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Formations featuring a giant national flag and the emblem of the People's Republic of China take path in a mass pageantry celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC in Beijing on October 1. Zhai Jianlan



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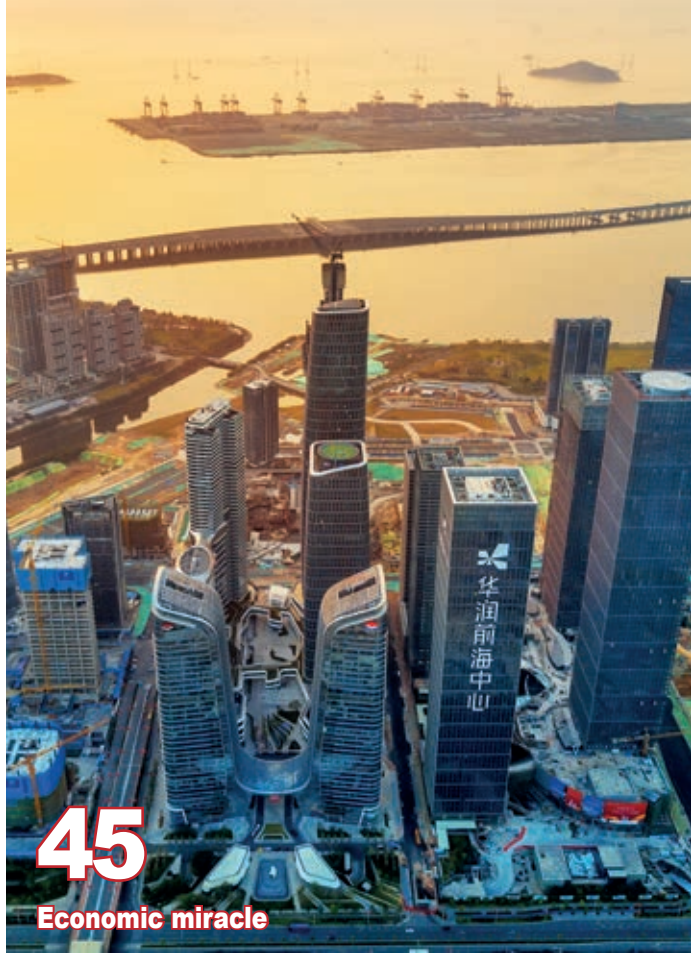
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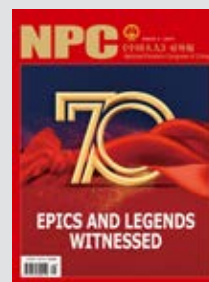
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China will stay on peaceful development path

Speech by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, at the reception in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

Beijing, September 30, 2019



President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at the reception to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 30. *Huang Jingwen*

Ladies and gentlemen,
Comrades and friends,

In this golden season of autumn, we are gathered here to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. For the Chinese people of all ethnic groups and Chinese sons and daughters at home and abroad, this is a joyful moment - a moment to celebrate the 70th birthday of our great People's Republic and to salute the epic progress of our motherland during the past seven decades.

Over the past 70 years, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese people, with great courage and relentless exploration, have successfully opened the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Along this path, we have ushered in a new era. Having caught up with the world in great strides, we are now marching forward at the forefront of the times with boundless energy!

Over the past 70 years, the Chinese people, with perseverance and strenuous efforts, have made development achievements that are the marvel of the world. Absolute poverty, which has haunted the Chinese nation for thousands of years, will soon become a thing of the past. This will be a great miracle in human history!

Over the past 70 years, the Chinese people, upholding an independent foreign policy of peace, have forged ahead along the path of peaceful development. Guided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, we have deepened friendship and cooperation with other countries and made an important contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind and advancing the noble cause of peace and development for humanity!

Seventy years are but a fleeting moment in human history. But for the Chinese people, for our nation, these have been 70 years of epoch-making changes. The Chinese nation has realized a tremendous transformation: It has stood up, grown rich and is becoming stronger; it has come to embrace the brilliant prospects of national renewal. This phenomenal transformation brings infinite pride to every son and daughter of the Chinese nation!

Here on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, I pay high tribute to the Chinese people of all ethnic groups and all CPC members, to officers and men of the People's Liberation Army and members of the armed police, and to all the other political parties and personages with no party affiliations in China! I wish to convey sincere greetings to fellow Chinese in the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions, in Taiwan and residing abroad! I also wish to express heartfelt thanks to all the countries and international friends who have given support and help to the

We will hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and keep firmly to the path of peaceful development.

development of New China!

Comrades and friends!

Unity is iron and steel; unity is a source of strength. It is what has enabled the Chinese people and the Chinese nation to move forward against all risks and challenges, from one victory to another.

In our new journey, we must hold high the banner of unity and rally closely around the CPC Central Committee. We must cement the great unity of all our ethnic groups, and strengthen the great unity of all Chinese sons and daughters at home and abroad and of all political parties, organizations, ethnic groups, social strata and fronts. We must maintain the close bond between the CPC and the people and promote patriotism. Thus we will create an unparalleled force that will power the ship of our national renewal to clip waves and reach its destination.

Comrades and friends!

We will continue to fully and faithfully implement the principles of "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong", "Macao people administering Macao" and a high degree of autonomy. We will act in strict accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Laws. We are confident that with the full backing of the motherland and the concerted efforts of our fellow Chinese in Hong Kong and Macao who love the motherland as well as their communities, Hong Kong and Macao will prosper and progress alongside



Presided over by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, the reception is also attended by Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan, along with around 4,000 Chinese and foreign guests in Beijing on September 30. Huang Jingwen

the mainland and embrace an even brighter future!

We will uphold the one-China principle and the “1992 Consensus”, promote the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Straits, and deepen cross-Straits economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation to the benefit of people on both sides. The complete reunification of the motherland is an inevitable trend; it is what the greater national interests entail and what all Chinese people aspire for. No one and no force can ever stop it!

We will hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and keep firmly to the path of peaceful development. We will stay committed to opening-up and work with people in all countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and to create a world bathed in peace and development.

Comrades and friends,

The Chinese people are great people, the Chinese nation is a great nation, and Chinese civilization is a great civilization. History will shed light on the future, and our journey ahead will be a long one. We are convinced that the Chinese people and the Chinese nation, with a proud civilization spanning over five millennia and great accomplishments during the past 70-year history of New China, will write a more brilliant chapter in our new journey toward the realization of the Two Centenary Goals and the Chinese Dream of great national renewal.

Now please join me in a toast:

To the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China;

To the prosperity and strength of China and the happiness and well-being of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups;

To the friendship and cooperation between the people of China and all other countries; and

To the health of all the guests, comrades and friends present.

Cheers! ■



The reception to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 30. Zhang Ling



Highest state honors conferred on individuals ahead of National Day

President Xi Jinping on September 29 presented national medals and honorary titles of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), the highest state honors, to dozens of individuals ahead of the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, helped the awardees put on the medals and shook hands with them at a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People. Representatives received medals for some of the honorees.



President Xi Jinping presents national medals and honorary titles of the People's Republic of China, to dozens of individuals on September 29. Leaders and heroes and role models take a group photo. *Pang Xinglei*

Addressing the event, Xi conveyed congratulations and respect to heroes and role models who received the Medal of the Republic and honorary titles and foreign friends who received the Friendship Medal.

Noting that the awardees are outstanding representatives of the people who contributed to the cause of the Party and the people, Xi said their deeds and contributions will always be marked in the history of the PRC.

When people respect and advocate heroes, more heroes will emerge, Xi said, adding that the Party and the state have always attached great importance to honoring heroes and role models.

"Today, we honor these heroes and role models with the highest standards to promote their qualities of loyalty, perseverance and humbleness," he said.

Xi stressed their loyalty to the cause of the Party and the people, their dedication to hard work for decades in a row in the fields where the Party and the people need them most, and their humbleness to make huge sacrifice at ordinary job posts without pursuing fame or self-interests.

"Heroes and role models once again demonstrate with their actions that greatness comes out of the ordinary," Xi said, adding that adhering to firm ideals and convictions and working tirelessly to do their jobs, every ordinary person can have an extraordinary life and every ordinary job can produce extraordinary achievements.

He encouraged the awardees to cherish the honor and influence more people with their strong faith, beliefs and confidence.

"We have sincere gratitude to the recipients of the Friendship Medal for their contribution to China's development," said Xi, adding that Chinese people are willing to work with people of all countries to build a community with a shared future for humanity and to make the planet a better place.

The eight honorees of the Medal of the Republic are deceased nuclear physicist Yu Min, longtime national legislator Shen Jilan, aerospace engineer Sun Jiadong, war veterans Li Yannian and Zhang Fuqing, "father of hybrid rice" Yuan Longping, nuclear submarine designer Huang Xuhua and Nobel Prize winner Tu Youyou.

Cuba's Raul Castro Ruz, Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Tanzania's Salim Ahmed Salim, Russia's Galina Kulikova, France's Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Canada's Isabel Crook were awarded the Friendship Medal.

Another 28 Chinese individuals were awarded national honorary titles such as "the people's scientist," "the people's artist," "the people's hero" and "the people's role model." Some of them were honored posthumously.

Earlier this month, Xi signed a presidential decree to confer these honors in accordance with a decision adopted by the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

Huang Xuhua and Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn spoke at the ceremony on behalf of the awardees.

Xi and other leaders joined the awardees for a group photo after the ceremony.

Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan attended the presentation ceremony, which was hosted by Wang Huning. (Xinhua) ■

Epics and legends witnessed



Editor's note: China put on a grand celebration, followed by a military parade and mass pageantry at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on October 1, the National Day, to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. A high-profile art performance was also held in the capital on September 29.



A mass pageantry kicks off on Tiananmen Square in Beijing on October 1. This is the "Long Live the Motherland" phalanx. Yang Zongyou

President Xi reviews armed forces on National Day

President Xi Jinping reviewed the armed forces at the heart of Beijing on October 1 morning, his first on National Day, to mark the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Standing in a black open-roof Red Flag limousine, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), reviewed foot and armament formations lining up along Chang'an Avenue in the bright Autumn sunshine.

Wearing a high-collar dark grey Chinese-style suit, Xi repeated salutes through microphone: "Salute to you, comrades!" and "Comrades, thanks for your hard work!" The soldiers replied: "Hail to you, Chairman!" and "Serve the people!"

"Follow the Party! Fight to win! Forge exemplary conduct!" The servicemen and women saluted Xi and exclaimed.

Thousands of servicemen and women goose-stepped through the square, sophisticated tanks and armoured vehicles rumbled and up-to-date fighters flew by. The historic parade consisted of 15,000 personnel, 580 pieces of armament and more than 160 aircraft in 15 foot formations, 32 armament formations and 12 echelons.

The National Day parade was the first of its kind since



Airplanes guarding the flag of the Communist Party of China, the national flag of the People's Republic of China, and the flag of the People's Liberation Army of China fly over the Tiananmen Square on October 1. Li Gang

socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era and the first overall demonstration of Chinese armed forces after their comprehensive reform and restructuring in recent years.

“Seventy years ago on this day, Comrade Mao Zedong solemnly declared here to the world that the PRC was founded. The Chinese people have stood up,” Xi said on Tiananmen Rostrum when addressing a grand rally. “The Chinese nation has since then embarked on the path of realizing national rejuvenation.”

Unlike the National Day parade 70 years ago in which many weapons of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) were foreign produced ones seized from rival troops in the battlefield, all armaments in the parade now are home made.

Of all the armaments reviewed in the parade, 40 percent were unveiled for the first time, including Dongfeng-41 intercontinental strategic nuclear missiles, H-6N long-range strategic bombers and new models of drones.

A large part of ground formations and echelons were formed by multiple services, a structure highlighting enhanced inter-operability of the PLA achieved through the reform.

Among several formations first appearing in a National Day parade was China’s peacekeeping forces. As the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the five permanent

members of the UN Security Council, China currently has more than 2,500 peacekeepers serving in seven mission areas across the world and at the UN headquarters.

Since reform and opening up in 1978, China has cut its armed forces by over 4 million. Its defense expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) has fallen from 5.43 percent in 1979 to 1.26 percent in 2017. The figure has remained below 2 percent for the past three decades.

“We have presented a refreshed image after reform and restructuring,” said Yi Xiaoguang, commander-in-chief of the military parade. “Chinese armed forces will always be a defender of the people and national security of China and world peace.”

Since he assumed CMC chairman, Xi has reviewed the armed forces several times, including one in Tiananmen Square in 2015 marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, one at the heartland of Inner Mongolia in 2017, and two off the coast aboard warships in 2018 and 2019, keenly aware of the necessity of building a strong military for the sake of preventing wars and sustaining peace.

“China will stay on the path of peaceful development,” Xi said in his National Day speech. “We will continue to work with people from all countries to push for jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity.” (Xinhua) ■



A grand military parade is held on the Tiananmen Square on October 1. This is the 2nd Unmanned Team to be inspected. *Li Gang*



A mass pageantry kicks off on Tiananmen Square in Beijing following a grand military parade on October 1, to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. *Shen Bohan*

Mass pageantry salutes historic development of PRC

A mass pageantry kicked off on Tiananmen Square in central Beijing following a grand military parade on October 1 to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Themed "Jointly Fulfilling the Chinese Dream," the mass pageantry consisted of three chapters: Founding and Construction of the People's Republic, Reform and Opening-up, and Great Rejuvenation.

A total of 100,000 people and 70 floats in 36 formations joined the mass pageantry.

The mass pageantry presented the great journey in which the Communist Party of China has united and led Chinese people of all ethnic groups to stand up, grow rich and become strong, expressing the people's sincere praise and deep love for the Party and the motherland.

Mass pageantry salutes founding, construction of PRC

The first section of the mass pageantry saluted the founding and construction of the PRC with five formations marching through Tiananmen Square.

The first formation of the section featured the birth of the

Communist Party of China (CPC), followed by a formation displaying the 28-year CPC-led fight of the Chinese people against aggression and oppression and for survival and freedom.

Then came a formation demonstrating the history that Chinese communists, with Comrade Mao Zedong as the chief representative, established the Mao Zedong Thought and led the Chinese people in unity to found the PRC, said an official narrator.

Chinese people became the master of the country, society and their own destinies, as recreated in the next formation. The final formation of the section showed industrial and agriculture development, indicating that socialism is achieved through hard work.

Mass formations pay respect to state heroes

Formations featuring a giant national flag and the emblem of the People's Republic of China (PRC) began to march through the Tiananmen Square, ushering in a mass pageantry in celebrations of the PRC's 70th birthday in central Beijing.

A total of 1,949 young people held up and escorted the five-star red flag through the square, where the first national

flag was hoisted 70 years ago.

The following formation, comprised of 2,019 young people, presented the national emblem, a symbol of the dignity and strength of the Chinese people.

Amid the Ode to the Red Flag, a formation of 21 vehicles slowly passed through, on which representatives of family members from the older generation of Party, state and army leaders, representatives of the older generation of builders and their family members, as well as senior and model veterans received salutes from the audience.

Portraits of Mao, Deng appear in National Day mass pageantry

A huge portrait of Mao Zedong was displayed in the National Day mass pageantry.

As the paraders escorting the portrait passed the Tiananmen Rostrum, where Mao announced the founding of the PRC 70 years ago, a burst of applause and cheers erupted from the audience.

A huge portrait of Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China's reform and opening-up, was also displayed during the mass pageantry.

Mass pageantry salutes China's reform, opening-up

The second part of a mass pageantry celebrating the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China highlighted the country's reform and opening-up with nine formations marching past the Tiananmen Square.

The leading formation presented a huge portrait of Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of the reform and opening-up pioneered in 1978, and the slogan "Critical Decision" was surrounded by paraders.

Chinese communists, with Comrade Deng Xiaoping as their chief representative, established the Deng Xiaoping Theory and made the historic decision of implementing reform and opening-up, ushering in socialism with Chinese characteristics, said an official narrator of the pageantry.

The following two formations marked the beginning of China's reform in rural areas and the ground-breaking achievements in the special economic zones.

A formation surrounding a huge portrait of Jiang Zemin and the slogan "Keeping up with the Times" marched through Tiananmen Square.

Chinese communists, with Comrade Jiang Zemin as their chief representative, formed the Theory of Three Represents and successfully advanced the socialism with Chinese characteristics into the 21st century, the narrator said.

A formation named "One Country, Two Systems" followed, with compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and masses from all walks of life waving flags and cheering to wish the motherland a "happy birthday."

There was also a formation paying tribute to the arrival of the 21st century.

Then came a formation surrounding a huge portrait of Hu Jintao and the slogan "Scientific Development."

Chinese communists, with Comrade Hu Jintao as their chief representative, formed the Scientific Outlook on Development, having upheld and developed the socialism with Chinese characteristics at a new historical starting point, the narrator said.

Two following formations paid tribute to solidarity of Chinese people against major natural disasters, and highlighted

the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Yang Yong, a parader with the Olympics-themed formation, said the National Day parade and mass pageantry demonstrated the superiority of the socialist system.

"Our country is getting stronger, and our life keeps getting better and better," Yang said.

Meng Qingchao, another parader, said great changes have taken place in China over the past seven decades, and people's livelihoods have improved significantly since the reform and opening-up.

Mass pageantry showcases Chinese nation's great rejuvenation

The third part of a mass pageantry celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China highlighted the Chinese nation's great rejuvenation with 18 formations marching through the Tiananmen Square in central Beijing on October 1.

At the center of the leading formation was a giant portrait of Xi Jinping.

Since the 18th Communist Party of China National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core has led all Party members and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to carry out a great



A mass pageantry kicks off on Tiananmen Square in Beijing on October 1, to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. *Mao Siqian*



The mass pageantry on Tiananmen Square in Beijing on October 1. Xu Yu



struggle, develop a great project, advance a great cause and realize a great dream, established Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and pushed for historic achievements and shifts in the cause of the Party and the country, said an official narrator of the pageantry.

“Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The Chinese nation has made a great leap from standing up to growing rich and to becoming strong,” said the narrator.

A formation highlighting technological innovation followed, showing many of China’s world-renowned projects including the high-speed railway, space lab and deep-sea submersible.

Three floats mimicked a high-speed train Fuxing, or “rejuvenation” in Chinese.

Other formations featured the country’s regional coordinated development strategies, rural vitalization efforts, democracy and the rule of law, ethnic unity, and Chinese culture.

A float highlighting the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games passed the Tiananmen Square, showing the country’s strength in sports, followed by formations demonstrating the country’s poverty alleviation achievements and environmental protection practices.

A float in the shape of a Chinese mythical giant bird Kumpeng drove by, showing the soaring momentum of the Chinese nation. Floats representing the country’s provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan followed.

Then came a formation underscoring a community with a shared future for humanity, which featured Chinese and foreign youth joining hands. The formation also highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative.

The next formation demonstrated the CPC’s sweeping victory in the fight against corruption, highlighting remarkable outcomes in full and strict governance over the Party. (Xinhua) ■

Xi joins public for evening gala to mark New China's birthday





Art performances on the evening gala on October 1. Guo Dayue



A grand evening gala held at the Tiananmen Square to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1. Sheng Jiapeng

With tens of thousands of people singing, dancing and cheering, and fireworks illuminating much of downtown Beijing, the heart of the national capital was turned into a sea of festivity as a grand evening gala was held on October 1 to mark New China's 70th birthday.

President Xi Jinping attended the gala, along with Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan, as well as many other leaders, incumbent and retired.

Minutes prior to the gala, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, and other Chinese leaders arrived at Tiananmen Rostrum, waving to the people at Tiananmen Square amid cheers.

The 90-minute gala started at around 8 pm. when fireworks rocketed into the sky, displaying the number 70 over the square.

A central performance area spanning the square and the southern point of Golden Water Bridge at the foot of Tiananmen Rostrum was set aside for large-scale performances.

In addition, part of Changan Avenue was divided into 10 sections where tens of thousands of people sang and danced in groups, extolling the People's Republic of China (PRC)

and the new era.

“The event aims to highlight the new look of a new era through a free, lively and jubilant atmosphere,” said Zhang Yimou, chief director of the evening gala.

The performances began with “Ode to the Red Flag,” with more than 3,000 performers carrying light panels portraying a huge national flag, and scenes of soldiers guarding the flag and children saluting the flag.

Performers danced to songs that won the hearts of generations of Chinese over the past decades during the gala.

Cai Mingcan, 42, was a dragon dancer at the square when the PRC marked its 50th and 60th founding anniversaries.

Coming back for the 70th anniversary filled him with excitement and honor, said Cai, now a coach for his dragon dance team in Southwest China’s Chongqing. “I hope I can come back again for the 80th-, 90th- and 100th-anniversary celebrations to continue to witness the prosperity of our country.”

With the last round of fireworks flowering in the night sky, the gala concluded at around 9:30 pm amid the classic song “Ode to the Motherland” sung by all the participants including Xi and other Chinese leaders. (Xinhua) ■



On the grand evening gala, the famous “Tongliang dragon dance” is performed in the Tiananmen Square. *Wang Quanchao*

A grand evening gala held at the Tiananmen Square to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China on October 1. *Li Xueren*





Chinese leaders Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan join more than 4,000 people to watch the art performance named “Stride Forward, the Nation,” at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 29, in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the People’s Republic of China. *Xie Huanchi*

China holds art performance to celebrate 70th founding anniversary of PRC

A high-profile art performance was held in Beijing in the evening on September 29, ahead of the National Day that falls on October 1, in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

Chinese leaders Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan joined more than 4,000 people to watch the performance, named “Stride Forward, the Nation,” at the Great Hall of the People.

At 7:55 pm., Xi and other leaders walked into the auditorium and shook hands with the representatives of senior comrades, paying respect to them amid applause.

The performance was divided into four parts, featuring

symphony, chorus, poetry recital and dance.

The first part recalled the days when the Chinese nation was in despair and presented how the Communist Party of China (CPC) united Chinese people and led them to found New China after 28 years of struggles.

The second part focused on the socialist revolution and construction period after New China was founded in 1949.

The third part showed China’s development since the reform and opening-up as well as the people’s aspiration for national reunification.

The fourth part showed the progress achieved as socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era since the 18th CPC National Congress.(Xinhua) ■



Xi Jinping takes a public oath of allegiance to the Constitution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 17, 2018, after he was reelected president and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China at the first session of the 13th National People's Congress, the national legislature. *Ju Peng*

Xi Jinping and China's new era

By Wang Jinye, Meng Na and Cu Lingui

President Xi Jinping took his place on Tiananmen Rostrum on October 1 at a grand celebration marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

It was there on October 1, 1949, that Mao Zedong announced the birth of New China. Over the past seven decades, the socialist country has blazed an extraordinary trail, rising from a "poor and blank" state to a major country on the world stage.

Xi, the first top Chinese leader born after 1949, is at the helm in a new era, steering the country through wind and waves to a brighter future.

Into new era

Xi was elected general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on November 15, 2012.

The world at that time was transforming. The impact of the 2008 global financial crisis still lingered. Emerging economies were rising. And China, after overtaking Japan as the world's second-largest economy, had entered a critical period

in its modernization.

Two weeks later, Xi proposed the "Chinese Dream" of national rejuvenation.

Soon after assuming the Party's top post, Xi addressed senior cadres with a lecture spanning the history of world socialism over the previous 500 years. He talked of how China had failed in its previous experiment with all other "isms" and directed cadres to unreservedly follow socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The Party's authority was further emphasized in October 2017, with the establishment of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Xi demanded full and strict governance over the 90 million-member CPC. To this end, he introduced an eight-point decision on how to improve conduct, rolled out stricter Party rules and regulations, and over the past seven years, launched four education campaigns to strengthen the Party.

"Every day, we brush our teeth, wash our faces, clean the house and do the laundry. For Party building, we must do the same," he said.

An unprecedented anti-corruption campaign has left no

stone unturned. In the first five years of Xi's leadership, 440 centrally administrated officials, mostly ministerial-level or above, were punished.

"Xi and his colleagues preside over the world's largest and most successful Marxist-Leninist organization, and they are determined to ensure that it remains so," an article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine said.

In late 2016, Xi's core status in the CPC Central Committee and the whole Party was established. He was re-elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee in October 2017 and Chinese president in March 2018.

During a visit to Italy this year, asked about how he felt about being Chinese president, Xi told President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Roberto Fico that governing such a huge country requires a strong sense of responsibility and hard work.

"I am willing to be selfless and devote myself to China's development," Xi said. "I will not let the people down."

Reform to the end

China aims to basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035 and build itself into a great, modern, socialist country by the middle of the century. Xi has said China today is closer than ever before to national rejuvenation, which is part of the Party's founding mission.

The Chinese economy surpassed 90 trillion yuan (\$12.59 trillion) last year, cementing its place as the second-largest in the world. Between 2013 and 2018, it grew by 7 percent on average every year compared with just 2.9 percent for the global economy.

China has the world's most complete production chains. The output of more than 220 industrial products ranks No 1 in the world. China has laid down the longest network of high-speed rail tracks and sent a lunar rover to the dark side of the moon.

For the first time, a total of 129 Chinese companies made the Fortune Global 500 list this year, more than any other country.

The achievements can be attributed to people's hard work and deepened reforms. Unsurprisingly, reform and opening-up, introduced by Deng Xiaoping in 1978, is regarded as a "social revolution".

Xi is committed to seeing this through to the end. In 2012, for his first inspection as the Party's top leader, he headed to the reform test bed of Guangdong.

Reform and opening-up is a "critical measure" concerning contemporary China's fate and there shall be no "pause" or "back-peddling", he said.

Reform under Xi is distinctive in its own right: It places more focus on quashing vested interests, emphasizes top-level design and underscores a systematic, holistic and coordinated approach. A far-reaching seven-year reform plan was adopted in late 2013.

Xi has presided over scores of leading group or central committee meetings on deepening overall reform. At the most recent, in September, 11 documents on reform plans and guidelines were adopted on topics ranging from private business support to plastic waste treatment.

Celebrated for his ability to connect with the people through language, Xi's often quoted maxims such as "do

concrete work and take the lead", "a state thrives on practical work but wanes on empty talk" and "grab the iron bar hard enough to leave a mark" shed some light on how China has achieved so much in such a short period.

Xi drafted market-oriented reforms for State-owned enterprises and has supported the development of the private sector. In 2018, at an unprecedented private enterprise symposium, Xi said private companies and entrepreneurs are "our own people".

Innovation, too, has received support, with Xi once saying that vital, core technologies are something that China cannot obtain through "begging".

Party and State institutions are now more efficient and modernized. Red tape has been cut and governments at various levels have expanded online approval and one-stop services.

The country further opened up, from the expansion of the pilot free trade zones to fewer restrictions on foreign investment in the automotive and banking sectors.

Last year, at the first import expo in Shanghai, Xi mentioned opening-up 52 times in his 35-minute speech.

Thanks to reform and opening-up, China's investment environment has continued to improve.

According to the World Bank Doing Business 2019 report, China advanced to a global ranking of 46th, up from 78th in just a year. Moreover, China's consumer market is edging closer to becoming the largest in the world.

Despite trade and economic frictions started by the United States, China saw more than 24,000 new foreign-invested enterprises established in the first seven months of this year. Foreign direct investment inflows in actual use grew by 7.3 percent to reach 530 billion yuan.

Serve the people

Xi considers employment "pivotal" to people's well-being. He supports e-commerce and the new economy, which create jobs that never existed before.

Every day in China, about 16,500 new enterprises are established, and 40,000 people find new jobs in towns and cities.



China holds a grand gathering on December 18, 2018, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the country's reform and opening-up, a great revolution that has changed the destiny of the Chinese nation and also influenced the world.



President Xi Jinping talks with deliverymen in a hutong in Qianmen area of Beijing on February 1. *Xinhua*

In total, China has created more than 80 million new urban jobs over the past seven years, equal to the entire German population.

China now has the world's largest courier delivery service market, employing more than 3 million people, who send everything from meals to fridges around the country. Earlier this year, Xi paid a surprise visit to a tiny delivery station in Beijing and chatted with a group of deliverymen.

This closeness to the people is not a singular event. For the past seven years, Xi has spent time with regular people before every Chinese New Year: giving them festival gifts, observing festive traditions such as food preparation, and asking about their lives and welfare.

"CPC members must wholeheartedly serve the people," Xi often reminds Party cadres.

This connection with the people can be traced back to a time when Xi lived and worked in a remote village in Northwest China's Shaanxi Province as an adolescent and young adult for seven years.

He has said that he understands the hardships of the people because he once lived in an impoverished corner of the country. He has been known to check the toilets and washrooms of ordinary homes, offer advice on garbage sorting, and show concern for students' poor eyesight.

In 2013, Xi put forward "targeted poverty alleviation" and set a goal to eliminate extreme rural poverty by 2020, a deadline that is 10 years earlier than the goal set by the United Nations.

Over the past seven years, more than 82 million Chinese people left poverty behind. Xi said extreme poverty "would be historically solved in the hands of our generation".

Kishore Mahbubani, a professor at the National University of Singapore, said the most outstanding achievement of Chi-

na in the last 70 years had been the dramatic improvement in the living conditions of the people.

Reviewing China's long history, Mahbubani said even at previous peaks of glory, the bottom 50 percent of the population had to struggle to make ends meet. But today even low-income people have access to nutritious food, education, health-care, housing, employment and even the ability to travel.

"There is no doubt that, in terms of the living conditions of the people, the past 70 years have been the best years in China's history," he said.

A shared future

China is increasingly connected to the world. In 2014, Chinese made over 100 million overseas trips. The country's outbound direct investment topped \$120 billion, achieving a near equilibrium with foreign direct investment for the first time. More Chinese live, study and work abroad.

The expression "China is moving closer to center stage" now appears often in news reports. The topic of how to handle China's interactions with the rest of the world has become a major subject for the Chinese leadership.

In his first overseas trip as Chinese president in March 2013, Xi introduced the notions of "a shared future" and "a new type of international relations".

Two years later, Xi took the podium at the UN, expounding "a community with a shared future for humanity". He later elaborated that the desired world would be one that is safe, prosperous, open, inclusive, tidy and beautiful.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by Xi, connects continents and oceans through trade and investment like never before.

The goal, contrary to what some people in the West claim,



President Xi Jinping visits an exhibition of treasured cultural relics and academic achievements at the Dunhuang Academy during his inspection tour of Northwest China's Gansu Province on August 19. *Ju Peng*

is to help more countries and regions enjoy the fruits of economic globalization through mutually beneficial results.

This reflects the kind of international relations envisioned by Xi: mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation.

A total of 136 countries and 30 international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China on the initiative. A study by the World Bank found that if implemented fully, the initiative could lift 32 million people out of moderate poverty and boost global trade by up to 6.2 percent.

China is becoming a hub for joint consultation on global governance and development. Xi hosted world leaders in a series of global summits, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Beijing meeting in 2014, the G20 Hangzhou summit in 2016, the BRICS Xiamen summit in 2017 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Qingdao summit in 2018.

On the world stage, more Chinese have assumed top positions at international organizations, most recently the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. China's currency, the yuan, has been included in the International Monetary Fund's special drawing rights basket, and financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund have been set up.

China has become an indispensable force in resolving global and regional issues, from climate change, terrorism, wealth disparities and fair trade to peacekeeping.

This year, China became the second-largest contributor to the UN's regular budget after the US. China is also the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. A \$1 billion China-UN Peace and Development Fund has been in operation since 2016.

"The CPC always regards making a greater contribution to

humanity a mission," Xi said.

Fight for a great dream

Despite the achievements, the journey to national rejuvenation won't be plain sailing.

Last month, Xi told up-and-coming Party cadres at the opening of a Party school training session that a "great struggle" is needed to make the "great dream" a reality. The word *douzheng* (struggle) appeared nearly 60 times in his speech.

Xi said the risks and challenges facing the Party would only grow bigger and sometimes "there would be tempestuous waves beyond our imagination".

But Xi is a man who rises to challenges.

Facing the challenges of an economic downturn, Xi has proposed measures such as supply-side structural reform to shift the economy toward high-quality development.

Tough battles were also launched to forestall and defuse major risks, carry out targeted poverty alleviation, and prevent and control pollution.

Economic and trade frictions with the US are another struggle. China has taken the position that "it doesn't want a trade war but is not afraid and will fight one when necessary". Over the past year, Xi has met US President Donald Trump twice, first in Buenos Aires last December and then in Osaka, Japan, this June, taking important steps toward solving the issue.

On Hong Kong, Xi said making everything political or deliberately creating differences and provoking confrontation would not help. Instead, it would severely hinder Hong Kong's economic and social development.

Xi told Ho Iat-seng, incoming chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, in Beijing last month that "one country, two systems" has proved to be a workable solution welcomed by the people.

On Taiwan, Xi said: "We do not renounce the use of force and reserve the option of taking all necessary measures. This is to guard against external interference and a tiny number of separatists and their separatist activities for 'Taiwan independence'. It does in no way target our compatriots in Taiwan."

Xi pushed a sweeping reform of the armed forces, setting the "ability to fight" as the sole and fundamental criterion.

Chinese service personnel have taken up "protecting China's overseas interests" as an important mission. When turmoil rocked Yemen and Libya, Xi instructed operations to bring back Chinese nationals. A film based on this story smashed China's box office records.

Xi has warned that all sorts of struggles will last a long time. He and his team are aware of both the rapidly changing and increasingly complex environment abroad and the situations at home. China, he said, is still the world's largest developing country.

In May, Xi chose East China's Jiangxi Province, where the Red Army began the Long March in the 1930s, to call for a new Long March.

Back then, the Red Army soldiers trekked about 12,500 kilometers across China, battling the harsh environment, the enemy and diversion within the Party. When they re-emerged victoriously in northwestern China, they continued the fight and won the revolution.

To Chinese communists, sacrifice and hardships are worthwhile for a glorious goal. (Xinhua) ■



Innovation-driven square of the mass pageantry on Tiananmen Square on October 1. *Han Yuqing*

New China turns 70, witnessing a golden age

While turning 70 often signals the beginning of a person's twilight years, for the People's Republic of China (PRC) it marks a golden age full of hope and vigor.

The PRC celebrated its 70th birthday on October 1. China's transformation from an agricultural society isolated from the West into the world's second-largest economy open wide is nothing short of a miracle.

More importantly, it has charted a new path for developing countries to modernize.

Seven decades ago, the war-ravaged country started from scratch. Observers are astonished at China's large-scale modernization, its reduction of the number of people living in poverty and the sheer volume of its consumer market. Their heads have been turned not only because of the speed of the transition but also by the unique path taken to realize this great transformation.

Reflecting on its past and present, and through experi-

mentation, China has identified and will continue down the right path – socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Reform is the engine of China's miracle. There is no ready-made solution for the development issues facing China. From creating special economic zones to building free trade pilot zones, from carrying out family-based production contracts to revitalizing state-owned enterprises, China has been one of the most successful countries in piloting reforms over the past decades. Now the reform is more in-depth and more comprehensive in economic, political, cultural, social and ecological sectors.

The Chinese government stresses being effective and responsive to the public interest. Development outlines are far-sighted. For example, the five-year plans are made to deal with comprehensive aspects that concern human development: food, transportation, communication, environment, health and education. These plans are a priority for the government.

Of course these achievements could never have been realized without the leadership of the CPC.

From the people and for the people, the CPC has always upheld its principle of striving for the happiness of the people and the rejuvenation of the nation.

At a life-or-death moment, the CPC shouldered the mission of saving the nation from existential peril. After 28 years of bloody struggle, it led the Chinese people to overthrow the “three mountains” placed on their heads and put an end to the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society of old China. Gone are the days where any attempt to bully China with “fists” or “intimidation” would succeed.

Despite overseas doubts, misunderstandings and predictions that its survival would be short-lived, the CPC has stunned the world with its leadership, innovative theories and ability to unite and organize the people.

It abolished the agricultural tax that had been in place for more than 2,600 years; it established a political system in which people are masters of their own affairs; it did its utmost to help people shake off poverty and keep nearly 1.4 billion people well-off.

No ruling party in the world can match the CPC’s record of adhering to the truth, versing itself in self-reform and self-purification, and turning impossibility into certainty in the face of difficulties and challenges, again and again.

The 70-year journey was never smooth. Trials and hardships abounded. The Chinese people dealt with floods and massive earthquakes and guarded against SARS and financial tsunamis. Yet these twists and turns never blocked China’s way forward but made it more sober, determined and mature.

Today, more than at any other time in history, China is closer to, more confident and more capable of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. However, lofty goals are never easily reached.

The world has been undergoing tremendous changes unseen in a century. Resistant external forces and headwinds still remain. “Zero-sum game” and “superior civilization” mentalities, among others, are prevailing.

The CPC will continue to lead the Chinese people to fight trade bullying, blackmailing and hegemonism. Only the CPC can lead China to emerge as a stronger country.

It all started long ago, and the journey is far from over. (Xinhua) ■



“One country, two systems” policy square of the mass pageantry on Tiananmen Square on October 1. Fan Peishen



Villagers in Shuangtan Village, South China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, clean and package chives on October 25. In recent years, leaders of Shuangtan Village has actively promoted the supply-side structural reform of agriculture, and guided villagers to develop chives industry. At present, many people get out of poverty and increase income. Cao Yiming

China takes 70th founding anniversary as new starting point

In just several decades, China has done what took developed countries several hundred years to complete. The Chinese people, once mocked as “the sick man of East Asia” and tortured by aggression and turmoil more than a century ago, now see their motherland rising with dignity and ever-growing clout on the global arena.

Abject poverty, a chronic problem facing the Chinese nationality for thousands of years, was uprooted as the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has endeavored to bring out the best of the socialist system for the good of the people.

With more than 700 million people lifted out of poverty, China has set an unprecedented example in eliminating poverty in large scale.

For the Chinese, enormous changes have taken place in their homeland which has never been closer to realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

It is now the world’s largest trader and industrial manufacturer, a popular investment destination with huge market potential, a significant engine of the world economy, a contributor to world peace and a determined supporter of globalization as well as a proponent of a just and reasonable international order.

As an ancient oriental civilization dating back 5,000 years, China never sought outward expansion or hegemony. At the center of the Chinese culture is benevolence, peace and harmony.

At the parade, a series of new, sophisticated weaponry were unveiled. They will be used to safeguard China’s national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, protect China’s overseas interests, and promote world peace and development, as China’s defense policy has always been defensive in nature.

When addressing a grand rally on October 1, President Xi Jinping said no force can ever shake the status of China or stop the Chinese people and nation from marching forward.

Taking its 70th founding anniversary as a new starting point, China is now sprinting toward building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by next year, just before the CPC celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2021.

What ensues will be another lofty target: a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.

Along the way, the world will see China remain committed to peaceful development and dedicated to building a community with a shared future for humanity. (Xinhua)

Growth for everyone

The achievements over the past seven decades are a testament to China's commitment to improving lives

By Yuan Yuan

The life of Zhou Huanrong, a nonagenarian from East China's Zhejiang Province, reflects a mosaic of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) development over the past 70 years. He was a soldier and a farmer, and now runs his own business in his hometown.

Zhou, 93, with a gray goatee, lives in Zhoucunyuanyuan Village, nestled in a valley among high hills in Lishui City. In 1944, he voluntarily joined the army to fight against the Japanese invaders and after the founding of the PRC in 1949, he returned to his hometown to farm the land.

Residents in the village worked as farmers for generations, something that began to change only after 1978, when the reform and opening-up program was launched. After that year, a growing number of residents in the village migrated to big cities for higher incomes. Ultimately, fewer than 40 people remained in the village.

However, things changed two years ago, when a young man from the village quit his job in Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang, and set out to develop the village into a popular tourist destination. Zhou saw a business opportunity in the growing number of tourists and renovated his house into a hostel.

"I am happy to see more people coming to this village," Zhou said. "This has brought vitality to the land."

Overall progress

Numerous people like Zhou have witnessed and benefited from the rapid progress China has made since the founding of the PRC. Exhibitions of old objects have been held in various parts of the country, bringing back to life the memories of those days.

Old sewing machines, bicycles and black and white televisions are evocative of the days between the 1950s and the 1980s. "My daughter still has the clothes I sewed for her," Li Xiumei, 60, said at an exhibition in Nanning, capital city of South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. "A sewing machine was a necessity in the 1980s, since we could not afford store clothes. Women usually made clothes for the entire family. I could make a shirt in a day."

He Haiqing, 68, donated five bicycles from those days to the exhibition. A bicycle was a luxury back then as people had to obtain a special coupon since the supply of bikes was limited.



College students pose for photos with national flags in front of a flowerbed in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in Beijing on September 23.

"But the bicycles in those days were of super good quality," He said. "I met my wife on one of these bicycles and our dates were normally biking to the suburbs together."

After He bought his first car in early 2000, the bicycles were moved to the garage. "Now bicycles have become popular again as a way of green transportation," he said.

In Beijing, there is a large exhibition displaying China's achievements over the past 70 years, divided into five chapters in chronological order, like a time tunnel showcasing how Chinese people established and developed socialism and worked to build a modern socialist country.

The achievements of each Five-Year Plan undertaken by the PRC are on display at the exhibition. For the First Five-Year Plan that began in 1953, the 156 key projects were all aided by the Soviet Union, with a focus on heavy industries. In contrast, for the ongoing 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20), the 165 key projects, including quantum transmission, 5G technology and express trains, emphasize hi-tech industries.

The exhibition opened on September 24, the day after the Chinese Farmers' Harvest Festival. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs announced in Beijing on Sep-

tember 21 that China has already reaped a harvest of summer grains and early season rice, and a bumper harvest is expected if no disasters like typhoons or chilly winds occur.

Yuan Yongbao, a 73-year-old farmer from Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, can list all the tangible benefits farmers have received from government policies over the years, including the abolition of the agricultural tax, which had been around for about 2,600 years, in 2006. "Its abolition brought us a great wave of relief," Yuan said.

This was followed by a series of beneficial policies by the Central Government, such as a subsidy program to promote agricultural insurance that protects farmers from natural calamities, as well as a pilot program to subsidize rural home appliance purchases.

Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs showed that China's grain output last year was 657.9 million tons, almost six times that of 1949. In the past 70 years, China's grain production went from a shortage of grain supply in general to a basic balance of supply and demand. The country also boasts a high level of agricultural mechanization. In 1949, China had only 13 combine harvesters, while in 2018, there were 22.38 million tractors, including more than 2 million combine harvesters.

The rise in overall grain production has outstripped the population growth. In recent years, the nation's self-sufficiency ratio of the three major grains of rice, wheat and corn has registered a robust 95 percent.

The structure of the agriculture industry has also been optimized, with a modern pattern promoting all-round development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery replacing the traditional farming pattern. In recent years, farmers in many places have developed large-scale farms by transferring their land use rights, thereby enhancing productivity.

According to Guang Defu, a spokesperson of the ministry, supplies of a wide range of agricultural goods, ranging from fruits and vegetables to meat and dairy products, have increased markedly. "China has not only solved the basic demand for food for nearly 1.4 billion people, but is also close to moving from supplying sufficient food products to providing rich and nutritious food for its people," he said.

Improving livelihood

Housing, education and healthcare achievements are being highlighted in several ways to mark the PRC's 70th anniversary.

A 24-episode documentary titled *On the Great Road* premiered on China Central Television on September 16, rolling out a panoramic view of the country's progress and development since 1949.

In the early days of the PRC, China's education system was poor and the general level of education was low. The net primary education enrollment rate was 20 percent and there were only 117,000 college students. Some 80 percent of the population was illiterate. The newly founded PRC paid close attention to the development of education. The enrollment rate of school-age children reached 95.5 percent in 1978.

Since the launch of reform and opening up, China has invested an enormous effort in implementing the educa-

tion-first strategy to modernize education and guarantee equal access to education for all. In 2018, the net primary education enrollment rate was 99.95 percent. Senior secondary education in China is now basically universal. Higher education is becoming universal too. In 2018, there were 7.91 million newly enrolled students in colleges and universities, representing a gross college enrollment rate of 48.1 percent.

In terms of healthcare, the country has set up a service system covering both urban and rural residents since 1949.

At the end of 2018, the average life expectancy in China was 77 years, the infant mortality rate dropped to 6.1 per 1,000 live births, and the main health indicators for Chinese residents were better than the average levels in some middle and high income countries.

China has also established the world's largest social security network, with 941 million people covered by pension insurance and 1.3 billion covered by basic medical insurance by March 2019.

At a press conference on September 24, Ning Jizhe, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission, unveiled a series of statistics demonstrating China's economic growth over the past several decades.

From 1952, when the earliest official national GDP data after the founding of the PRC were available, to 2018, China's GDP soared 452.6 times in U.S. dollar terms.

"China has grown into the second largest economy, the largest trader of goods, the largest foreign exchange reserves holder, the second largest trader in services, the second largest user of foreign capital and the second largest outbound investor," Ning said.

"The blistering pace of the expansion of China's economy in the past decades has impressed the world and has come to be known as 'China speed.' Now the term is taking on new meaning as the country enters a new development phase," said a commentary from Xinhua News Agency.

It is now less about the breakneck pace of GDP growth, or the sheer velocity of building roads, bridges and skyscrapers. Instead, it's more about how swiftly an economy of China's size embraces a new, more sustainable development model driven by innovation, technology and a more open market, the commentary said. (Beijing Review) ■



An exhibition on China's achievements over the past 70 years opens in Beijing on September 24. Chen Yehua



The overseas Chinese in Europe send their best wishes to China with artistic performances. Guests and actors pose for a group photo after a gala celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in Brussels, Belgium on September 9. *Zheng Huansong*

Warm response inspired

By Xu Wei, Zhang Zhihao, Peng Yining, Yang Yang and Zhang Wenfang

Ambassador of Pakistan to China: Parade a sign of patriotic, proud nation

“Today’s military parade and the ceremony was a sight to behold. It was a sign of a patriotic and proud nation which celebrates its milestones with so much excellence, pride and vigor. I have no doubt that the Chinese leadership, with the support of the Chinese people, will continue to steer the country toward the fulfillment of the Chinese Dream. On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, we convey our most heartfelt felicitations to the Chinese people and the Chinese government on this memorable occasion,” Naghmana Hashmi, ambassador of Pakistan to China, said.

“Since its reform and opening-up, China has made tremendous progress in economic development. It has lifted

nearly 800 million people out of poverty. Today China has become the second-largest economy of the world and is the major driver of global trade. Industrial output and foreign investments have increased, creating more jobs and increasing average incomes. The critical social sectors of education, health and social security have also seen considerable improvement. In a nutshell, President Xi’s speech of today is the story of the continuous struggle and subsequent achievements of the Chinese nation and a source of inspiration for the whole world. The sagacity and wisdom of the Chinese leadership is evident in today’s speech by President Xi Jinping,” the ambassador added.

HE Dr Ali Obaid Al Dhaheri, ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to China

“What we see now is a resurgent China. China has had

a series of guiding hands in Beijing who have helped the country soar. Now piloting is President Xi Jinping, whose personal leadership and charisma are elevating China to even greater heights,” HE Dr Ali Obaid Al Dhaheri, ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to China, said.

Grenville Cross, former director of public prosecutions of Hong Kong

“A marvellous occasion, extremely well organised. Everyone is happy, and full of enthusiasm. People of all ages and from all regions are clearly full of pride over China’s achievements, and united in celebrating this historic day. I am honored to have been a part of it,” Grenville Cross, former director of public prosecutions of Hong Kong, said.

Elizabeth Quat Pui-fan, a lawmaker in Hong Kong

I am very proud to be able to participate in the 70th anniversary of the PRC. I am very excited to see today the parade and to meet with all the people. I am very glad to see a lot of parade related to Hong Kong and “one country two systems”. That shows our country cares about Hong Kong.

When I met with local people (in Beijing), a lot of students and soldiers asked if we are from Hong Kong and they welcomed us. I feel very warm and really feel we are from one family that cares for each other. And I am very proud to be Chinese.

John Brumby, national president of Australia China Business Council

The re-emergence of China on the global stage has been one of the great developmental successful stories of modern times with 850 million people lifting themselves out of poverty. On the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Australia China Business Council recognises China’s achievements and acknowledges that the Australia-China journey has only just begun. Australia was one of the first countries to open up diplomatic relations with China in December 1972. The following year saw the formation of the Australia China Business Council and we are proud to have played a valuable role in the bilateral relationship since its very early days.

Roberta Lipson, director of the US China Business Council and CEO of United Family Healthcare

It was really exciting. I especially loved the second half with the lively floats that celebrated the fantastic achievements in quality of life, science and technology and the arts. The logistical organization was also so impressive for an event at such a huge scale.

Gordon Xing Shao-nan, executive director of the Offshore group in Hong Kong

The 150 compatriots from the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions who fly to Beijing for the celebration will take back home an abundance of positive energy.

The military parade and mass pageantry encapsulates New China’s seven decades of history very well. They are valuable history lessons on China.

After I return, I will share my experience with the Hong Kong people, especially the youth.

We hope the Hong Kong youth can learn more about the motherland, and let the small minority of violent rioters know that relying on foreign countries will not save Hong Kong. Only the CPC can.

Simon Wong Ka-wo, president of the Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants & Related Trades

Simon Wong Ka-wo is almost the same age as the People’s Republic of China. Over the years, he has seen the development of Hong Kong, working in the region’s catering industry. “I’m thankful for the central government’s support for Hong Kong and confident that Hong Kong’s future will be better”, Wong said.

Mandy Huang Min, an attendee from Hong Kong

The nation’s current accomplishments did not come easily, and Hong Kong, being a part of China, will continue to walk into the future with the Chinese mainland.

Daryl Guppy, president of the north territory office for the Australia China Business Council.

“I think the grand celebration is even more important than American Independence Day because in just 70 years China has advanced so much and contributed so much to the people of China. China and the Chinese people have much to celebrate and be proud of. No other nation has achieved so much for its people in such a short time,” Daryl Guppy said.

Chinese netizens

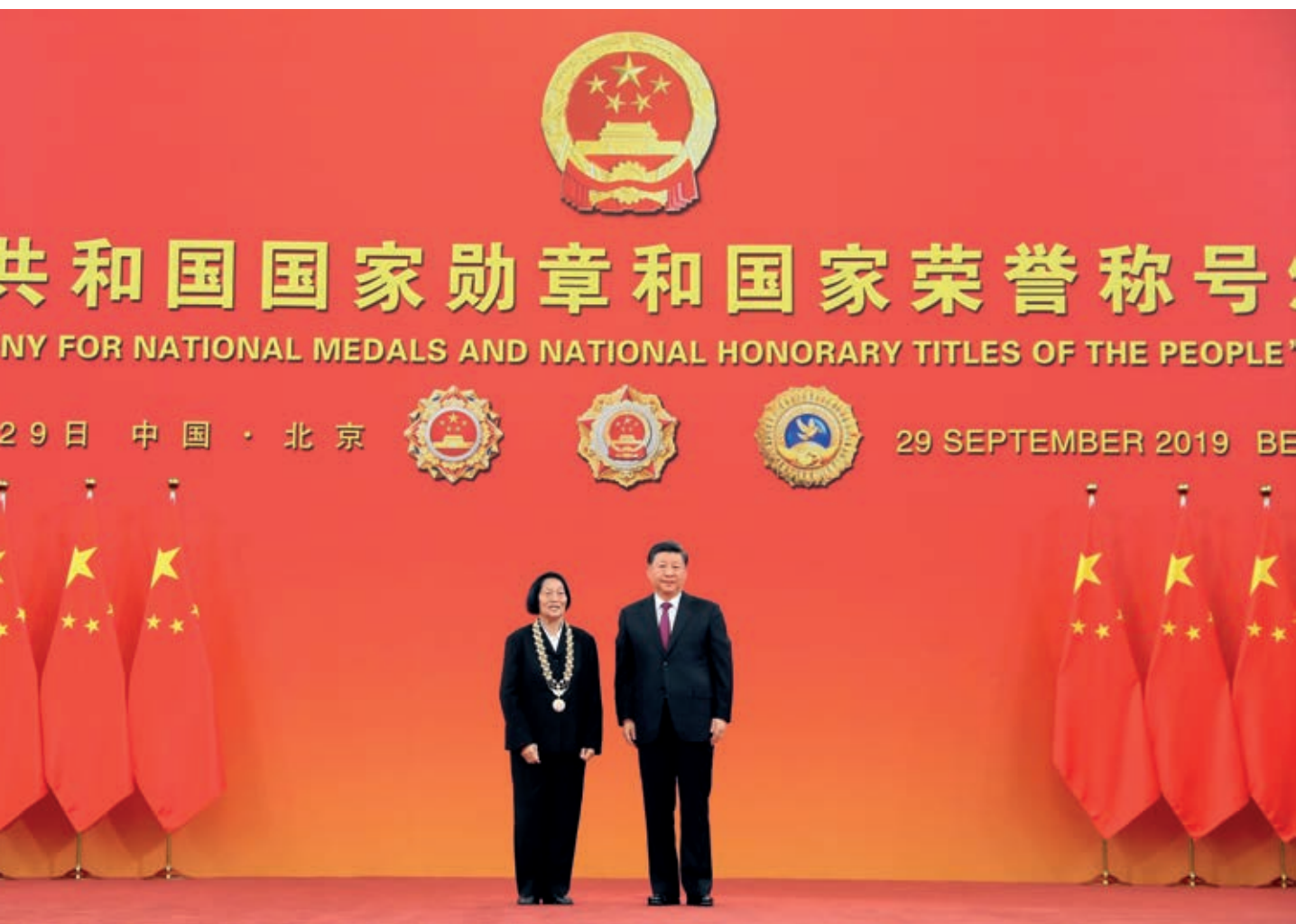
The military parade and mass pageantry remained the most searched topic on Sina Weibo since the grand celebration began at 10 am. Internet users expressed their love and affection to the nation and voiced their pride and emotions.

A user named Lucy Wang, who was born in 1979 when China started reform and opening-up, said she has witnessed the progress China made during the past four decades. “Millions of changes make us live better. China is becoming stronger,” she said.

Another user called Amy Liu said he watched live with his daughter and told the girl why China is called the motherland. “I said that because wherever we go and whatever we do, we are by all means marked with our Chinese identity and we are just like the kids of our country in other countries’ eyes.”(China Daily) ■



The overseas Chinese in Europe send their best wishes to China with artistic performances on September 9. Lin Huifen



President Xi Jinping (right) presents national medals and honorary titles of the People's Republic of China, to dozens of individuals ahead of the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC on September 29. President Xi Jinping presents the Medal of the Republic to Shen Jilan. Shen Jilan has been a farmer her whole life. She is the only person to serve at all 13 National People's Congresses since 1954. *Wang Ye*

42 individuals awarded national medals, honorary titles

President Xi signs decree to recognize individuals ahead of country's 70th anniversary on October 1.

Granting the highest state honors to role models is conducive to building a stronger sense of national identity among the people, promoting core socialist values and fostering a readiness to respond to the call of the times, the legislature noted.

The selection of award winners began earlier this year and the nominations were open to the solicitation of public opinion from August 27 to September 2.

The Medal of the Republic is conferred on prominent figures who have made great contributions and achievements to the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics and in defending the State, according to China's national honor system.

The Friendship Medal, the highest honor in China for foreigners, is conferred on non-Chinese who have made great contributions to China's socialist modernization, promoted exchanges and cooperation between China and foreign countries and safeguarded world peace.

Xi signs decree to award 42 individuals national medals and honorary titles

President Xi Jinping on September 17 signed a presidential decree to award 42 individuals national medals and honorary titles, as the People's Republic of China celebrates its 70th founding anniversary. (Xinhua)

China's top legislature adopts state honors decision

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, adopted a decision on conferring national medals and honorary titles at its closing session on September 17 afternoon.

According to the decision, the Medal of the Republic, the Friendship Medal and national honorary titles are awarded to 42 outstanding individuals for their contributions to the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the PRC celebrates its 70th founding anniversary this year. (Xinhua)

National honorary titles are given to prominent figures who have made great contributions and have recognized success in various fields including economics, national defense, diplomacy and education.

Scientist Tu Youyou, winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize for the discovery of artemisinin, was awarded a Medal of the Republic together with seven other role models. These include Zhang Fuqing, a 94-year-old war hero who served as a soldier in the People's Liberation Army during the War of Liberation (1946-49) and Yuan Longping, an agricultural expert who is also called the "father of hybrid rice".

Six foreigners were awarded the Friendship Medal: former Cuban president Raul Modesto Castro Ruz, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, former Tanzanian prime minister Salim Ahmed Salim, first Vice-President of the Russia-China Friendship Association Galina Kulikova, former French prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Canadian educator Isabel Crook.

Another 28 figures were awarded national honorary titles. They include Tung Chee-hwa, the first chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Nan Rendong, chief engineer of the 500 meter Aperture Spherical



Young pioneers present flowers to recipients of national medals and honorary titles in Beijing on September 29. Yin Bogu

Telescope, was posthumously awarded.

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said honoring model individuals who have made great contributions to China's construction and development helps build a stronger sense of national identity and promote core socialist values.

The honoring and promotion of those outstanding individuals will inspire the Chinese people to continue striving for national rejuvenation and demonstrate China's strong will to safeguard world peace and promote human progress, Li said. (Xinhua) ■

Presentation Ceremony for National Medals and National Honorary Titles of the People's Republic of China is held in Beijing on September 29



Body:

Elements of Chinese national emblem, five-pointed star, the Yellow River, the Yangtze River and peony are incorporated.

Symbolize:

Conferred on prominent figures who have made great contributions and achievements to the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics and in defending the state.

Medal of the Republic



Body:

Elements of peace dove, the earth, handshake and lotus flower are incorporated.

Symbolize:

The friendship, solidarity and friendship between Chinese people and people of other countries are everlasting. Wish all countries in the world common prosperity and development.

Friendship Medal



Body:

Elements of five-pointed star, the Tiananmen Square, flag and radiance are incorporated.

Symbolize:

Given to prominent figures who have made great contributions and have recognized success in various fields including economics, national defense, diplomacy and education.

National Honorary Titles

Awards reflect global respect, understanding

Medal of Friendship honors highlight China's eagerness to engage with world

The Medal of Friendship awards given to six foreigners on September 29 represent China's appreciation of global figures who promote understanding and respect, according to international scholars.

President Xi Jinping presented the Friendship Medal to former Cuban president Raul Castro Ruz, Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, former Tanzanian prime minister Salim Ahmed Salim, Russian Sinologist Galina Kulikova, former French prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Canadian educator Isabel Crook.

This brought to eight the number of foreigners awarded the medal. Russian President Vladimir Putin was the first foreigner awarded the medal in June last year. Former Kazakhstan president Nursultan Abishuly Nazarbayev was also given the medal in April.

"We have sincere gratitude for the recipients of the Friendship Medal for their contribution to China's development," Xi said on September 29 in Beijing during the award-giving ceremony, adding that Chinese people are willing to work with people of all countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind and to make the planet a better place.

Christopher Bovis, a professor of international business law at the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, said the medals reflect China's appreciation of contributions to areas of major importance, such as peace, free trade, the environment, international development and growth, institutional reform and sustainability.

"China has opted for establishing the Medal of Friendship to show the country's respect for individuals who accept and share China's objectives and purpose in international affairs," he said.

Michael Crook, Isabel Crook's son, said: "In many countries, medals are given for bravery in battle, distinction earned in conflict with other countries. In my view, there is far too much war and conflict in the world today. What is needed is much more friendship and understanding."

Shi Manke



President Xi Jinping presents national medals and honorary titles of the People's Republic of China (PRC), to dozens of individuals ahead of the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC on September 29. They are recipients of national medals and honorary titles at the ceremony. Wang Ye

We have sincere gratitude for the recipients of the Friendship Medal for their contribution to China's development.

He said his mother's contributions to promoting exchanges and cooperation between China and Canada — and indeed many other parts of the world — had been achieved through decades of teaching in China. Her students have served as diplomats and workers in many other fields of China's peaceful engagement with other countries.

Kriengsak Chareonwongsak, senior fellow at Harvard University and chairman of the Nation-Building Institute in Thailand, said: "Princess (Sirindhorn) has received the Medal of Friendship and this has brought honor to our country as she represents Thailand.

"The princess has fondly and consciously visited many different provinces of China numerous times. This shows that she has deep respect, affection (for) and interest in China."

Punchada Sirivunnabood, associate professor at the

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Mahidol University in Bangkok, said the medal given to the princess showed the relationship between China and Thailand is not only at the government level but also at a higher level. This means that there's a close relationship between Thailand and China, Punchada said.

Jenerali Ulimwengu, a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam, said the award given to Salim honored the former prime minister's outstanding contributions to promoting cooperation and respect between China and the world while he was serving as the country's representative to the United Nations.

"It is a deserving recognition of one of Tanzania's outstanding diplomats. He was instrumental in championing the cause of China, especially in its admission into the UN in 1971," Ulimwengu said.

"The China-Africa relationship has historical links. And this award is testimony that it continues to be the basis of future endeavors."

Dmitry Novikov, the first vice-chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Russian State Duma, said the recognition of Galina Kulikova showed the stability of the Sino-Russian strategic partnership for a new era.

The high-level interaction between China and Russia has become an advanced model of modern international relations, Novikov said. (China Daily) ■

Keep our door wide open

Keynote speech by Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, Nur-Sultan, September 24, 2019



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on September 24. *Zhai Jianlan*

Your excellency First President Nursultan Nazarbayev,
Your excellency Chairman of Mazhilis of Parliament
Nurlan Nigmatulin,
Dear colleagues,

I am very glad to come to Nur-Sultan, the Pearl of the Great Steppe, to attend the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments. I wish to extend warm congratulations on the opening of the Meeting, and express heartfelt thanks to our host, Kazakhstan, for its good preparations and warm hospitality.

Our world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. Should we choose cooperation or confrontation? Openness or isolation? Win-win progress or zero-sum game? These questions are vital to the interests of all countries and the future of mankind.

President Xi Jinping has given an explicit answer: we need to build a community with a shared future for mankind; forge a new model of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation; and make the global governance system fairer and more equitable.

During his visit to Kazakhstan and Indonesia in the autumn of 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the initiative of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. This offers an important platform for countries to advance common development and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Over the past six years, more than 160 countries and international organizations have signed agreements on Belt and Road cooperation with China. Trade in goods between China and Belt and Road partner countries has exceeded US\$6 trillion. And a large number of cooperation projects have been launched. Facts have shown that Belt and Road cooperation is in line with the trend of the times and the will of the people. It benefits all countries and all peoples. It is a road towards shared opportunity and common prosperity.

Eurasia is the world's biggest continent with the largest population, most rapid development, and most promising prospects. Countries here have shared interests and common destiny. Facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges, Eurasian countries need to work together to strengthen dialogue, trust and cooperation, and promote peace, stability and prosperity. The theme of this Meeting, "Greater Eurasia: Dialogue. Trust. Partnership", reflects the common aspirations of the Eurasian people. I wish to take this opportunity to propose the following:

First, strengthen communication and consultation for greater mutual trust and support. Mutual respect and trust is vital to relations between countries. We need to respect each other's choice of development paths, core interests and major concerns. It is natural that countries may have differences and disagreements. What matters is that we should uphold the spirit of partnership, and expand consensus and put aside differences through candid communication.

Second, expand economic cooperation and trade for common prosperity. Development holds the master key to solving all problems. We must seize the development opportunity, make best use of our comparative strengths for economic integration and coordinated development, and share our achievement. We must support the multilateral trading system, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and categorically oppose protection-



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, poses for a group photo with other delegates during the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on September 24. *Xinhua*

China will keep its door wide open, and welcomes all countries aboard the express train of its development.

ism and unilateralism. We must foster an open, inclusive and balanced world economy that delivers benefits for all.

Third, enhance people-to-people exchanges for a stronger bond among the peoples. For Eurasia, cultural diversity is both a salient feature and a valuable asset. We need to promote mutual learning, mutual respect and harmonious co-existence among different civilizations, and advance cooperation in such areas as culture, education, tourism, sports, media and youth. This will facilitate better understanding and closer relationship among our peoples.

Fourth, deepen exchanges among legislatures to boost state-to-state relations. The legislature plays an important role in national politics. We need to make good use of the unique role of parliamentary exchanges, implement the important agreements between state leaders, enhance experience-sharing on national governance, and improve the legal environment for practical cooperation. This will further substantiate and provide stronger support to Eurasian cooperation.

Dear colleagues,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, and under the leadership of the Communist Party

of China, people of all ethnic groups in China have made unremitting efforts with an unyielding spirit, and created a miracle in the history of mankind.

China's development is defined by peace. We cherish and uphold peace, pursue harmonious coexistence with other countries as equals, and reject all practices of the big, strong and rich bullying the small, weak and poor.

China's development is defined by cooperation. We uphold the greater good and shared benefits of all, and pursue our own development as well as common development of all countries. We never seek our private interests at the expense of our neighbors or any other country.

China's development is defined by openness. We pursue development in openness, and take an active part in economic globalization. We seek no exclusive blocs. China will keep its door wide open, and welcomes all countries aboard the express train of its development.

Dear colleagues,

As a member of Eurasia, China sees other countries on this continent as important cooperation partners. We are ready to seek complementarity between China's Belt and Road Initiative and other countries' development strategies, as well as regional cooperation initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union. We uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, pursue open, green and clean cooperation, and follow a high-standard, people-centered and sustainable approach. We will facilitate all-round connectivity, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and deliver greater benefits to people across Eurasia.

To conclude, I wish this year's Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments a full success. Thank you. ■

Top legislator visits Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), paid an official friendly visit to Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia at the invitation of Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, Dariga Nazarbayeva, speaker of the Kazakh Parliament's Upper House, Nurlan Nigmatulin, speaker of the Kazakh Parliament's Lower House, and Viacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Russian Parliament's Lower House, the State Duma.

China, Azerbaijan pledge to strengthen cooperation

Chairman Li Zhanshu and top Azerbaijani officials have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various areas.

During an official goodwill visit from September 19 to 21, Li met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to him.

Li briefed Aliyev on the great achievements of the People's Republic of China since its founding 70 years ago, saying that the Communist Party of China is forging ahead on the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics in line with China's national conditions.

The socialism with Chinese characteristics has now entered a new era, and China under the leadership of Xi is striving to achieve its "two centenary goals" and realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, Li told Aliyev.

China deems Azerbaijan as an important partner in Eurasia and is ready to implement the blueprint made by Xi and Aliyev on the development of bilateral ties, further cement political mutual trust, strengthen practical cooperation in various areas, and jointly safeguard the two countries' security and development interests, Li said.

Aliyev asked Li to convey his best wishes to Xi and said he had witnessed the great changes in China with his own eyes during his repeated trips to the country and that he admired such achievements.



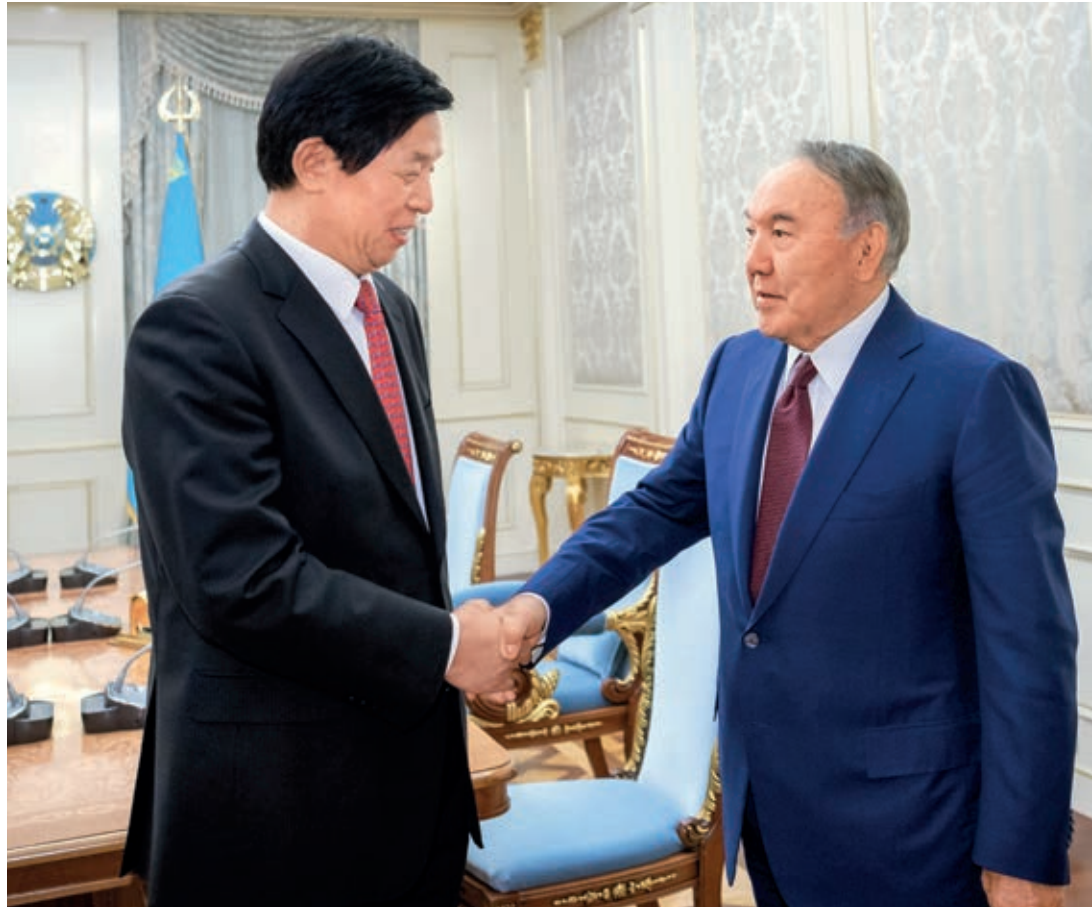
Li Zhanshu (left), chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku, Azerbaijan on September 19. *Pang Xinglei*

China is ready to boost economic and trade exchanges with Azerbaijan and enhance cooperation with the country in jointly building the Belt and Road and achieve more cooperation outcomes.

Azerbaijan-China relations are developing rapidly with a rosy future, he said, adding that his country firmly adheres to the one-China principle, and intends to combat jointly with China the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and improve their coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues.

Legislative exchanges

During a meeting with Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, Li said his visit was aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two legislatures and implementing the important consensus reached by the two heads of state.



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, meets with First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev in Kazakhstan on September 23. *Zhai Jianlan*

The Chinese top legislator suggested both sides increase interactions at various levels, exchange experience on governing the countries, and provide legal assurance for bilateral practical cooperation.

Every country has a unique history, national situation and culture, so different civilizations should coexist harmoniously and learn from each other, Li said.

The NPC of China is willing to work with the National Assembly of Azerbaijan to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, learn from each other, and cement public support for bilateral relations, he said.

Asadov said Li was the first top Chinese legislator to visit Azerbaijan in 19 years and that the trip has injected new vitality into the development of bilateral relations and the interactions between the two legislatures.

Azerbaijan and China have signed many cooperation deals and the two legislatures should help to deliver on the agreements, Asadov said.

An increasing number of Azerbaijani people are interested in Chinese culture and there is a need to promote educational, cultural and youth exchanges, he said.

Economic cooperation

At a meeting with Azerbaijani Prime Minister Novruz Mammadov, Li said Azerbaijan is located at the junction of

Europe and Asia and is an important country along the Belt and Road.

Li said China is ready to boost economic and trade exchanges with Azerbaijan and enhance cooperation with the country in jointly building the Belt and Road and achieve more cooperation outcomes in such fields as energy, agriculture, transportation, logistics, tourism and informatization.

He welcomed Azerbaijan to the second China International Import Expo to be held in early November in Shanghai.

Mammadov said his country was among the earliest participants in the Belt and Road Initiative and is ready to expand cooperation with China in various areas.

He welcomed more Chinese investments in Azerbaijan and expected cooperation with China on the construction of a Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor so that more Chinese goods can hit the Eurasian market via Azerbaijan.

During his stay in Baku, Li also visited the Heydar Aliyev Center and a carpet museum, and laid a wreath at the tomb of former President Heydar Aliyev and the Eternal Flame.

China, Kazakhstan reaffirm commitment to strengthening ties

Chairman Li Zhanshu and Kazakh leaders have agreed to boost mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas.

During an official goodwill visit from September 21 to 25, Li met with First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to him.

Li told Nazarbayev that China and Kazakhstan are good neighbors and the most reliable friends and partners.

Li said China and Kazakhstan have decided to develop a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership and build a community with a shared future, and their ties have become a model of interstate relations following 27 years of development since the establishment of their diplomatic relationship.

Both sides need to strengthen political mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, Li said, adding that China has full confidence in the future of Kazakhstan and will continue to support the Central Asian country in pursuing its development path that suits its national conditions.

Nazarbayev told Li that China is a good friend of his country and China's development is vital to Kazakhstan.

He said strengthening Kazakhstan-China cooperation is in line with the two countries' interests, and Kazakhstan always prioritizes in its foreign policy cementing and developing ties with China.

At a meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Li conveyed Xi's good wishes to him.

Li said the construction of a Silk Road Economic Belt was first proposed in Kazakhstan, and both countries as permanent comprehensive strategic partners should respect, trust and support each other no matter how the global and regional situations develop.

China and Kazakhstan should improve the alignment of their development strategies and boost cooperation in production capacities, energy, agriculture, inter-connectivity, finance, cross-border e-commerce, high-technology, education, sports, culture and tourism, Li said.

Tokayev said that Kazakhstan, located in the center of the Eurasian continent, will always be a friendly neighbor of China. He praised China's key role in maintaining global security and stability.

The Belt and Road Initiative is significant to Kazakhstan, which is ready to strengthen cooperation with China, implement bilateral agreements and achieve more outcomes.

At talks with Dariga Nazarbayeva, speaker of the Kazakh parliament's upper house, and Nurlan Nigmatulin, speaker of the lower house, Li said the two legislatures should implement the important consensuses reached by the heads of state and facilitate bilateral cooperation with legislation and favorable policy.

Li said the two legislatures should push for the signing of an updated version of the China-Kazakhstan investment protection pact, streamline procedures for customs clearance and



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 25. *Pang Xinglei*

China and Kazakhstan have decided to develop a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership and build a community with a shared future.

work permits, and create a sound investment environment.

Nazarbayeva said that strengthening Kazakhstan-China cooperation has particular significance as the world is fraught with risks and challenges, and that she expects better quality in such cooperation.

Nigmatulin said the Kazakh parliament is willing to compare notes on legislation and supervision with the NPC of China.

During his visit, Li and Kazakh Prime Minister Askar Mamin attended the opening ceremony of the China Construction Bank's Astana office.

Li listened to a report about the Astana International Financial Center and encouraged financial institutions in the center to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Chinese top legislator also visited the site of the 2017 Astana Expo and the national museum.

China, Russia pledge to enhance cooperation

China's top legislator Li Zhanshu and leading Russian officials have agreed to further strengthen bilateral comprehensive cooperation and continue to promote coordination between the legislatures of both countries as part of efforts to build stronger ties.

Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, on September 28 completed an official visit to Russia, during which he held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and the heads of both houses of the Russian parliament.

The Russian leaders congratulated China on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and hailed the great achievements China has made in the past seven decades. The two sides also exchanged congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Beijing and Moscow.

Li said that when he met with Putin it was observed that China-Russia relations had reached an unprecedented height and entered a new era for greater development opportunities. This has been achieved under the strategic guidance of the heads of state of the two countries.

In the current international situation, China and Russia should strengthen mutual support, jointly build up strategic capacity and erect security barriers that protect the two neighbors from external threats, while promoting the construction of a new type of international relations that can lead to a global community with a shared future for mankind, Li said.

He called on the two sides to push the levels of mutual trust and strategic cooperation on the political front to an even higher mark. The partners should also strive for new heights in economic and trade cooperation in order to move forward in their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination to meet the needs of a new era, Li said.

For his part, Putin lauded Russia-China ties as a model of relations between the world's major countries.

He said the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries for a new era, built in compliance with international law, is in the interests of the two countries and the two peoples.

Noting that the bilateral cooperation in various areas is steadily advancing toward the established goals, Putin urged the two countries to further strengthen all-around cooperation and develop their ties on the basis of existing achievements.

Legislative coordination

Li also met with Valentina Matviyenko, speaker of the Russian Federation Council, or the upper house of parliament, and Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Russian State Duma, its lower house.

During his talks with the heads of the Russian parliament, Li said the cooperation between the legislative bodies formed an important part of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era. Implementation of the consensus reached by the two heads would be made a priority, Li said.

He said the two sides should promote communication and collaboration for the sake of the development of bilateral ties. In particular, efforts should be made to build on the exchange-

China and Russia should strengthen mutual support, jointly build up strategic capacity and erect security barriers that protect the two neighbors from external threats, while promoting the construction of a new type of international relations.

es of experience in drafting legal frameworks that can help counter a trend for unilateralism and protectionism in the world as well as to defend the sovereignty of the two countries, while bolstering security and promoting the interests of each side.

Li also called for greater synergies between the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union, further cooperation in high-tech fields as well as subnational cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

For her part, Matviyenko said China's development has proved to the world that a country can follow its own development path in line with its national conditions.

She said the people of the two countries should work together closely and respect each side's national interests, adding that no matter how the international situation changes, the long-term friendly cooperation between the two countries would remain resilient.

The legislative bodies of the two countries should provide legal support in order to guarantee the development of bilateral relations, Matviyenko said.

Volodin urged the legislative bodies to make good use of existing cooperation mechanisms in a bid to promote further cooperation in various fields, resist external interference and safeguard a fair and just international order.

Li and Volodin also attended the fifth meeting of the China-Russia committee for parliamentary cooperation.

In his speech, Li spoke about China's historic achievements over the past 70 years, highlighting the contribution of legislative cooperation to the development of bilateral relations.

He expressed hopes that both sides, after thorough studies, would come up with new ideas and measures to further strengthen legislative cooperation in the new era. Li also wanted to see greater use of the committee for parliamentary cooperation as a platform to further enrich China-Russia relations.

While in Moscow, the top Chinese legislator visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and inspected the Moscow metro project being undertaken by China Railway Construction Corporation.

He also exchanged views on strengthening local cooperation with Rustam Minnikhanov, president of Russia's Tatarstan Republic, in its capital of Kazan, and visited the Kazan Helicopter Plant and Kazan Federal University. (Xinhua, China Daily) ■



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress (NPC), attends a joint inquiry into a report on the implementation of the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law, part of the session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee in Beijing on August 25. Liu Weibing

Top legislature holds joint inquiry meeting on water pollution

China's top legislature on August 25 held a joint inquiry into a report on the enforcement of the water pollution prevention and control law.

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, attended the meeting and delivered a speech.

During the inquiry, legislators asked questions about measures to protect drinking water safety, construct rural sewage treatment facilities, and strengthen supervision over the discharge of pollutants from ships, among others.

State Councilor Wang Yong and officials from multiple ministries and government agencies including the Ministry

of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and National Health Commission answered the questions.

During his speech, Li stressed heightening awareness of adopting law-based approach to pollution control and using legal weapons to protect the water.

Li also urged efforts to introduce more scientific methods and apply information technology in water pollution control and safeguard the public's right to know, to participate and to supervise in water protection.

The report was submitted on August 23 to the NPC Standing Committee for review at its ongoing bimonthly session. (Xinhua) ■

Nation's water environment improving

The water quality of China's major rivers, lakes and coastal waters is improving, while in general, the water ecology is not optimistic, an official report showed.

The report was made by an inspection team tasked with examining the enforcement of the water pollution prevention and control law, under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

From April to June, the law enforcement inspection team was divided into four groups and went to eight provinces, including Sichuan, Jiangsu, Hunan, Hebei, Guangdong, Anhui, Yunnan and Guizhou, to carry out law enforcement inspections.

The inspection groups visited 31 cities and carried out on-site inspections of 201 organizations, villages and projects.

At the same time, 23 other provincial-level regions were entrusted to carry out similar investigations to achieve full coverage of law enforcement inspections.

According to the report, in 2018, 71 percent of the national surface water sections were of good quality and the water quality of major rivers, lakes and coastal waters was stable and good.

However, the report also points out that inadequate law implementation is still prominent, and the overall situation of China's water environment is not optimistic. (Xinhua)



Sanitary sewage treatment station in Huapiao Village, East China's Zhejiang Province, October 29. Zhang Yuchai

China has more than 1.2 mln 'river chiefs' tackling water pollution



Billboard of regional river chiefs in Zhangzhou, East China's Zhejiang Province, September 19. Zhang Yuchai

China now has more than 1.2 million "river chiefs," or stewards assigned for each waterway to tackle water pollution, according to a report.

The report on the enforcement of the water pollution prevention and control law was submitted Friday to the ongoing bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, for deliberation.

The law, which was revised in June 2017, stipulated a "river chief" system at the provincial, city, county and village levels in the country, with leading officials assuming responsibility for addressing water pollution, including resource protection, water-line management, pollution prevention and control, and ecological restoration.

A total of 31 provincial-level regions have finished setting up the system, said the report. (Xinhua)

China revises law to ensure drug safety

The revised drug administration law was approved on August 26.



China's top legislature on August 26 voted to adopt the revision to the drug administration law as part of the country's efforts to ensure drug safety and meet people's health demands.

Lawmakers approved the revision at the closing meeting of a five-day bimonthly session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee.

Aimed at addressing prominent problems of the pharmaceutical industry, such as counterfeit and substandard drugs and high drug prices, the revised law stipulates the strictest standards and toughest measures in supervision over the whole process of the industry chain.

The drug administration law was first promulgated in 1984. The revision on August 26 is the first overhaul since a 2001 revision.

The newly revised law will go into effect on December 1, 2019.

All-round supervision

According to the law, supervision of drugs will be further tightened and expanded to cover the whole process, including the research and development, production, sale, use and management of drugs.

An entire chapter is dedicated to a new "medicine marketing authorization holders (MAHs)" system.

Individuals and entities who have become the medicine MAHs shall be responsible for the full "life cycle" of drugs, including clinical and non-clinical trials, manufacturing,

selling, and the analysis, report, and response of adverse reactions.

A "full traceability" mechanism and a drug recall system will also be introduced.

The law covers online drug sales, a new area in need of better supervision.

The online sale of drugs shall abide by relevant stipulations on the sale of drugs proposed in the law, it says, adding that vaccines, blood products, anaesthetic and radioactive drugs and other drugs under special administration shall not be sold online.

Tough measures

The law has stipulated the toughest punishment to protect the rights and interests of the people, said Yuan Jie with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, at a press conference held after the legislative session.

The revision has increased both the lower and upper limits of the penalties in the law. For instance, those who produce counterfeit drugs will be fined 15 to 30 times their earnings, as opposed to two to five times before the revision.

Several occasions are also stipulated in the law where heavier punishment is applicable, including producing and selling counterfeit or substandard drugs for pregnant women and children.

Drug watchdogs will be hit with heavy punishment if they are found guilty of dereliction of duty when handling counterfeit or substandard drug cases.

Innovation encouraged

In addition to tightening supervision to ensure drug safety, the newly revised law also encourages innovation in the research and development of new drugs.

"The law underscored China's commitment to pharmaceutical research and development in the general rules section, and added or improved over 10 clauses to encourage innovation," said Liu Pei, a senior official with the National Medical Products Administration.

Innovation will be encouraged in developing drugs that have confirmed or special curative effects or a new mechanism of action, and drugs that can cure life-threatening or rare diseases, the law stipulates.

The development of new types of pediatric medications will also be supported, according to the law.

Drugs of clinical urgency and new drugs or pediatric drugs that can prevent and cure serious infectious or rare diseases will be first greenlighted for the market. (Xinhua) ■

China mulls further encouraging body donation, protecting privacy rights

China mulls further encouraging body donation

China is mulling further encouraging body donation in the draft section of personality rights of the civil code, which is under its third reading at the top legislature.

The draft is among bills submitted on August 22 to the bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for review.

The spouse, adult children and parents of a deceased person can decide, in accord and in writing, to donate the body, unless the person expressed disapproval before death, according to a new clause added to the draft.

The draft says that people with full capacity for civil conduct shall have the right to decide of their own will to donate the cells, tissues and organs of the body or the whole body. No organization or individual should deceive, lure or coerce others to donate.

Body donors are required to make a written donation agreement or other validated wills, according to the draft.

China's body donation program started in the early 1980s. The traditional beliefs and lack of knowledge on donation procedures have hampered donations.

Chinese have traditionally held that a person's body should remain intact, and they see a traditional burial as an obligation of filial piety toward their elders.

As the laws and the overall environment for donation continue to improve, and people's attitudes on funeral customs are gradually changing, body donations have become more acceptable in the country.

China's body donation rate rose from 0.03 to 4.53 donors per million in the past decade, with the number of registered body and organ donors exceeding 1.16 million by the end of March, according to the China Organ Donation Administrative Center.

The draft has also gone a step further in regulating scientific studies related to human genes or embryos by banning such activities from "harming public interests."

Those who conduct medical or scientific studies related to human genes or embryos shall abide by laws, administrative rules and relevant regulations, the draft says, adding that people's health shall not be harmed, ethical and moral standards shall not be violated and public interests shall not be harmed.

The clause on human gene and embryo-related studies was first included in a draft of the personality rights section submitted to the legislature's session in April, marking the first time for China to make a fundamental regulation concerning such issues in civil legislation.



Chinese lawmakers review the draft section of personality rights and draft section on torts of the civil code, at the panel discussion at the bimonthly session of the NPC Standing Committee in Beijing on August 23. Feng Tao

China mulls further protecting privacy rights

In a chapter on privacy and personal information protection, the draft revised the definition of personal information by including a person's email address and whereabouts, in addition to name, birth date, address, ID card and telephone numbers, among others.

In a move to better protect privacy rights, the draft proposed in a new clause banning any organization or individual from searching, entering, spying on and filming others' hotel rooms or other private spaces, unless otherwise prescribed by law or with the rights holder's consent.

The new draft has also gone a step further in regulating scientific studies related to human genes or embryos by banning such activities from "harming public interests."

Those who conduct medical or scientific studies related to human genes or embryos shall abide by laws, administrative rules and relevant regulations, the new draft said, adding that people's health shall not be harmed, ethical and moral standards shall not be violated and public interests shall not be harmed.

The clause on human gene and embryo-related studies was first included in a draft of the personality rights section submitted to the legislature's session in April, marking the first time for China to make a fundamental regulation concerning such issues in civil legislation.

Chinese lawmakers will deliberate the new draft personality rights section and a new draft section on torts of the civil code in panel discussions during the ongoing legislative session, which will run from August 22 to 26. (Xinhua) ■

A blatant intervention in Hong Kong affairs condemned

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) on September 26 voiced strong condemnation over and firm opposition to the passing of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 by US congressional committees.

The US House Foreign Affairs Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the act on September 25 local time in disregard of solemn representation by the Chinese side.

Under the guise of human rights and democracy, the act is a blatant intervention in Hong Kong affairs and gross interference in China's domestic affairs, the NPC committee said in a statement.

Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, the policies of "one country, two systems," "the people of Hong Kong governing Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) have been implemented in an all-round and effective

manner, said the statement.

The people of Hong Kong, now masters of their own house, enjoy extensive freedoms and democratic rights in accordance with China's Constitution, the Basic Law and local laws of the HKSAR, it added.

The current situation, which originated from proposed ordinance amendments concerning fugitives, has gone completely awry as radical forces and violent elements wantonly disturbed public order, destroyed public facilities and assaulted and injured police officers, said the NPC committee.

Some US Congress members ignored those egregious behaviors and persisted in pushing for the review and approval of the act, wantonly backing violent radicals and separatist elements in Hong Kong.

"Such a move constitutes gross interference in China's internal affairs and fully exposes some US Congress members' vicious intention to send Hong Kong into chaos and contain China's development," the statement said. (Xinhua) ■



The Great Hall of the People in Beijing, October 24. Shen Hong

NPC spokesperson condemns US House committee passing Hong Kong-related resolution

A spokesperson for the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, on September 26 condemned the passing of a so-called resolution concerning Hong Kong by the US House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The resolution, under the disguise of protecting the freedoms of speech and assembly, maliciously accused the Chinese central government of undermining the "one country, two systems" and "interfering" in Hong Kong affairs, and smeared the Hong Kong police's efforts to maintain law and order, said You Wenze, the spokesperson of the NPC committee.

"No matter what difficulties and challenges lie ahead, our

confidence and determination in the principle of 'one country, two systems' and its practice will not waver," You said.

"We will not tolerate any activity that endangers China's national sovereignty and security, challenges the power of the central government and the authority of the Basic Law of the HKSAR, or uses Hong Kong to infiltrate and undermine the mainland," he added.

You also urged the US House of Representatives to abandon political bias and double standards, stop groundless accusations, refrain from interfering in the matters of Hong Kong and China's other internal affairs and try not to set up barriers in China-US relations. (Xinhua) ■

Economic miracle

China's two-stage economic development in the past seven decades

By Justin Yifu Lin

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the tireless efforts of the Chinese people, has been transformed from a backward agrarian country into the world's second largest economy and biggest manufacturing powerhouse.

Over the past seven decades, China's economic development can be roughly divided into two periods. The first period lasted from 1949 to 1978, when China adopted a planned economic system and strove to promote economic development through industrial modernization. During the second period that started at the end of 1978, China established and continues to improve a socialist market economic system by upholding reform and opening up, which has resulted in a miracle of economic development never seen before in hu-

man history. China's economy is transitioning from a phase of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development. This is a pivotal period for transforming the growth mode, improving the economic structure and fostering new growth drivers.

70 years of progress

In the period of the planned economy, China mainly followed the Soviet model of development with an aim to build a complete heavy industry system from scratch. Although this model could help a developing country quickly establish a modern industrial system, it also caused many problems in economic development. China formed a relatively complete modern industrial system in less than 30 years but continued to suffer unsatisfying industrial efficiency and comparatively



A view of the Qianhai Special Zone in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong Province, January 31. VCG

low per-capita income. As a result, people's living standards didn't see obvious improvement.

At the end of 1978, China became the first socialist country to transition from a planned economy to a market economy. But instead of following the neoliberal development theory that was the global mainstream at the time, it opted for an approach of promoting gradual dual-track reform through emancipating the mind and seeking truth from facts. Special economic zones were set up to create regional advantages to overcome bottlenecks in infrastructure and the business environment.

During the 1980s and 1990s, neoliberalism continued to prevail throughout the world. Neoliberal economists prescribed "shock therapy," arguing that it was the only feasible roadmap for a planned economy to transition to a market economy. Some said that the gradual dual-track transformation adopted by China, in which both the government and the market played a role in resource allocation, was the "worst institutional arrangement" and predicted that it could result in more problems than a planned economy.

However, China has maintained rapid economic growth for the past 40 years and achieved what took developed countries hundreds of years to accomplish, creating a world-shaking development miracle. At the same time, China's understanding and deployment of reform has kept pace with the times. In 2013, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee adopted a decision to comprehensively deepen reform, which called for letting the market play the decisive role in allocating resources and the government play its functions better.

Currently, both China and the world at large are navigating profound and complex changes. China remains in an important period of strategic opportunity for development in which the prospects are bright but the challenges daunting. As China's economy enters a new normal of slower but more efficient growth, the country needs to put its new development philosophy into practice, forge a modern economic system, pursue supply-side structural reform as its central task, and strive to embrace better quality, higher efficiency and

more robust drivers of economic growth through reform.

It needs to give full play to the role of an "effective market" and a "responsible government." Even facing a relatively unfavorable external environment, China's economy can still grow through enhanced innovation and competitiveness and ensure the realization of the goal to complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020 as it takes the Chinese people on a journey to fully build a modern socialist China.

Chinese wisdom

All mainstream economic theories in circulation today around the world were produced in developed countries. They exert global influence and some developing countries have formulated development and reform policies based on these theories. However, China has achieved rapid economic development with a mode that runs counter to the so-called mainstream theories, which should inspire retrospection in modern economics. In fact, almost every developing country that has formulated policies according to development theories from developed countries has been plagued by economic stagnation, crisis and even social turmoil. The primary reason is that these theories ignore the differences between developing and developed countries based on endogenous results of contrasting national conditions.

China's development over the past seven decades presents a gold mine to be explored by economists seeking theoretical innovation. Over the first 30 years of the PRC's founding in 1949, China showed few major differences from other socialist countries or developing countries as it followed the mainstream path of development of the times. However, it has blazed a new trail during the past 40 years of reform and opening up and created a never-before-seen economic miracle in human history, an achievement that cannot be explained with existing theories. The marvelous success of China's reform and opening up is absolutely worth further study with new theories.

To make China's experience in reform and opening up a source of inspiration for the theoretical innovation of economics, the best place to start would be to determine which factors produce the structural differences between China—a developing country—and developed countries. The industrial structures of countries with different degrees of development are endogenous, and every stage of development features different factor endowments. Such a structure determines a country's industries with comparative advantages at each stage of development. Industries with comparative advantages coupled with appropriate infrastructure and a certain system arrangement will make a country's industries more competitive. This development structure has proved optimal.

In terms of summing up China's experience in development with an aim at theoretical innovation, Chinese economists clearly enjoy a favorable position. China remains a developing country and has similar national conditions to other developing countries in the world. Compared to development theories from developed countries, China's solutions are better suited to help other developing countries seize opportunities and overcome difficulties as they promote industrialization and modernization and march toward the goal of economic prosperity. (Beijing Review) ■



On October 16, a brand new train set off from the south station in Nairobi, traverses the picturesque mountains and grasslands to Naivasha. This marks the official opening of the first stage project of the Nairobi-Malabar standard railway undertaken by Chinese companies. *Wang Teng*



The Toll Gate of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province.

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