, low-emission vehicles, green industry, green buildings and higher energy-efficiency standards.

Economic restructuring will have achieved another seven percent of cuts in unit GDP energy consumption by the end of 2010. For its 11th Five-Year Plan, the government aimed to close 100 million tons of iron-smelting capacity, 55 million tons of steelmaking capacity and 250 million tons of cement production capacity.

China phased out 60.6 million tons of obsolete iron-smelting capacity, 43.5 million tons of steelmaking capacity, 140 million tons of cement production capacity and 64.5 million tons of carbon coke capacity, according to National Development and Reform Commission statistics.

More clean technologies would also be applied from 2011, with economic restructuring gaining importance as the country tries to adjust its heavy industry, according to the McKinsey & Company report.

Tertiary industry growth will outstrip primary and secondary industry, the report

predicted. The 9.5 percent year-on-year value added growth in the tertiary industry surpassed that of secondary industry in 2008 for the first time since 2003.

Energy-intensive industries like cement, chemical and steel will be overtaken by other industries, with the ratio of high added-value products higher.

No pain, no planet

It is no secret that clean technology and economic restructuring can come at a political, economic and social cost.

Clean technology cost the country \$100 billion (683 billion yuan) between 2006 and 2008. If the country keeps pursuing new clean technologies, it will have to invest another \$100 billion from 2009 to 2010 – nearly one percent of annual GDP – according to McKinsey & Company.

Just as greater emissions cuts mean obsolete high emitters being closed and replaced with low emitters, economic restructuring means unemployment and related social problems.

The most direct way for the steel sector to reduce emissions is to phase out obsolete and energy-consuming capacity, Diao Li, director of finance and assets at the China Iron & Steel Association, told the Global Times.

“Improved smelting will do less to reduce emissions because most steel mills make steel from iron ore instead of electrolyzing scrap steel, which emits less and is widely applied in Europe,” he said. If China is serious about meeting the 40-45 percent targets, he said, obsolete mills will just have to be shut down.

More than 600 billion yuan (\$87.9 billion) will have been invested in energy efficiency savings from 2006 to 2010, according to NDRC estimates.

The 40 percent to 45 percent would be “very hard” to realize, said the deputy director-general of the National Climate Center and China’s official delegate at the Copenhagen meeting.

“For carbon emission intensity to de-

creasing linearly, your efforts must grow exponentially,” Lu Xuedu told the Global Times. Hundreds of billions of yuan must be spent, he said.

Cap & trade

Since 1992, China, India and other developing countries have been urging the US and other industrialized nations to finance emissions reductions in the developing world. While the US and the EU accept the principle of financial assistance, they cannot seem to agree on how much.

Trading in carbon emissions offers China a nifty but controversial chance to facilitate reductions. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol gave birth to the Clean Development Mechanism, a carbon-offsetting system whereby industrialized countries with tricky greenhouse gas reduction targets can invest in projects that reduce emissions in developing countries instead of making the tougher decisions at home.

China is a major supplier to the \$110 billion world carbon emission market, expected to hit \$3.1 trillion by 2020, according to a study released by Point Carbon, an Oslo-based environmental market analysis company.

China in 2008 had an 84 percent share of the primary Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) market, according to Stock-market operator NYSE Euronext. China accounted for 66 percent of all contracted supply in the market between 2002 and 2008.

The trading mechanism can provide Chinese companies with funding, Hunan CDM Project Service Center Director Zhang Hanwen told the Global Times. There are 29 more such CDM centers across the country and if targets of 40-45 percent cuts are to be achieved, Chinese enterprises will increasingly come knocking at their doors, he said.

Lawyers and industry insiders have warned it might be made illegal for Chinese companies to resort to CDM projects.

“Once the 40-45 percent targets are



Electric vehicles produced by China Jianghuai Automobiles Co., Ltd. CFP

enforced on the provincial and municipal levels, and the government regulates that these companies are obliged to reduce emissions, these companies cannot trade with overseas buyers,” said Liu Ping, a consultant with global law firm Baker & McKenzie.

Axel Michaelowa, senior founding partner at Perspectives GmbH in the Zurich Office of Point Carbon, struck a similar note.

“The big question is whether China will now introduce sectoral crediting or sectoral trading, which would replace CDM,” Michaelowa wrote to the Global Times via e-mail, referring to an in-vogue idea of a system of government policies that reward emissions cuts with hefty financial credits.

“As sectoral mechanisms would be dominated by government and dilute the incentives for greenhouse gas mitigation, investment in mitigation would fall.”

It would be better if CDM projects continued to generate credits even if sectoral crediting was introduced after Copenhagen, both Liu and Michaelowa argued.

The only sensible alternative to CDM, Michaelowa said, would be a sectoral trading scheme with mandatory participation of industry and sanctions for those companies that do not comply.

Administrative rules – not mandatory laws – on emissions reductions would still guarantee both domestic reductions and CDM, believed Liu of Baker & McKenzie. ■

NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee: Efforts behind 'potatoes'

By Li Xiaojian



A NPC Standing Committee delegation headed by Vice Chairman of NPC Standing Committee Chen Changzhi (third from right) paid a visit to Ningxia in order to carry out field research on the implementation of a proposal to support the construction of seed potato bases in the region. *Xinhua*

The Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region is one of China's major producing areas of potatoes. Thanks to temperate continental monsoon climate in the region's central and southern areas, the place is very suitable for the plantation of potatoes. In 2008, the total plantation area reached to 4 million mu (266,800 hectares) with an output of 4 million tons.

About 30 percent of local farmers' income comes from the planting of potatoes annually. Zhao Xiaoping, deputy chairman of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, noted that with the sup-

ports and aids from the NPC and other departments, the region's agricultural sector has made dramatic progress, especially in the plantation of potatoes, in recent years. The growing of potatoes has become a pillar industry for the poverty-stricken people living in mountainous regions to make rich. It also plays a very important role in maintaining ethnic unity and social stability.

Influenced by the ongoing international financial crisis, the plantation of potatoes in Ningxia faces tremendous challenges. To accelerate the transfer of mode of economic development as well

to increase farmers' income by growing potatoes, the Ningxia delegation attending this year's "Two Sessions" raised a proposal on the establishment of seed potato base in the region.

Statistics indicated that Ningxia plans to build high-quality potato breeding bases in central and southern mountainous areas from 2009-12 with an estimated investment of 1.35 billion yuan. Of the total investment, the central government will allocate 1,016 million yuan (254 million yuan per year) and the regional government and local farmers raise 338.7 million yuan.

On the morning of October 26, 2009, the 11th NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee held its ninth plenary meeting to discuss the implementation of a proposal (No. 1022) on Support to the Establishment of Seed Potato Basis by the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

To support the establishment of a seed potato base in Ningxia is one of the eight major proposals raised and overseen by the NPC Standing Committee. The Ministry of Agriculture will take the lead, NDRC and the MOF will sponsor the project and the NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee will supervise its implementation.

At the conference, all the participated departments expressed their support on the project, which has won priorities among all the agriculture-related funds by the central government. A next step is to implement the key items in the proposal by adopting pragmatic measures.

Vice Chairman of NPC Standing

Committee Ismail Tiliwaldi emphasized on the conference that the Party and the government have been paying great attention to rural work. To increase farmers' income and accelerate agricultural development is a core task. All the departments involved should take practical and feasible measures to implement the proposal. The establishment of seed potato base in Ningxia is conducive to the welfare of poverty-stricken people living there.

Endeavors behind the potato

According to the NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee introduced, the potato plantation is one of the most important economic plants in China's western mountain areas. The propagation of seed potatoes and virus-free work are two key problems restricting the development of potato industry. The proposal, which was listed as a major one by the NPC Standing Committee, is vital to the interest and life of ordinary people in Ningxia.

The NPC Standing Committee gives intensive concerns to the construction of seed potato base in Ningxia. On September 16-19, Vice Chairman of NPC Standing Committee Chen Changzhi conducted an on-the-spot investigation in Ningxia. Chen said the implementation of the proposal 1022 is crucial to the lives of poor farmers in the region's southern mountain areas. All the departments involved should work hard on the issue for the sake of ethnic unity and social stability. Measures should be taken to accelerate the health and stable development of the potato cultivation.

Besides, the NPC Standing Committee demands that major officials of relevant departments keep close eyes on and take measures to ensure the implementation of the proposal.

NPC deputy Ma Qizhi noted the dealing of the proposal reflects NPC's work style, which is to concentrate on major



A planting base of potatoes. CFP

conjunctures and key issues in line with the overall situation of the Party and the State as well as line with the actual benefits of the mass of people.

The NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee pays high attention to the supervision and implementation of the proposal. Deputy Ma exchanged ideas with the Ministry of Agriculture and gave specific requirement. At the same time, the committee communicated positively with the Standing Committee of Ningxia People's Congress, Ministry of Agriculture, NDRC, MOF and other related organizations. Working with the Ministry of Agriculture closely, it also organized and participated in the investigation and research efforts. After hearing latest information on the implementation of the proposal, it also brought out supervision suggestions.

As the sponsor of the project, the Ministry of Agriculture strengthened coordination with other ministries and set up a special work panel led by Executive Deputy Minister Wei Chao'an.

At the end of April, the ministry ham-

mered out detailed implementation plan. On June 7-12, a joint research team was organized between the ministry, the NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee, NDRC and MOF to carry out field investigation in Ningxia. From July to October, the Ministry of Agriculture organized a second coordination conference to adjust the implementation plans and solicit opinions on the reply of the proposal to the NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee.

As co-sponsors of the proposal, NDRC and MOF also attached great attention to the handling of the proposal and strengthened their support for the rapid development of potato breeding in Ningxia.

After the proposal was listed a major one by the NPC Standing Committee, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region felt great honor. As a result, the Standing Committee of Ningxia People's Congress organized deputies to NPC to conduct field visits to the seed potato bases and contributed constructive and feasible suggestions on this issue.

Spurred by the NPC Ethnic Affairs



A woman farmer harvests potatoes. CFP

Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture, NDRC and MOF put forward eight measures to support the construction of seed potato bases.

First is to put more stress on the construction of supply center of virus-free seed potatoes, rapid propagation center and the quality quarantine center. In 2009, altogether 3.85 million yuan has been allocated from the central government to the Ningxia. Another 16 million yuan of fund will be invested into the region in 2010 according to the central government's budget. Second, more funds will go to the construction of virus-free seed potato bases. Third, enhanced efforts will be given to the construction of seed potato bases as well as to the transformation of low-output farmland through comprehensive measures. Forth is to give special subsidies to the propagation of high quality seed potatoes. Of the total amount of 200 million yuan of subsidies for potato cultivation this year, 25 million were used in Ningxia. fifth is to support the purchase of machinery related with potato production by providing special subsidies. In 2009, a total of 130 million yuan has been arranged from

the central government in Ningxia. Sixth is to provide subsidies for the promotion of plastic mulching techniques for potato plantation in autumn. The last one is to collect more funds to support the cellar construction and storage construction of the potatoes.

Supervision urged on the handling of deputies' suggestions Deputy Zhuo Xinping, also member of NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee, told the NPC magazine that the proposal 1022 raised by Ningxia delegation will play a role helping poor farmers to shed poverty in the region. The plantation of potatoes bears no vital importance other places in China, but it carries crucial significance to the development of Ningxia. NPC deputy Daleihan Mamhan echoed the establishment of potato bases in Ningxia conforms to the local situation of Ningxia. He suggested to further enlarge investment. The development of Ningxia as well as other provinces in the western areas is bottlenecked for the lack of funds. Besides of the allocation of subsidies and adoption of referential policies, the central government should tap new channels to help these regions.

"Attentions should not only be given to the development of potato industry, but also be given for those who are growing potatoes and making a living on that," said deputy Yu Zhengui, also a member of NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee. He also expressed his expectation that more organizations will give enough support since it concerns the ethnic unity, regional stability and the benefits of the local people.

Deputy Mu Benli suggested that it is an effective means to play the supervision of NPC by handling major proposals raised by deputies. He also hoped that the related departments should take pragmatic measures issues.

Deputy Ma told NPC magazine, the NPC system is one of the basic political systems in China. To implement the proposals submitted by deputies, on one hand, is to propel the government subject to the supervision of NPC, on the other hand, it ensures the people to be master of the nation, the Party to increase its governance and the whole nation to adopt rule of law. It plays an important role in accelerating the decision-making in a scientific and democratic way.

Ma also stressed that the handling of deputy's proposals lies in how to carry them out. Responsible departments should adopt practical measures to fulfill their promises. Other departments involved should take corresponding responsibilities as well as cooperate with each other. Based on its specific situation and under the support of central government, Ningxia should not only rely on State and ministries' aids. The spirit of self-independence and hard work should be stuck to. An active and scientific methodology should be explored accordingly. In the next stage, the NPC Ethnic Affairs Committee will follow the requirements of the NPC Standing Committee to supervise relevant departments. At the demand of Ningxia delegation, efforts should be resorted to carrying out pragmatic measures on this issue. ■

Two women citizens in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, purchase lanterns and Chinese knots to celebrate the upcoming Spring Festival. CFP



NPC

National People's Congress of China