

NPC



VOL.69 ISSUE 2 · 2025

《中国人大》对外版

National People's Congress of China



**WRITING A NEW CHAPTER
IN BUILDING A CHINA-LAC
COMMUNITY WITH
A SHARED FUTURE**

ISSN 1674-3008



9 771674 300253

D6>



New Development Bank





Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the New Development Bank and meets with Dilma Rousseff, president of the institution, in Shanghai, east China, April 29, 2025. Huang Jingwen



6 Xi attends Russia's Victory Day celebrations

Contents

Special Report

6
Xi attends Russia's Victory Day celebrations

10
Writing a new chapter in building a China-LAC community with a shared future

14
Neighborhood diplomacy takes center stage

Legislation

18
Green draft to be scrutinized by legislators

20
Law adopted to promote private economy

Focus

22
Private economy thrives in Weifang amid supportive business environment

24
Longyao County People's Congress facilitates growth of private sector

Whole-Process People's Democracy

25
Bringing the kindness of the Chinese people back to Fiji

27
Grassroots deputy committed to community services

30
What drives the success of China's whole-process people's democracy?

Deputies

34
Ningxia deputy dedicated to smooth road management

35
Hu Xiaochun keeps guarding ancient pine tree on Huangshan



18

Green draft to be scrutinized by legislators



30

What drives the success of China's whole-process people's democracy?



25

Bringing the kindness of the Chinese people back to Fiji



42

Ma Jinping strives to deliver tangible benefits to her village

ISSUE 2 · 2025

36

Shi Rufe drives rural vitalization through tea-making

37

Deputy identifies economic potential in sweet potatoes

38

Geshe Wangmo devoted to elderly care nearly 16 years

39

Jiangxi deputy blazes trail for rural female empowerment

40

Tashi Nyima serves as guardian of lights in Xizang

42

Ma Jinping strives to deliver tangible benefits to her village

43

Lin Hao balances ecological conservation and economic growth

44

Xia Yongxiang committed to serving local fishing community

45

Tao Xunhua leads village on path of hope and vitalization

46

Deputy leads rural development through beekeeping



VOL.69 ISSUE2 June 2025

Administered by General Office of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress

Chief Editor: Wang Yang
General Editorial
Office Address: 23 Xijiaominxiang,
Xicheng District, Beijing
100805, P.R.China
Tel: (86-10)5560-4181
(86-10)6309-8540
E-mail: zgrdnpc@npc.gov.cn

ISSN 1674-3008
CN 11-5683/D
Price: RMB 35

Edited by The People's Congresses Journal
Published by The People's Congresses Journal
Printed by Beijing Zhong Ke Printing Co., Ltd. in China

COVER: Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the fourth ministerial meeting of the China-CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum and delivers a keynote speech at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, May 13, 2025. *Yin Bogu*

Xi attends Russia's Victory Day celebrations





Chinese President Xi Jinping attends celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War in Moscow, Russia, May 9, 2025. Leaders from more than 20 countries and international organizations were invited to the events. *Xie Huanchi*



Chinese President Xi Jinping, along with other leaders, lays flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and observes a moment of silence, following the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War in Moscow, Russia, May 9, 2025. Leaders from more than 20 countries and international organizations are invited to the events. *Zhai Jianlan*

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended celebrations on May 9, 2025, marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War.

Leaders from more than 20 countries and international organizations were invited to the events.

Xi was welcomed by Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin on that morning. The leaders then walked to Red Square together and took their seats at the main reviewing stand.

At 10:00 a.m. local time (0700 GMT), as the chimes of the Kremlin clock rang out, the celebrations began. The military band played "The Sacred War" and the honor guards marched in.

Delivering a speech at the event, Putin said that the Soviet Union defended peace and freedom for all humanity at the cost of tens of millions of lives. "We will forever remember the moment of victory, carry forward the legacy of our forefathers, stand united, and always uphold the sacred glory," he said.

Putin noted that the Chinese people fought bravely in World War II, and highly commended their contribution to forging a shared future for mankind.



Victory is sacred, history must not be distorted, and the victors must not be defamed. History and justice are always on our side.

“We remember the history of World War II and draw lessons from it,” said Putin. “Victory is sacred, history must not be distorted, and the victors must not be defamed. History and justice are always on our side.”

Following Putin’s speech, the grand military parade began, as the military band played the Russian national anthem and gun salutes echoed across Red Square. Marching in unison, the formations passed through the square one after another.

In the “historical” part of the parade, Russian service members dressed in uniforms from the era of the Soviet

Union’s Great Patriotic War, carried the military flags and weapons of that time, evoking memories of the years of resistance against fascism.

In the “modern” part, formations of Russia’s various military branches and modern weaponry units passed by the reviewing stand. The Russian Aerospace Forces flight formations roared overhead, soaring across the skies above the Red Square.

Armed forces formations from more than 10 countries, including China, were also invited to participate in the parade.

Following the celebrations, Xi, along with other leaders, walked from Red Square to Alexander Garden, where they laid flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and observed a moment of silence. (Xinhua) ■

Chinese President Xi Jinping poses for a group photo with other leaders following the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union’s Great Patriotic War in Moscow, Russia, May 9, 2025. Leaders from more than 20 countries and international organizations are invited to the events. Huang Jingwen



Writing a new chapter in building a China-LAC community with a shared future

Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At the Opening Ceremony
of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum
Beijing, May 13, 2025

Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the fourth ministerial meeting of the China-CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum and delivers a keynote speech at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, May 13, 2025. *Yin Bogu*



Your Excellency President Gustavo Petro,
Your Excellency President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva,
Your Excellency President Gabriel Boric,
Your Excellency President Dilma Rousseff,
Delegates of CELAC Member States,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to meet so many old and new friends from Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in Beijing. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I extend a warm welcome to you all.

In 2015, LAC delegates and I attended the opening ceremony of the First Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum in Beijing, which marked the launch of the China-CELAC Forum. Ten years on, with dedicated nurturing of both sides, the Forum has grown from a tender sapling into a towering tree. This fills me with deep pride and satisfaction.

Although China and the LAC region are geographically distant, the bonds of our friendship stretch back through centuries. As early as in the 16th century, Nao de China, or Ships of China, laden with friendship, shuttled across the Pacific, marking the dawn of interactions and exchanges between China and the LAC region. From the 1960s onward, as New China established diplomatic ties with some LAC countries, exchanges and cooperation between the two sides became closer and closer. Since the turn of the century and in particular in recent years, China and LAC countries have ushered in a historic era of building a shared future.

We stand shoulder to shoulder and support each other. China appreciates the long-standing commitment of LAC countries that have diplomatic ties with China to the one-China principle. China firmly supports LAC countries in pursuing development paths suited to their national conditions, safeguarding sovereignty and independence, and opposing external interference. In the 1960s, mass rallies and demonstrations took place across China in support of the Panamanian people's rightful claim to sovereignty over the Panama Canal. In the 1970s, during the Latin American campaign for 200-nautical-mile maritime rights, China voiced its resolute and unequivocal support for the legitimate demands of developing countries. For 32 consecutive times since 1992, China has consistently voted for the United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

We ride the tide of progress together to pursue win-win cooperation. Embracing the trend of economic globalization, China and LAC countries have deepened cooperation in trade, investment, finance, science and technology, infrastructure and many other fields. Under the framework of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, the two sides have implemented more than 200 infrastructure projects, creating over a million jobs. The China-LAC satellite cooperation program has set a model for high-tech South-South cooperation. The inauguration of Chancay Port in Peru has established a new land-and-sea connectivity link between Asia and Latin America. China has signed free trade agreements with Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Nicaragua. Last year, trade between China and LAC countries exceeded 500 billion U.S. dollars for the first time, an increase of over 40 times from the beginning of this century.

We unite in tough times to conquer challenges through mutual support. China and LAC countries have collaborated on disaster prevention, mitigation and relief and on joint response to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Since 1993, China has dispatched 38 medical teams to the Caribbean. When the pandemic of the century struck, China was among the first to offer assistance to LAC countries, providing over 300 million doses of vaccines and nearly 40 million units of medical supplies and equipment, and sending multiple teams of medical experts. All this helped protect the lives of hundreds of millions across the region.

We uphold solidarity and coordination and rise to global challenges with resolve. Together, China and LAC countries champion true multilateralism, uphold international fairness and justice, advance global governance reform, and promote multipolarization of the world and greater democracy in international relations. We have worked together to address global challenges like climate change and advance progress in global biodiversity governance. China and Brazil jointly issued a six-point common understanding on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, which has been endorsed by more than 110

Facts have shown that China and LAC countries are advancing hand in hand as a community with a shared future.

countries, contributing our wisdom and strength to resolving international hotspot issues.

Facts have shown that China and LAC countries are advancing hand in hand as a community with a shared future. This community of ours is founded upon equality, powered by mutual benefit and win-win, invigorated by openness and inclusiveness, and dedicated to the people's well-being. It exhibits enduring vitality and holds immense promise.

Distinguished Delegates,
Friends,

The century-defining transformation is accelerating across the globe, with multiple risks compounding one another. Such developments make unity and cooperation among nations indispensable for safeguarding global peace and stability and for promoting global development and prosperity. There are no winners in tariff wars or trade wars. Bullying or hegemonism only leads to self-isolation. China and LAC countries are important members of the Global South. Independence and autonomy are our glorious tradition. Development and revitalization are our inherent right. And fairness and justice are our common pursuit. In the face of seething undercurrents of geopolitical and bloc confrontation and the surging tide of unilateralism and protectionism, China stands ready to join hands with our LAC partners to launch five programs that advance our shared development and revitalization, and contribute to a China-LAC community with a shared future.

The first is Solidarity Program. China will work with LAC countries to support each other on issues bearing on our re-

spective core interests and major concerns. We must enhance exchanges in all fields, and strengthen communication and coordination on major international and regional issues. In the next three years, to facilitate our exchanges on national governance best practices, China will invite 300 members from political parties of CELAC member states every year to visit China. China supports the efforts by LAC countries in increasing their influence on the multilateral stage. We will work with LAC countries to firmly safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, and to speak with one voice in international and regional affairs.

The second is Development Program. China will work with LAC countries to implement the Global Development Initiative. We will resolutely uphold the multilateral trading system, ensure stable, unimpeded global industrial and supply chains, and promote an international environment of openness and cooperation. We should foster greater synergy between our development strategies, expand high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and bolster cooperation in traditional areas such as infrastructure, agriculture and food, and energy and minerals. We should expand cooperation in emerging areas such as clean energy, 5G telecommunications, the digital economy and artificial intelligence, and carry out the China-LAC Science and Technology Partnership. China will increase imports of quality products from LAC countries and encourage its enterprises to expand investment in the LAC region. We will provide a 66 billion yuan credit line to support LAC countries' development.

The third is Civilization Program. China will work with LAC countries to implement the Global Civilization Initiative. We should uphold the vision of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness between civilizations and champion humanity's common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom. We should enhance China-LAC civilizational exchanges and mutual learning, including through a conference on China-LAC inter-civilizational dialogue. We should deepen cultural and artistic exchanges and cooperation, and hold the Latin American and Caribbean Arts Season. We should strengthen exchanges and cooperation in cultural heritage fields such as joint archaeological projects, conservation and restoration of ancient and historic sites, and museum exhibitions. We should also carry out collaborative studies of ancient civilizations and enhance cooperation to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property.

The fourth is Peace Program. China will work with LAC countries to implement the Global Security Initiative. China supports the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and the Declaration of Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The two sides should cooperate more closely in disaster governance, cybersecurity, counterterrorism, anti-corruption, narcotics control and combating transnational organized crime so as to safeguard security and stability in the region. China will organize law enforcement training programs tailored to the needs of CELAC member states and do our best to provide equipment assistance.

The fifth is People-to-People Connectivity Program. In the next three years, China will provide CELAC member states with 3,500 government scholarships, 10,000 training opportunities in China, 500 International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarships, 300 training opportunities for poverty reduction



Chinese President Xi Jinping poses for a group photo with guests attending the opening ceremony of the fourth ministerial meeting of the China-CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, May 13, 2025. Xi attended the opening ceremony of the meeting and delivered a keynote speech. *Ding Haitao*

**Independence and autonomy
are our glorious tradition.
Development and revitalization
are our inherent right.**



加勒比国家共同体论坛第四届部长级会议

Meeting of the Forum of China and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
Reunión del Foro China-Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños

de 2025

中国·北京 Beijing, China



professionals, and 1,000 funded placements through the Chinese Bridge program. We will initiate 300 “small and beautiful” livelihood projects, actively promote vocational education cooperation programs such as Luban Workshop and support CELAC member states in developing Chinese language education. We will also launch an exhibition of Chinese films and TV programs under The Bond, and work with LAC countries to translate and introduce 10 premium TV dramas and audiovisual programs annually to each other. China will host the China-LAC tourism dialogue with LAC countries. To facilitate friendly exchanges, China has decided to implement a visa exemption for five LAC countries as the first step, and will ex-

pand this policy coverage at proper times.

Distinguished Delegates,
Friends,

As an 11th-century Chinese poet wrote, “Life’s greatest joy comes from finding kindred spirits.” Latin America has a similar proverb which goes, “The one who has a friend has a treasure.” No matter how the world changes, China will always stand by LAC countries as a good friend and a good partner. Let us march forward together on our paths toward modernization, working together to write a new chapter in building a China-LAC community with a shared future. (Xinhua) ■

Neighborhood diplomacy takes center stage

This world is always changing, but it is also true that some things remain constant, with the continuity and stability of China's policies toward its neighbors being a fine example.

These consistent policies have been reaffirmed during the five-day, three-nation tour of Southeast Asia by Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President, from April 14 to 18. The visit was also Xi's first overseas trip this year.

"We will stay committed to the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness. We will continue to pursue the policy of forging friendship and partnership with our neighbors. And we will steadily deepen friendly cooperation with them to advance Asia's modernization," Xi said in a signed article published in Viet Nam's Nhân Dân newspaper.

Xi arrived in Viet Nam on April 14 for the first leg of his visit.

Pham Phu Phuc, former deputy head of the World News Desk at Vietnam News Agency, welcomed China's diplomatic approach. In light of unexpected and uncertain changes in the region and across the world in recent years, this vision emphasizes peace, sincerity, mutual benefit and shared development through cooperation, he told Xinhua News Agency.

Camaraderie plus brotherhood

Xi's visit came as China and Viet Nam celebrate the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations this year. Facing the changing and turbulent world, the two countries have remained committed to peaceful development and deepened their friendly cooperation, bringing much-needed stability and certainty to the world, Xi said during his talks with To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Central



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee To Lam and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh jointly witness the launching ceremony of the China-Vietnam railway cooperation mechanism at the International Convention Center in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, April 15, 2025. Xi, To Lam and Pham Minh Chinh jointly witnessed the launching ceremony after Xi, To Lam and Vietnamese President Luong Cuong met with representatives of the Chinese and Vietnamese People's Friendship Meeting here. Yin Bogu



Chinese President Xi Jinping greets the crowd during a welcome banquet held by Malaysian King Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar after their meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 16, 2025. Xi met with Malaysian King Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. Huang Jingwen

Building a community with a shared future is an integral part of China's neighborhood diplomacy. It goes far beyond sheer economics.

Committee, on April 14.

This was Xi's fourth visit to Viet Nam in the last decade. On multiple occasions during each trip, Xi has quoted late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh's famous description of China-Viet Nam bilateral relations—a bond of “camaraderie plus brotherhood.”

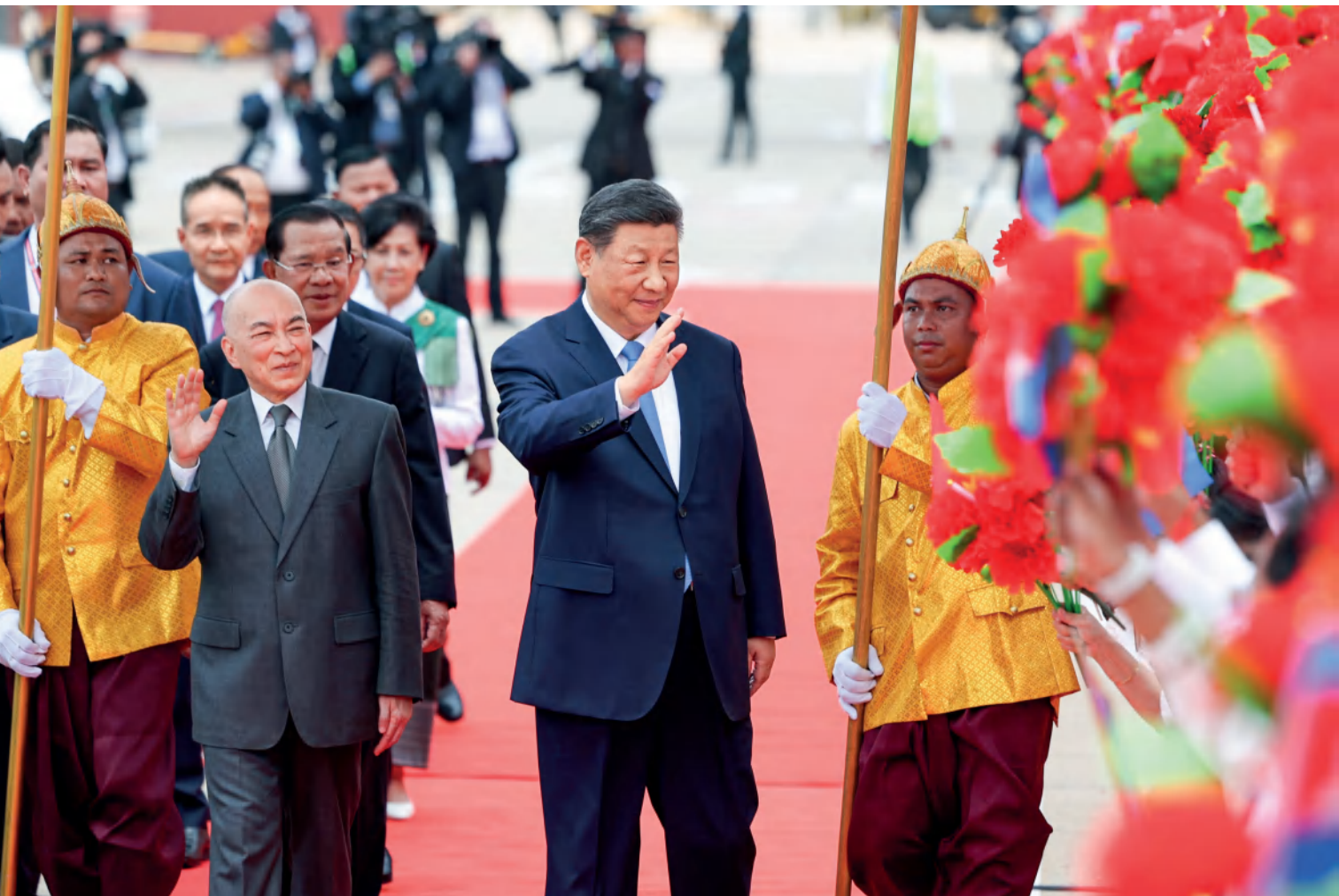
The expression remains the “best testament to that shared history of standing together through storm and stress with unwavering loyalty,” Nguyen Vinh Quang, Vice President of the Viet Nam-China Friendship Association, told Xinhua.

During Xi's last visit, in December 2023, the two sides agreed to build a China-Viet Nam community with a shared

future that carries strategic significance on the basis of deepening the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. This time, Xi proposed six measures to deepen the shared vision, including lifting strategic mutual trust to a higher level, building stronger security safeguards, expanding higher quality mutually beneficial cooperation, tightening the bond of people-to-people ties, conducting closer multilateral coordination and engaging in more constructive maritime interactions.

Building the China-Viet Nam community with a shared future carries great global significance, Xi said in his meeting with To Lam, noting that as the two countries jointly pursue peaceful development, their combined population of over 1.5 billion is jointly advancing toward modernization, which will contribute to regional and global peace and stability while promoting common development.

Over the past three decades, trade between China and Viet Nam has skyrocketed by an astonishing 6,400 times. According to Chinese customs statistics, bilateral trade volume exceeded \$260 billion last year. Viet Nam has retained its position as China's largest trading partner within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for eight consecutive years and has risen to become China's fourth largest trading



Chinese President Xi Jinping greets the welcoming crowd during a grand welcome ceremony held by Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni at the airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, April 17, 2025. Xi arrived here for a state visit to Cambodia at the invitation of King Sihamoni. *Li Xueren*

partner globally.

Since 2004, China has been Viet Nam's largest trading partner, and in 2020, it overtook the European Union to become the country's second largest export market. It has also become the largest export destination for Vietnamese agricultural products, accounting for 65.2 percent of its total fruit and vegetable exports.

In addition to robust trade ties, Viet Nam's shared political system, similar development path, and close geographical and cultural ties have made it a preferred destination for Chinese enterprises, Nie Huihui, a research fellow with the Institute of Southeast Asia and Oceania Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told Beijing Review.

China is Viet Nam's sixth largest source of foreign investment, with a total volume of \$31.26 billion. Last year, it outperformed any other country in terms of the number of newly added investment projects in Viet Nam.

During Xi's visit, he also emphasized the importance of accelerating infrastructure projects. He proposed the early realization of cross-border connectivity of standard-gauge railways, highways and smart port systems between the two countries.

The ongoing progress is expected to further boost bilateral

trade, while also facilitating the integration of Viet Nam with China's railway networks extending to Central Asia and Europe. This will strengthen China's connections to the ASEAN region, playing a pivotal role in revitalizing regional economic and trade exchange, Nie added.

Water can't be cut apart

From the voyages of renowned Chinese navigator Zheng He in the 15th century to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974, and to the building of a community with a shared future in 2023, China and Malaysia—the second leg of Xi's visit—have long enjoyed cultural affinity and strategic trust.

In his signed article in Malaysian media on April 15, Xi said China and Malaysia are friendly neighbors across the sea. The Maritime Silk Road has stood witness to a thousand years of friendly exchange between the two countries. As a Malay proverb puts it, "air dicincang tidak akan putus," or "water can't be cut apart."

On April 16, Xi separately met with Malaysian King Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar and Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Both sides emphasized their commitment to enhancing eco-

conomic cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which Xi proposed in 2013 to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes, and developing emerging industries such as AI, the digital economy and the green economy.

“Xi’s recent visit brings key outcomes at a critical moment. The interactions that took place between Chinese and Malaysian leaders signify the deepening of mutual political trust,” Ong Tee Keat, President of the Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia Pacific and former Minister of Transport of Malaysia, told Beijing Review, adding it is also an indicator of the success of China’s neighborhood diplomacy.

The visit came at a time when the international economic and political environment became even more unstable, Zhong Darong, Director of the Research Center for Malaysia at Huaqiao University, told news portal ThePaper.cn. China is expected to send out positive signals for the current uncertain international trade order and play a more constructive role in international affairs, according to Zhong.

In 2024, China-Malaysia trade reached \$212 billion—nearly a thousandfold increase since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1974, and China has been Malaysia’s top trading partner for 16 consecutive years.

According to Malaysian newspaper The Star, Malaysia’s Minister of Communications, Fahmi Fadzil said on April 11 that his country hopes to seize this opportunity to foster closer economic and trade ties with China as well as strengthen people-to-people exchange. He added that this effort is part of Malaysia’s broader strategy, as a trading nation, to enhance trade relations with all countries, including China.

In recent years, pragmatic cooperation between China and Malaysia has yielded numerous highlights. A hallmark of China-Malaysia cooperation, the Two Countries, Twin Parks initiative—the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park and the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park—continues to be upgraded in quality and scale. By the end of 2024, Kuantan had secured 15 projects with a cumulative industrial output exceeding 100 billion yuan (\$13 billion) and provided some 20,000 local jobs.

In December 2024, Malaysia’s national car brand Proton launched its first locally produced electric vehicles (EVs), as the latest result of its technological collaboration with Chinese automaker Geely. In November 2024, Chery introduced its first locally assembled EVs to the Malaysian market.

Koh King Kee, President of Malaysia’s Centre for New Inclusive Asia, highlighted the immense potential for collaboration between the two countries in the digital economy. He expressed hope that the two nations would strengthen policy alignment and industrial collaboration to ensure that technological advancements benefit more people.

In the realm of cultural exchange, bilateral interaction has also deepened. In June 2024, China extended its visa-free policy for Malaysian nationals until the end of 2025. As part of a reciprocal arrangement, Malaysia extended its visa-free policy for Chinese nationals until the end of 2026. “Given the upcoming expiration of the mutual visa exemption agreements, we hope both sides will extend these arrangements and work toward establishing a permanent visa-free mechanism. This would further deepen bilateral exchange and enhance ties between the two peoples,” Zhong said.

Malaysia holds the chairmanship of ASEAN this year and

“can play a pivotal role in coordinating and connecting ASEAN member states’ interactions with China,” Ong said, adding that China-ASEAN cooperation can go beyond the existing economic and trade partnership. For example, China and ASEAN countries can further expand Belt and Road cooperation, jointly promote the China-proposed global initiatives for development, security and inter-civilizational exchange and dialogue in Southeast Asia, in conjunction with the implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025, a roadmap for unity and improved wellbeing in the region, according to Ong.

Ironclad friendship

Cambodia was the last leg of Xi’s visit.

In May 2024, a road in Phnom Penh was named Xi Jinping Boulevard by the Royal Government of Cambodia to honor the Chinese president’s historic contributions to the country’s development.

At the naming ceremony, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet highlighted that, under the leadership and joint efforts of Xi and Cambodian leaders, bilateral ties have entered their best period in history.

China and Cambodia share a millennia-old friendship, with their people having always striven together and thrived together. Regardless of changes in the international landscape, China and Cambodia have stood by each other in good faith and with mutual assistance, offering unwavering support on issues concerning each other’s core interests and major concerns, Xi said while meeting with Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on April 17.

Situated along the ancient Maritime Silk Road, Cambodia was among the first countries to join Belt and Road cooperation. China has been Cambodia’s largest foreign investor and trading partner for several consecutive years. Over the past decade, bilateral trade has nearly quadrupled.

Over the years, key BRI projects in Cambodia have reaped highly beneficial results. For example, the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone (SSEZ) has attracted over 200 international enterprises and institutions, generating 32,000 jobs. Cambodia’s first expressway, the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, has reduced travel time between the two cities from over five hours to less than two. And the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport has given a strong boost to Cambodia’s tourism sector, operating 17 routes by the end of last year.

“The SSEZ, along with other flagship BRI projects, has played a crucial role in helping Cambodia achieve its ambitious targets of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income nation by 2050,” Neak Chandarith, Director of the Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Center, told Xinhua.

During their talks on April 17, Xi and Hun Manet agreed to build an all-weather China-Cambodia community with a shared future in the new era, and designated 2025 the China-Cambodia Year of Tourism.

“Building a community with a shared future is an integral part of China’s neighborhood diplomacy. It goes far beyond sheer economics. It constitutes a multi-dimensional partnership allowing good neighborliness to create a conducive environment for economic development. The prosperity accrued therefrom will further bolster peace across the region,” Ong said. (Beijing Review) ■

An aerial photograph showing a large flock of ducks, likely East Asian ducks, flying over a green body of water. The ducks are scattered across the frame, with some near the reedy banks and others in the open water. The water is a deep green color, and the reeds are dry and brown. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

Green draft to be scrutinized by legislators



This drone photo shows migratory birds rest and forage in a wetland in the Ningxia section of the Yellow River. Wang Peng



Volunteers patrol and collect garbage along the water source of the eastern route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project in Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, March 26, 2025. Yu Xing

A draft environmental code, poised to become China's second formal statutory code once adopted, has been submitted to a session of the top legislature for a first reading.

The draft code includes 10 existing laws related to ecological and environmental protection, such as the Environmental Protection Law, the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Atmospheric Pollution Prevention and Control, Shen Chunyao, head of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said on April 27.

Key principles from current laws on river basin management, natural resources and biodiversity protection have also been incorporated or reflected in the draft code, Shen said in a report to the session, which opened that day and ran through April 30.

Although China has yet to enact dedicated laws on tackling climate change, peaking carbon dioxide emissions, achieving carbon neutrality and promoting low-carbon development, the draft code includes directive provisions on these issues, he said. These provisions aim to establish basic principles and lay a foundation for future legislation.

The draft stipulates that the national government should strengthen monitoring of greenhouse gases and the climate system, and establish a system for releasing related monitoring information.

Before the environmental code, China's national legislature adopted the Civil Code in 2020.

"The new code is not simply a legal compilation, nor is it entirely new legislation," Shen said.

Rather, it is a systematic integration, compilation, revision and enhancement of China's existing laws, institutions, rules and norms for ecological and environmental protection, Shen said. It also involves institutional innovation to meet new demands and improve the systemic, holistic, coordinated and timely nature of the country's legal framework for environmental protection.

The draft stresses the integrated protection of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and des-

erts, considering eco-environmental elements such as the atmosphere, water and soil, Shen said.

It also aims to solve prominent problems in the environmental sector that hinder high-quality development and protection efforts, he added.

Shen said compiling the code is an essential requirement of China's people-centered development philosophy. As the principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved into the gap between unbalanced, inadequate development and people's growing needs for a better life, the public's demand for a sound ecological environment has become a significant part of this contradiction, he said.

Despite significant achievements in promoting ecological civilization, China still faces a challenging ecological and environmental situation, with a range of emerging issues, he said.

Compiling the code is a proactive step to adapt to new circumstances and enhance legal protections for addressing pressing environmental concerns voiced by the public, Shen said.

The draft code has a solid foundation, said Huang Haihua, spokesperson for the Legislative Affairs Commission, at a news briefing on April 25.

Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization has provided fundamental guidance for compiling the code, Huang said, while China's achievements in promoting ecological civilization have offered valuable experiences.

He said the concept that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" or "green is gold" has become deeply rooted in people's hearts, driving demands for stringent systems and robust legal frameworks to safeguard the ecological environment.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, China's legal system for ecological and environmental protection has advanced with the times, providing a systematic foundation for compiling the code, Huang said.

According to the committee, China has established a comprehensive legislative framework for ecological and environmental protection, encompassing more than 30 national laws, over 100 national administrative regulations, and more than 1,000 regional regulations. (China Daily) ■



This photo shows egrets rest and forage on the bank of Juhe River in Luozhuangzi Town of Jizhou District, north China's Tianjin Municipality. Zhao Zishuo



Law adopted to promote private economy

National lawmakers voted on April 30 to adopt the country's first fundamental law specifically focusing on promoting the private economy, marking a significant step in revitalizing a sector that is key to growth and greatly boosting entrepreneurs' confidence and expectations.

The move has sent a strong signal that China places great emphasis on supporting the healthy and high-quality development of the private sector through legislation, in order to create a fairer, more dynamic business environment and address the pressing concerns of private enterprises, according to experts and company executives.

After more than a year in the legislative process, the private sector promotion law, passed at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, took effect on May 20.

The law, which comprises 78 articles in nine chapters, covers areas such as fair competition, investment and



People work in the filling workshop of the Global Intelligent Manufacturing Industrial Park of Yili Modern Intelligent Health Valley in Tumd Left Banner in Hohhot, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, April 17, 2025. Li Xinyi

financing promotion, scientific and technological innovation, regulatory guidance, service support, protection of rights and interests, and legal liabilities.

For the first time, “unswervingly consolidating and developing the public sector and unswervingly encouraging, supporting and guiding the development of the nonpublic sector” and “facilitating the healthy development of the nonpublic sector and those working in it” are written into the law.

The law explicitly outlines the legal status of the private economy for the first time, with a clear stipulation that promoting the sustained, healthy and high-quality development of the private economy is a significant long-term policy of China.

The NPC Standing Committee’s Legislative Affairs Commission said that China’s private economy plays a pivotal role in propelling the country’s economic development, fostering innovation, boosting employment and enhancing people’s well-being. It stressed the necessity to promulgate the law to strengthen legal safeguards for the development of the private economy.

The introduction of the law is a milestone and shows that the country’s emphasis on the private sector has been lifted to a new height, said Hong Yong, an associate research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

“The law not only consolidates the vital position of the private sector in China’s socialist market economy, but also provides private enterprises and entrepreneurs with stable expectations and solid legal guarantees, which will

Private companies have become a key force behind China’s economic ascent over the past decades.

help shore up their confidence and stimulate their enthusiasm for investment and innovation,” Hong said.

Implementation of the law will create a fairer, more transparent and more predictable business environment for private enterprises, which will more equally be able to obtain resources and participate in market competition, Hong added.

Furthermore, legislative support will enhance the core competitiveness of private enterprises and bolster their sustainable, high-quality development, Hong said.

Private companies have become a key force behind China’s economic ascent over the past decades. They contribute more than 60 percent of GDP, 70 percent of technological innovation and 80 percent of urban employment, official data shows.

Liu Dian, a researcher at Fudan University’s China Institute, said: “The law marks a key step in improving China’s market economy system and promoting diversified development. With the implementation of the law, we expect that it will effectively stimulate the vitality of private enterprises and encourage their broader participation in competition and cooperation, thereby contributing to overall economic growth and social progress.”

“As an indispensable force in China’s economic and social development, the private economy plays a vital role that should not be underestimated,” he added. “It is not only a major source of employment and a key driver of technological innovation, but also a critical pillar in ensuring the stability of industrial and supply chains.”

Liu pointed out that the private sector still faces challenges, including financing difficulties and market access barriers. He said that the authorities should focus on deepening financial system reforms, in order to broaden financing channels for private enterprises, and intensify tax and fee reductions to ease their burden.

Qi Xiangdong, chairman of Chinese cybersecurity company Qi-Anxin Technology Group, said he was very inspired by the adoption of the law on promoting the private economy, and he expressed strong confidence in the future growth of the private economy.

“As we are a technology enterprise with high R&D investment, this law has significantly boosted our confidence, enabling us to focus more on leading in technological innovation, playing a prominent role in driving industrial upgrade and demonstrating our strength in international competition,” Qi said.

He noted that the law concentrates on solving practical difficulties and issues faced by private enterprises through improving investment and financing and fostering technological innovation, and its implementation will be conducive to alleviating the cash flow pressures of enterprises and accelerating the industrial application of technologies. (China Daily) ■



On Aug 23, 2024, the 21st session of the Standing Committee of the 18th Weifang Municipal People's Congress holds a special meeting on optimizing the business environment. *Courtesy Photo*

Private economy thrives in Weifang amid supportive business environment

In Weifang, east China's Shandong province, the "kite capital of the world," the private economy is the vital force behind the city's high-quality development. It fuels innovation, enhances people's livelihoods and drives industrial upgrading.

As of 2024, private businesses accounted for an impressive 99 percent of Weifang's 1.517 million market entities. Well-known enterprises such as GoerTek, Shandong Tianrui Heavy Industry Co, and Shandong Fukang Group have earned recognition for their "made-in-Weifang" brands. Meanwhile, a multitude of small- and micro-enterprises are thriving and expanding in the city's vibrant market landscape.

As of 2024, private businesses accounted for an impressive 99 percent of Weifang's 1.517 million market entities.

Behind the flourishing private sector is Weifang's unwavering dedication to cultivating a top-notch business environment.

Gao Feng, chairman of the Standing Committee of Wei-

fang Municipal People's Congress, said that the city in recent years has launched thorough and innovative reforms to create "fertile soil" for the development of private enterprises.

In February 2023, a dedicated working group was established to draft local regulations by drawing on the legislative experience of national pilot cities. The regulations on optimizing the business environment of Weifang city were approved by the municipal legislature on November 30 of the same year and came into effect on December 15, 2023.

"The enactment of these regulations codifies innovative policies and enterprise-support measures into local regulations with legal binding force, signaling a new phase in Weifang's determination to enhance the business environment," said Tian Yuanjun, secretary-general of the Standing Committee of Weifang Municipal People's Congress.

The municipal legislature has also strengthened its supervisory role to address practical issues. In 2024, the Standing Committee of Weifang Municipal People's Congress organized five research teams that visited 16 counties, cities and districts (development zones), collecting over 10,000 suggestions on optimizing business environment through various channels.

During the thematic inquiry session, members of the standing committee of the municipal people's congress and local deputies raised targeted questions to related departments, which were required to provide on-the-spot response and implement timely solutions under supervision.

Deputies to the people's congresses at all levels serve as a crucial bridge connecting the government and the public, allowing their voices to be heard. Many of them are

outstanding entrepreneurs in the private sector, bringing their expertise and insights to drive Weifang's high-quality development as a vital force and a "think tank."

In a thematic deputy activity to supervise the work of business environment optimization organized by the Weifang Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, more than 9,260 deputies at all levels conducted over 92,000 on-site visits to gather grassroots opinions. They completed 8,528 survey questionnaires, submitted 157 suggestions regarding optimizing the business environment and carried out over 3,400 supervision activities to enhance the business environment through practical actions.

To help deputies fulfill their duties, the municipal legislature has also established the Digital People's Congress platform and promoted the Deputy Code mini-program. One year after the launch of the digital tools, deputies at all levels have utilized online and offline platforms to assist in addressing over 5,300 public issues and put forward more than 4,300 suggestions.

Among them is Li Yongsheng, chief scientist of Shandong Tianrui Heavy Industry Co, and a deputy to the National People's Congress from Weifang. Li put forward a suggestion on including the magnetic levitation energy-saving equipment in the list of national industrial restructuring, which was ultimately adopted.

Li's journey began with a small factory of just over a dozen employees. Today, he leads one of China's top-level enterprises in magnetic levitation power-saving technology in China. "My entrepreneurial success is not only due to my personal efforts," he said, "but also to the outstanding business environment in Weifang." (NPC) ■



Li Yongsheng (second from the left), chief scientist of Shandong Tianrui Heavy Industry Co and a deputy to the National People's Congress, talks with colleagues in the workshop. Courtesy photo

Longyao County People's Congress facilitates growth of private sector



Li Jianwei, a deputy to the National People's Congress, collects opinions and suggestions from the public at the business environment monitoring station in the Baoxin Group. Courtesy photo

Longyao county in Xingtai city, north China's Hebei province, boasts a vibrant private economy. Renowned enterprises such as the food company Jinmailang Group, logistics company Baoxin Group, and valve supplier Yuanda Group have emerged as household names across the country.

Their robust development has been supported by the Standing Committee of the Longyao County People's Congress, which has played a pioneering role in improving local business environment. It has established local business environment monitoring stations and created a "financing supermarket" tailored for private enterprises, which offer timely assistance to enterprises and resolve their concerns efficiently.

Since June 2023, the local legislature has set up business environment monitoring stations at 53 enterprises where 59 deputies to the people's congresses at various levels work. The stations serve as a platform for collecting and addressing issues and suggestions related to production and business operations on a bi-weekly basis, ensuring efficient feedback and follow-up.

Li Jianwei, deputy general manager of the Baoxing Group and a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), serves as a supervisor at the monitoring station in his company to ensure that issues and suggestions put forward by its staff are promptly addressed.

"Whether it's a business-related challenge or a day-to-

day issue, you will definitely receive a response from the relevant department within 15 days, and some may even be resolved as early as the next day," Li said.

Statistics show that monitoring stations for business environment across the county have collected a total of 149 suggestions related to business environment optimization, covering issues concerning land use, employment, financing and licensing. Out of these, 142 have been resolved, with a completion and response rate of over 95 percent.

The "financing supermarket" initiative launched by the Standing Committee of the Longyao County People's Congress has also received wide recognition among local enterprises.

Since its inception in June 2022, the local legislature has facilitated the authorization of credit limits totaling more than 5.55 billion yuan (\$770.5 million) and new loans amounting to nearly 237 million yuan. This initiative has effectively alleviated financing difficulties for local enterprises and injected continuous vitality into the development of the private economy.

The Standing Committee of the Longyao County People's Congress has also actively carried out legal education outreach activities as part of its efforts to optimize the business environment.

Previous legal education activities, including those focusing on the Trademark Law and the Company Law, had been well received by the business community, according to Kang Yingxiang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Longyao County People's Congress. Currently, preparations are underway for a special lecture on the Private Sector Promotion Law to assist private enterprises in gaining a deeper understanding of this first specialized legislation, thereby enhancing their confidence in development, Kang added.

The Private Sector Promotion Law, which was passed at the 15th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th NPC, took effect on May 20, 2025.

"This timely legislation has been welcomed with enthusiasm in Longyao, serving as a significant boost for private enterprises and demonstrating the government's unwavering commitment to supporting and promoting the private sector," Li, from the Baoxing Group, said.

The local legislature will further efforts to improve services for private enterprises.

"We will follow the provisions of the Private Sector Promotion Law to enhance our role in promoting efficient administration, favorable market conditions, and a fair and law-based business environment," Kang said. (NPC) ■



Filimone Jitoko (center front), speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, leads a delegation to visit the Palace Museum in Beijing. Xu Lin

Bringing the kindness of the Chinese people back to Fiji

--An interview with Filimone Jitoko, speaker of the Parliament of Fiji

At the invitation of Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, Filimone Jitoko, the speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, led a delegation to visit China from March 16 to 22, 2025. In an exclusive interview with *The People's Congress of China* magazine, he expressed that while his visit to China was brief, it was wonderful, and he aims to bring the kindness of the Chinese people back to Fiji.

The People's Congress of China: In Fiji, there's a saying: "A single bud can bear millions of fruits." China also has an ancient proverb: "Sow a grain in spring, and reap a thousand

in autumn." At this new historical starting point, marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, you are leading a delegation to China. In which areas do you believe the two countries can achieve mutually beneficial outcomes?

Filimone Jitoko: Fiji, located in the heart of the southwestern Pacific, was one of the first Pacific Island nations to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and firmly adheres to the one-China principle. As a central hub for economic activities among neighboring Pacific Island countries, Fiji's role can promote cooperative development in areas

such as technology.

This visit to China has broadened my horizons. By researching development examples, we have gained valuable insights that strengthen our confidence in development. We hope to enhance cooperation in areas like agriculture and fisheries, as well as infrastructure.

I would like to express special gratitude for China's understanding of Fiji's challenges regarding climate change. Fiji appreciates China's exemplary role in initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative and in addressing climate change. We look forward to continued guidance and support from China, which is crucial not only for Fiji but for the world as a whole.

Poverty reduction and development are key themes in building a closer China-Pacific Island community with a shared future. The village of Mazui in Tongchuan, Shaanxi Province, which you visited, has undergone a remarkable transformation since reform and opening up, evolving from a run-down village to a village of concrete buildings, then to an eco-village and finally to a tourism resort. What are your impressions after your visit?

What appealed to me most was the ability to help people leave their familiar environments and move to new places where they can settle and thrive, providing them with means for a sustainable livelihood. The development of Mazui has entered a new phase, producing local specialty products while creating unique projects for tourists, thus forming a comprehensive development model.

Due to climate change, Fiji's coast is experiencing erosion, with some villages gradually being swallowed up, forcing residents to seek new places to live. In this process, Fiji can learn from the experiences of Mazui.

The key to successful poverty alleviation lies in leadership. Effective poverty reduction at the rural level requires not only strategic planning but also a strong commitment to implementing those plans to ensure they are carried out effectively. Having the determination to see goals through to the end is a remarkable success.

The Hongqiao Subdistrict in Shanghai is one of the earliest grassroots legislative outreach offices established by the Leg-

The friendship between the people of China and Fiji transcends time and space, spanning mountains and seas.

islative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee. Over the past decade, it has gathered feedback on 103 draft laws, with participation from 46,586 people, exemplifying democratic and open legislation. At the 2024 Seminar for Pacific Members of Parliament, Fijian lawmakers remarked, "China has forged a unique path in democracy." In your view, what measures can the legislative bodies of both sides take to deepen communication and cooperation?

As a practicing lawyer with extensive experience as a judge, I often see parties in court confused due to a lack of legal understanding. However, in our judicial system, ignorance of the law is generally not accepted as a valid excuse.

Visiting the grassroots legislative outreach office in Hongqiao Subdistrict, I witnessed the legislative consultation process. Local residents provided suggestions on the formulation and implementation of laws. Their participation means their voices become part of the law, allowing them to claim, "This is our law." Notably, residents of different nationalities in the community can also contribute their opinions, which enhances the community's acceptance of the law. China's concept of whole-process people's democracy is worth learning from.

I hope to strengthen exchanges with the NPC. I look forward to supporting training and exchange programs that allow Fijian staff to come to China to learn advanced technologies and improve parliamentary efficiency. In the past two years, Fijian parliamentary delegations have visited China twice. As Speaker, I will suggest inviting a Chinese delegation to visit Fiji at an appropriate time.

The friendship between the people of China and Fiji transcends time and space, spanning mountains and seas. In 1855, Chinese immigrants began settling down in Fiji, gradually becoming an integral part of Fiji's multicultural family. In 2015, Guangzhou in Guangdong province and Fiji's capital Suva established a sister-city relationship, leading to successful programs that involve Chinese medical teams traveling to Fiji and Chinese cultural teams bringing traditional performances to Fiji. Looking to the future, how can we enrich cultural exchanges between China and Fiji and make the flower of friendship bloom even brighter?

Cultural exchanges strengthen our ties. In the village where I grew up, there was a Chinese merchant who became my first Chinese friend. The Chinese community has fully integrated into Fijian society.

I have read extensively about history, particularly fascinated by Chinese civilization, which has developed uniquely compared to other world civilizations. For instance, the concept of harmony between humanity and nature is the essence of traditional Chinese philosophy, and understanding this can lead to a more fulfilling life.

In Fiji, the multifaceted coexistence of people and nature, along with family dynamics, is distinctive. Relaxing, maintaining peace of mind and enjoying the islands' sun and beaches represent an appealing way of life. (NPC) ■



Filimone Jitoko (second from right on the front row), speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, leads a delegation to visit the Museum of the Communist Party of China in Beijing. Xu Lin



Li Hua, the former Party secretary and director of the Qionghuaguan community in Guangling district of Yangzhou city in East China's Jiangsu province, and a former deputy to the Guangling District People's Congress, shares the stories of her community. *Courtesy photo*

Grassroots deputy committed to community services

In spring, the historical city of Yangzhou in east China's Jiangsu province is bustling with visitors.

"Welcome to Qionghuaguan community!" greets a short-haired woman with a warm smile and infectious energy. At 66 years old, she looks much younger than her age.

Her name is Li Hua, the former Party secretary and director of the Qionghuaguan community in Guangling district of Yangzhou. Speaking of Li, local residents always raise their thumbs in admiration.

With over 30 years of dedicated community work, seven consecutive terms as a deputy to the Guangling District People's Congress, and a family legacy spanning three generations rooted in community service for over 70 years, her commitment to serving the people is truly inspiring.

Reflecting on her career, Li emphasized that making a

real difference requires not just practical plans and solutions, but—more importantly—a genuine commitment and passion for the work.

Li's journey as a community worker was initially influenced by her mother, Xie Xuezhu. In 1952, when Yangzhou established its first residents' committee, Xie was elected as its director.

At that time, since there was no dedicated office space, she turned her home into her workplace. In Li's childhood memories, their home also served as a support center for the elderly and those in need. "I basically grew up in the residents' committee," Li said.

"I didn't understand it at first, but my mother told us that being able to help others means you are capable, and it gives your life value and that one should strive to be someone useful to the society." Her mother's example left



Li Hua (first from the right) and her daughter-in-law Wang Jing (second from the right) prepare vegetables in the kitchen of the Silver Hair Canteen of the Qionghuaguan community. *Courtesy photo*



Li Hua (left) talks with a local resident at the entrance of the Qionghuaguan community service center. *Courtesy photo*



Li Hua (right in the first row) and Wang Jing (left in the first row) promote handicrafts made by people with disabilities during a live streaming. In July 2024, the Qionghuaguan community conducted a live streaming to promote employment of people with disabilities. *Courtesy photo*

a lasting impact on Li. Following in her mother's footsteps, Li took over as the director of the Qionghuaguan Residents' Committee in 1999.

Under Li's leadership, the community achieved numerous milestones, and pioneered over 10 "firsts" in community development in Yangzhou.

From pioneering the establishment of charity supermarket to initiatives like the employment promotion project, the elderly care center and after-school activities, Li's innovative approaches brought tangible benefits to local residents.

In order to improve the living environment, Li paid close attention to details. Over the years, the community has undergone a remarkable transformation from an aging com-

munity with outdated infrastructure to a national demonstration community for civilization, blending rich cultural heritage with modern living, and earning more than 20 national-level honors.

In 2007, Li and five Qionghuaguan residents were invited to speak at a forum organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to share their inspiring story of renovating the ancient city alleys.

"What residents hope for is exactly what the community committee should strive to deliver," Li emphasized how the community is at the forefront of serving its people, tackling complex and nuanced tasks. Rather than relying solely on intuition, it is crucial to focus closely on the essential needs of the community, genuinely bringing the residents a sense

I was proud to be chosen by the people, but I also felt the pressure—worried I wasn't doing enough to meet the expectations of the Party and the people.

of happiness, she said.

From 1990 to 2021, Li was elected as a deputy to the Guangling District People's Congress for seven consecutive terms.

"It was an honor and a responsibility," she said. "I was proud to be chosen by the people, but I also felt the pressure—worried I wasn't doing enough to meet the expectations of the Party and the people."

Over her 31-year tenure, she has been devoted to serving the people wholeheartedly and diligently safeguarding the immediate interests of local residents.

From repurposing unused buildings for community service to improving the welfare of community workers, solving these real-life, high-impact issues has been central to her work.

She actively sought the opinions of local residents, promptly formulated suggestions and actively worked towards resolving issues, embodying the pledge that "a deputy elected by the people should serve the people" through her tangible actions.

Li also actively engaged in soliciting opinions at the local outreach office for legislators in her community. During the legislative processes of local regulations such as a provincial-level regulation on elderly care services and a municipal-level regulation on protection of ancient urban landscape, discussions were held in the Qionghuaguan community to gather opinions and suggestions from residents to ensure that legislation aligns with local conditions and reflects the will of the people.

When asked about her experiences on serving as a deputy to the people's congress for many years, Li said: "Whether it's being a deputy or being a community worker, the ultimate goal is the same, to solve problems for the people and serve them wholeheartedly."

"Although the community is not an administrative body, in the eyes of many residents, we, as community workers, represent the image of the Party and the government," Li said. "By working effectively, the bond between the people and the Party as well as the government deepens."

Before retiring, Li encouraged her daughter-in-law to join in community work, upholding the legacy of her family.

The community work is at the forefront of national governance, serving as the foundation for modernizing the national governance system. China has over 2.77 million deputies to the people's congresses at all five levels, including around 2.62 million at the county and township levels who are most familiar with grassroots realities. They understand the aspirations of the people and play a crucial role in the grassroots governance system.

On April 14, Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Com-

mittee of the National People's Congress, inspected Yangzhou, where he engaged in face-to-face exchanges with grassroots deputies, including Li. He inquired about the concerns and expectations of the people and the progress in grassroots governance, highly affirming their efforts in serving the people and fulfilling their duties as deputies to the people's congresses while enhancing their connection with the people.

With over 30 years of experience in community work, Li remains deeply passionate about grassroots service. She said, "To be good at grassroots and community work, one must exchange sincerity for sincerity and treat the people as family. Community work is complex and full of challenges, but the happy faces of the residents make all the hardships worthwhile."

"Yangzhou is a remarkable city, and Qionghuaguan a flourishing community!" Such affirmations would always bring a warm smile to her face. (NPC) ■



This combo photo shows transformation of the historic Dongguan street in Qionghuaguan community. During her tenure as a deputy to the Guangling District People's Congress, Li Hua championed the revitalization of the street, transforming its aging facades into a vibrant cultural landmark. Courtesy photo

What drives the success of China's whole-process people's democracy?





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

The Two Sessions in China once again put the global spotlight on the country's unique democratic model-- whole-process people's democracy.

With the world in a moment of reckoning on so-called Western liberal democracy, the Chinese approach is attracting more attention, not least due to the country's remarkable development.

So what is its secret of success? Observers from across the world have offered their answers.

Extensive participation

Whole-process people's democracy integrates democratic practices at all government levels and policy making stages from election to consultation, decision-making, implementation and oversight.

It is embodied most obviously in the Two Sessions--the annual meetings of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress, and top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said Anna Malindog-Uy, vice president of the Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute, a Manila-based think tank.

The NPC serves five-year terms, with deputies elected by lower-level people's congresses. The current 14th NPC

China knows that there can be no democracy without meeting the basic needs of the people.

has 2,929 deputies, its Standing Committee announced on February 25.

Of the more than 2.77 million deputies in service nationwide, around 95 percent work in county- and township-level people's congresses, where they are directly elected on a one-person-one-vote basis. The latest elections involved over one billion voters, marking the world's largest grassroots democratic exercise.

"These meetings, as we understand it, are the culmination of a profound process of dialogue and debate that occurs at the level of every community, every municipality, every county, prefecture, region and province," said Michael Campbell, Nicaraguan ambassador to China.

Since the annual session of the top legislature is so important, are all NPC deputies members of the Communist Party of China (CPC)? The answer is no.

They come from various regions and sectors and represent people from all ethnic groups and all sectors of society, including workers, farmers, officials, intellectuals, CPC members, members of other political parties and non-affiliated patriots.

"So, in my understanding, the key aspect of whole-process people's democracy is ensuring broad participation,

allowing the legislative body to hear voices from different sectors of society. That, I believe, is its core essence,” said Zhang Wei, associate dean of the School of Law at Singapore Management University.

Women and grassroots workers, including migrant workers, are seeing greater representation in the NPC. The proportion of women deputies surpassed 26 percent in the 14th NPC, up from 22 percent in the 10th NPC, and the number of migrant worker deputies grew from three in 2008 to 56 in 2023.

“The deputies come from different regions, ethnic groups, sectors and social groups,” Malindog-Uy said. “Whatever is discussed in the Two Sessions, it comes from the process of representation of different ideas and voices of the Chinese people.”

Comprehensive agenda

“The term ‘whole-process’ suggests that democracy is not a one-time event but a continuous mechanism where the people participate in governance at multiple stages,” said Jimmy Yab, president of the China-Africa Franco-phone Observatory.

As an important stage in the process, the Two Sessions feature consultations, deliberations and decision-making on issues ranging from national legislation to daily matters.

Modernizing China’s socialist legal system has been a key focus of the Two Sessions. Over the past year, the Standing Committee of the NPC has reviewed 39 legislative proposals and passed 24, including six new laws and 14 amendments.

Elderly and child care has also been a key priority. In 2024, China launched 26 measures to boost the “silver economy” and enhance elderly well-being, leading to the establishment of 2,254 new elderly care facilities in 386 cities. At the same time, the country strengthened its child care support policies, offering increased subsidies for child care centers across the nation.

“China knows that there can be no democracy without meeting the basic needs of the people. The Chinese practice of democracy is wholesome, where everyone is taken care of and everyone’s needs are looked after,” said Stephen Ndegwa, a Kenyan expert on international issues.

Local two sessions are also key platforms for practicing whole-process people’s democracy. The NPC has set up 54 grassroots legislative outreach offices nationwide, fostering direct interaction with grassroots communities and channeling unfiltered voices to the national legislature.

“The whole-process people’s democracy is starting from the grassroots up to the highest level, where a lot of consultation goes on. So there are no gaps in the process,” Ndegwa added.

For all people

While Western democracy often focuses on elections, democracy in China aims to solve real problems for the people, noted Naing Swe Oo, senior advisory board member of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies.



“I think China’s concept of whole-process people’s democracy presents a different model of governance compared to Western liberal democracy. It is outcome-driven, which means that its legitimacy is measured by improvements in people’s livelihoods,” he said.

During the 2024 NPC session, deputies submitted a total of 9,235 suggestions, which were then assigned to 213 organizations to be processed. By November 26, all had been fully processed and responded to, according to the NPC Standing Committee.

“This whole-process people’s democracy China is carrying out aligns with the goal of putting the people at the



A public opinion exchange meeting is held at Xinzhu community of Qingxiu District in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, May 28, 2024. *Li Shurong*

center. It enables them to decide and feel that they are the protagonists of the historical process that is taking place in China and the beneficiaries of the transformations that are happening,” said Argentine sociologist Marcelo Rodriguez, also director of the Hector P. Agosti Center for Marxist Studies and Training.

At the 2024 NPC meeting, a proposal was made to enhance charging and battery swap infrastructure for new energy vehicles, in a bid to address widespread concerns regarding charging challenges and range anxiety.

Data from the China Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Promotion Alliance showed that by the end of

2024, charging infrastructure in China exceeded 12 million units, up 49.1 percent year-on-year. Additionally, highway service areas installed 35,000 new charging piles, reaching 98 percent coverage nationwide.

“I have been visiting China since 2003. Over the past 22 years, I have witnessed significant improvements in the lives of the Chinese people in terms of education, food and infrastructure. Prosperity is evident everywhere,” said Al Mamun Mridha, secretary general of the Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “This is where I see democracy.” (Xinhua) ■

Ningxia deputy dedicated to smooth road management



Chen Yan talks with her teammates. Courtesy photo

Chen Yan, head of the Operation and Maintenance Department at Ningxia Transportation Investment Group Co in northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), has made a remarkable journey from a road maintenance worker to a national lawmaker.

Reflecting on her early days in the workforce, Chen said she was inspired by the motto "maintaining the roads well to ensure smooth traffic" posted at the workplace entrance.

In 2000, Chen transitioned to the position of toll booth operator. Through dedication and hard work, she rose to the position of manager at Zhongwei North Toll Station. Tasked with managing internal operations and fostering teamwork among more than 90 employees, Chen embraced the new responsibilities wholeheartedly.

During a study tour of toll stations in other provinces, Chen observed a significant gap in service quality between Ningxia's highway toll booth operations and those of more developed regions, which prompted her to work out a strategy on enhancing service quality and building a distinctive brand.

She rolled out a "1+3" brand promotion model in her toll station, focusing on meticulous management, image improvement and enhancing staff professionalism.

"I was born in a village, and have rooted myself in the transportation sector ever since I started working," Chen Yan said.

To improve service and ease traffic flow, she spearheaded collaboration with local tourism authorities and provided reservation passage services for self-driving tourists during peak travel seasons, which has led to improved traffic efficiency.

Having dedicated herself to the toll station for over two decades, Chen's hard work was further recognized last year when she was appointed to oversee toll fee collection and highway service area operation at her company's operation and maintenance department. Her goal remains to contribute high-quality services and ensure sound travel experiences for the public.

In 2023, she was elected as an NPC deputy. As a lawmaker from the grassroots, Chen has concentrated on issues related to highways, particularly concerning challenges of highway debt pressure in regions like Ningxia.

She said that a key issue lies in the disparity between highway toll rates and the progress of local economic and social development. Accordingly, she put forward suggestions on accelerating the revision to the highway law and toll management regulations, refining regulations on adjusting fee periods, improving the unified loan repayment system and appropriately channeling more support to economically underdeveloped provinces and western regions.

"I was born in a village, and have rooted myself in the transportation sector ever since I started working," she said.

"I am deeply aware of the vital role that transportation plays in fostering rural economic prosperity, promoting agricultural development and enhancing the living standards of farmers."

She highlighted the significance of well-maintained rural roads in facilitating agricultural and industrial activities, emphasizing the need to increase funding for rural road maintenance and infrastructure development to enhance the quality of life for rural residents.

Chen said she will remain committed to her duty as an NPC deputy, refine her skills, elevate service standards, speak for the public and provide constructive suggestions for the well-being of people at the grassroots level as well as the sound development of the transportation sector. (NPC) ■

Hu Xiaochun keeps guarding ancient pine tree on Huangshan



Huangshan Mountain in east China's Anhui province and a deputy to the National People's Congress, goes about his work. *Courtesy photo*

On the Yuping Peak of Huangshan Mountain, a UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage site located in Huangshan city in east China's Anhui province, stands a nearly 1,000-year-old iconic pine tree. On one side, its branches resemble an outstretched arm welcoming visitors, hence its name Yingkesong, or the Guest-Greeting Pine.

Hu Xiaochun, the 19th guardian of the pine, a position established in 1981 to ensure round-the-clock protection, diligently carries out his daily work. He meticulously inspects the tree's trunk for stability, checks the branches' condition and ensures the support frames are intact. In adverse weather conditions, he increases his patrols to maintain the tree's welfare.

Hu, an army veteran, started working at the Huangshan Mountain Scenic Area as a fireguard in 2006. In 2011, he became the 19th guardian of the pine, a role he has faithfully fulfilled for 15 years.

Hu is the longest serving guardian of the tree so far, spending over 300 days a year on the mountain, closely monitoring the tree's growth and documenting changes.

"Protecting the lush mountains and lucid waters is akin to protecting our families. I am just one of many guardians of Huangshan working collectively to preserve its natural splendor," he said.

In his modest workspace adjacent to the pine, Hu has penned more than 90 diaries totaling over 1.4 million Chinese characters, detailing the tree's flowering seasons, budding times, needle replacements and emergency response plans for harsh weather conditions.

Drawing inspiration from the tree's resilience, he emphasized the importance of perseverance and dedication in his role as a guardian.

While his work might seem solitary, Hu said he has robust technical support behind him. This interdisciplinary team, including experts in forestry and mechanics, conducts regular check-ups on the pine, providing technical guidance for his daily patrols and protection efforts.

Beyond safeguarding the pine tree, Hu recognizes the significance of preserving Huangshan's ancient trees and ecological resources.

"We are, at the best of times, witnessing the significant transformation brought about by the concept that 'lush mountains and lucid waters are invaluable assets'," he said, adding that it is the combined efforts made by himself, his colleagues and the expert team that have intricately woven a protective net for ecological conservation in the Huangshan Mountain Scenic Area to ensure that every visitor can experience its unique beauty.

His professional dedication earned him the title of "Good Samaritan of China" in 2021.

In 2023, Hu was elected as a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), another role he has embraced with diligence.

In order to fulfill his duties, Hu studied the people's congress system, conducted numerous on-site surveys among local residents and actively engaged with tourists to listen to their opinions and suggestions regarding economic and social development.

Advocating for enhanced ecological conservation efforts at Huangshan, he has put forth suggestions on environmental protection and eco-compensation measures. By engaging with local communities and visitors, Hu seeks to amplify their voices and contribute to the region's sustainable development.

At the first session of the 14th NPC in 2023, Hu proposed intensifying ecological conservation efforts in the Huangshan Nature Reserve, including suggestions concerning ecological compensation.

Based on extensive feedback from the public, he has also submitted an array of suggestions to NPC sessions on eco-civilization development in the Huangshan Mountain Scenic Area to support Huangshan city in establishing a national base for foreign affairs activities, and on introduction of enrollment standards for kindergarten teachers. His suggestions received responses from relevant authorities.

"The Guest-Greeting Pine is an important symbol of Chinese culture, embodying the excellent qualities of warmth, hospitality, openness and inclusiveness of the Chinese nation. As a 'living relic,' it carries profound cultural significance," said Hu.

"As a guardian of the pine and an NPC deputy, it is my responsibility to actively protect the pine tree and promote the Chinese culture carried by the tree and Huangshan." (NPC) ■

Shi Rufei drives rural revitalization through tea-making

In the tranquil mountains of Liubao township in Cangwu county, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, where rivers meander gently through the verdant tea gardens, lies the birthplace of Liubao tea.

The tea, with a legacy spanning more than 1,500 years, once traveled along the ancient waterways to Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong province and via the Maritime Silk Road, reached Southeast Asia and beyond, gaining popularity among worldwide tea lovers.

Today, Shi Rufei, Party chief of Heishishan Tea Factory in Liubao township and a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), is devoted to reviving the Liubao tea business and sharing its story with the world while promoting the revitalization of local communities.

"To make Liubao tea business thrive, to share its story with a larger audience and to help tea farmers prosper, that's my greatest wish!" said Shi, 38, a native of Liubao township.

Growing up in a community steeped in tea culture, Shi learned tea picking and tea processing from her grandparents in her childhood. In 2007, Shi started to run the tea factory, vowing to preserve and promote the traditional tea-making techniques.

At that time, Liubao tea faced serious challenges. Inconsistent production techniques and low market recognition left many tea farmers struggling. "When I mentioned Liubao tea to outsiders, hardly anyone had ever heard of it, and many of our village tea gardens had been abandoned. I felt really disheartened," Shi recalled.

Determined to change the situation, she set out to not only introduce Liubao tea to a wider audience, but also pass down the traditional techniques that come with it.

The production of Liubao tea is a meticulous, 16-step process, done entirely by hand. From picking and withering to roasting, fermenting and aging, each step requires precision and skill.

To deepen her understanding of tea-making, Shi followed in her mother's footsteps, traversing every tea mountain and village in Liubao township. She studied the distinct soil types, climate and humidity patterns of each region, as well as the diverse tea-making techniques practiced by local communities.

Over the years, Shi has mastered every step of the tea-making process from cultivation, management, picking and processing, to brewing, tasting, packaging and storage. The independently developed products of her tea factory have also gained market recognition.

Her dedication paid off in 2015 when she was recognized as a representative inheritor of Liubao tea-making techniques, an intangible cultural heritage in Guangxi.

Shi's efforts have not only preserved tradition but also transformed the lives of local tea farmers. In recent years,



Shi Rufei shares her tea-making skills with fellow villagers. Courtesy photo

Guangxi has prioritized the tea industry, propelling Liubao tea onto a fast track for growth. "A single tea leaf can bring wealth to the entire community," Shi said.

Since 2009, Shi has organized training programs that have reached over 6,000 participants, teaching villagers every aspect of Liubao tea production—from planting and harvesting to processing and packaging. The programs have empowered them to produce high-quality tea that commands better market prices.

Through her tea factory, Shi collaborates with farmers and cooperatives, managing 12,000 mu (800 hectares) of tea gardens across Liubao's core production areas. Each year, her factory purchases over 150,000 kilograms of fresh tea leaves from tea farmers, benefiting more than 180 households, 80 of which are led by women. Thanks to the growing demand for Liubao tea, these farmers have seen their annual incomes increase by over 1,500 yuan (\$205) per person.

As an NPC deputy, Shi said she feels a profound sense of responsibility to reflect the voices of her community. "If I only focus on my own success and fail to help others prosper or voice their concerns, I would feel unworthy of this honorable role," she said.

Now, Shi is striving to enhance the Liubao tea brand and expand its sales channels. With traditional tea-making techniques and associated social practices now inscribed onto UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, she is more determined than ever to elevate Liubao tea's global profile.

She envisions creating tea culture-themed national parks in key tea-producing regions to promote China's rich tea heritage and boost rural tourism. "Liubao tea is not just a product, it's a cultural treasure," Shi said, vowing to make further efforts to preserve the centuries-old tradition and brew a brighter future for her community. (NPC) ■

Deputy identifies economic potential in sweet potatoes

Pu Changwen, head of the Maifeng Farmers Specialized Cooperative in Songming county of Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province, is spearheading agricultural development in his hometown.

The mountainous village of Maichong is built on red earth, which is portrayed as representing the diligence, sincerity, simplicity and purity of Pu and his fellow villagers. High above the mountains, sunlight and gentle breezes mingle with the earthy scent and the aroma of sweet potatoes.

Pu, who is also a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), described sweet potatoes as sweet gifts of the red earth at an altitude of over 2000 meters. "They are small, but once roasted, they become incredibly sweet," he said.

Pu's connection with the earth runs deep in his bones. He studied agriculture at a vocational school, aspiring to improve the impoverished lives of his fellow villagers. After graduation, he worked as a vegetable deliveryman and a planting technician, and gained the full set of techniques for cultivating green vegetables. "I used to grow lettuce for 30 years, and people called me the 'Lettuce King'."

Back then, villagers were hesitant to follow in his footsteps, reluctant to pin their hopes on such a small vegetable. Through door-to-door visits and persuasion, several relatives and friends cautiously tried planting around two hectares of lettuce.

Nourished by the red earth, the fields flourished with greenery, symbolizing hope for the villagers' prosperity. Currently, more than 870 local households grow vegetables, boosting the annual income of farmers by over six million yuan (\$831,500). Over 2,000 people in more than 10 impoverished villages have embarked on the path to prosperity.

In 2023, Pu was elected as an NPC deputy. Speaking of his first time entering the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to attend the first session of the 14th NPC, Pu said he was eager to promote agricultural products and introduce Yunnan and Songming to a wider audience.

He said that the NPC deputy is not just a title, but brings a weighty responsibility. "Issues concerning the immediate interests of the people must be taken seriously and addressed promptly."

As a deputy from rural background, Pu has paid much attention to the development of rural collective economic cooperatives, agricultural product quality and safety, and agricultural modernization. Through on-site surveys and engagement with local farmers, he explored new pathways for agricultural and rural development. "To prosper, one must have diversified approaches," he added.

Upon his return from the second session of the 14th NPC in 2024, Pu shifted his focus from lettuce to the more profitable sweet potato and planted more than 20 hectares.



Pu Changwen inspects sweet potatoes. Courtesy photo

Issues concerning the immediate interests of the people must be taken seriously and addressed promptly.

He also consulted local agricultural experts and established the "Experts' Small Courtyard," a modern agricultural development model that integrates enterprises, cooperatives and production bases.

Pu said his plan is to build a brand of ecological agricultural products and create a new form of modern agricultural development that integrates leisure agriculture with green and ecological development. All these efforts will lead to the realization of the beautiful vision of "planting sweet potatoes to develop an industry, connect farmers and enrich local residents," he said. (NPC) ■

Geshe Wangmo devoted to elderly care nearly 16 years

On New Year's Day, a heartwarming scene unfolded at the nursing home in Barkam, Aba Tibetan and Qiang autonomous prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan province as caregivers carefully dyed the white hair of the elderly back to black.

Witnessing the joy radiating from the faces of the residents, Geshe Wangmo, director of the nursing home and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), says she felt delighted.

Born in the 1990s, Geshe Wangmo has dedicated nearly 16 years of her life to this nursing home. She often refers to herself as a child who grew up under the care of the civil affairs system. At the age of six, she lost both her parents in a mudslide. She and her younger sister grew up under the care and support of the Party, the government and compassionate people, she said.

In 2009, upon learning that the newly established nursing home in Barkam was struggling to recruit caregivers, Geshe Wangmo made up her mind to work there, giving up the opportunity to work as a dancer at nearby scenic spots.

At just 18, she began caring for elderly individuals who were unable to care for themselves, assisting with feeding, bathing, laundry and toileting.

At times, due to staff shortages, she even worked as a security guard and slept in the gatehouse. "Wherever help was needed, I stepped in," she said. Despite moments of doubt, Geshe Wangmo persevered and obtained the qualification certificate for elderly care workers.

In 2019, Geshe Wangmo became the youngest director of the nursing home. "Being the director doesn't mean I stay above it all and exempt from hands-on tasks," she said. She feeds and bathes those who prefer her assistance.

Drawing from her decade-plus hands-on caregiving experience, she has implemented institutionalized care processes, enforced strict hygiene standards and personally trained caregivers in tasks like oral hygiene and bathing.

To enrich the lives of residents, Geshe Wangmo has helped organize activities such as traditional Tibetan dance performances, short video shoots, finger-play exercises, fitness exercises, stage plays, group birthday celebrations and sports events.

Reflecting on the development of elderly care, Geshe Wangmo acknowledged the government's efforts in developing the eldercare industry.

"In recent years, the Party and the government have attached great importance to elderly care, introducing policies to develop and improve the elderly care sector. Our nursing



Geshe Wangmo (left) presents new clothes to local elderly people at the nursing house. *Courtesy photo*

house has also benefited greatly from these efforts," she said.

In 2024, the nursing home moved to a new facility that integrates living, fitness, entertainment and medical services. Two professionally trained caregivers also joined to inject fresh vitality into the team.

2024 also marked the second year of Geshe Wangmo's tenure as a deputy to the 14th NPC. "Being elected as a deputy is both an honor and a test of trust," she said.

As an NPC deputy, Geshe Wangmo has closely aligned her work with the realities of elderly care. She has put forward a number of suggestions to improve elderly care facilities in remote areas, engage more social support for eldercare, increase salaries for rural caregivers and strengthen talent development in the industry.

Recently, she was busy conducting visits and research about the elderly care sector, holding discussions at the local medical insurance bureau and human resources and social security department, and seeking opinions from the local community. She plans to submit suggestions on raising elderly care insurance benefits for seniors in rural areas.

"Everyone will become old, and the elderly' today is our tomorrow," she said.

For the past 16 years, Geshe Wangmo's focus has been centered on the elderly residents of the nursing home. She says that she looks forward to continuing her dedicated service to uplift more elderly individuals towards a stable and happy future. (NPC) ■

Jiangxi deputy blazes trail for rural female empowerment

Amid the rhythmic hum of sewing machines at Jiangxi A+ New Star Enterprise Co, based in Pingxiang, east China's Jiangxi province, Wang Huaping meticulously stitches ski boot uppers.

Alongside her working tools, a white sewing machine, stacks of black coils and a blue basket, a pink notebook thick with colleagues' concerns now sits, embodying her dual role as a skilled shoemaker and a grassroots deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC).

She has become a beacon of inspiration for women in local rural areas through her unwavering dedication and advocacy efforts.

Despite prior training in sewing techniques, Wang faced challenges when she was first tasked with the intricate craft of shoe upper fabrication. Determined to master the technique, she tackled the complexities with diligence and perseverance.

"I may not have a diploma, but I know skills are crucial. Mastering skills is the key to living a better life," she said.

Wang's success comes from both hard work and a commitment to innovation. Due to the rigidity of ski boot uppers and high production costs, she collaborated with her colleagues in a team, tirelessly experimenting to adapt stiff materials to machine processes.

Leveraging her extensive sewing experience, Wang discovered the delicate balance required in machine operations, which contributed to the production of high-quality products, including ski boots worn by champions at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Originating from a rural background dominated by sectors such as logging, coal mining and pyrotechnics, Wang's hard work has not only transformed her own life but also inspired others to strive for a better future through skill development and entrepreneurship.

"Women can hold up half the sky," she said.

"I am just an ordinary woman from the countryside, and I hope that my experience can tell more rural women that as long as they work hard, they can lead a better life with their own hands. By developing local specialty industries and small businesses, more job opportunities will be created for rural women."

Recognized by her peers as a proactive individual always ready to lend a helping hand, Wang embodies the spirit of community support and knowledge sharing.

As an NPC deputy, she illuminates the path for others, offering her expertise and skills to empower rural women and foster economic independence.

Through her field research, Wang identified a lack of viable



Wang Huaping works in her workshop at Jiangxi A+ New Star Enterprise Co in Pingxiang, East China's Jiangxi province. *Courtesy photo*

employment opportunities for rural women, prompting her to champion initiatives aimed at bolstering local industries and fostering rural revitalization.

Her collaborative efforts with fellow deputies led to suggestions calling for central tax benefits to support industry transformation and upgrading in key regions.

"The duty and mission of being an NPC deputy urge me to constantly strive to become a light, illuminating the path for those around me," Wang said.

As a vocal advocate for vulnerable groups, Wang's dedication to amplifying the voices of the people she represents underscores her commitment to addressing real-world challenges and proposing practical solutions.

During her interactions with farmers, she learned about the challenges they face in the process of farming and breeding. While chatting with workers and business owners, she did her best to understand their needs regarding industrial development and policy environment.

Her suggestions on increasing financial support for post-poverty alleviation programs and reasonable allocation of resources in rural development demonstrated her commitment to inclusive and sustainable progress in rural communities.

Wang's journey from a skilled shoemaker to a dedicated advocate for rural female empowerment epitomizes the transformative power of dedication, innovation and community engagement, inspiring a brighter future for all. (NPC) ■

Tashi Nyima serves as guardian of lights in Xizang



Tashi Nyima attends a group meeting of the Xizang delegation at the second session of the 14th NPC in March 2024. Courtesy photo

Tashi Nyima, an employee at State Grid's Lhasa Electric Power Company and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) from southwest China's Xizang autonomous region, has been at the forefront of the remarkable transformation of the region's power supply landscape over the past three decades.

Once a region with inadequate power supply due to limited coal and oil resources, Xizang has experienced a dramatic change thanks to "power supply highways" that traverse the snowy plateau. The power grid has become a new lifeline connecting the mountains and rivers in the region.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, tens of thousands of power workers have helped develop electric power in Xizang, bringing reliable and ample power to the lives of residents there. Tashi Nyima is one of them in this endeavor.

Tashi Nyima routinely performs 10-kilovolt high-voltage live-line work, often burdened by over 10 kilograms of insulating equipment. "Live-line work is among the most dan-

gerous and precise operations in power supply. The unique natural environment and climate conditions in high-altitude areas pose significant challenges," he said.

Over the years, Tashi Nyima has been tirelessly working on power supply safeguards, providing reliable services for the production and livelihoods of farmers and herdsmen in the region. He has become a witness, contributor and guardian of the "lines of light, happiness and security" in the autonomous region.

He used oil lamps in his childhood. Although there were electric lights at home when he was an elementary and middle school student, power outages remained a common inconvenience.

He moved to Lhasa to study at a hydroelectric technical school in 1990. At the time, Lhasa's electricity supply mainly relied on the Najin Hydropower Station, the first hydropower plant in Xizang since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

"During the peak of electricity usage in winter, we had to implement rotating power outages in different areas," Tashi Nyima recalled.

In 1993, he graduated and was assigned to work at the Najin Hydropower Station, responsible for the operation and maintenance of electricity generating units. He noted that Lhasa gradually overcame power shortages in the late 1990s. In 2005, he was reassigned to the urban distribution and repair team, responsible for repairing electrical faults for residents.

Throughout his career, Tashi Nyima has witnessed the rapid development of the power industry in Xizang. Since 2012, the region has completed the construction of four "power supply highways" and advanced a series of rural and urban grid projects, which have promoted economic development and won the hearts of local people.

Today, the quality of rural electricity services in Xizang continues to improve, with the reliability of power grids in rural areas steadily increasing, and living conditions for residents in border areas continuously improved.

"Thanks to the good policies of the Party, the lives of the people in Xizang have become brighter!" Tashi Nyima said.

Over the past 30 years, Tashi Nyima has remained steadfast in frontline power operations, participating in power supply safeguard work more than 1,500 times.

He understands the importance of training talent in live-line work, and has been mentoring apprentices to ensure each apprentice can master the skills safely and proficiently.



Tashi Nyima checks the power supply facilities in operation. Courtesy Photo

“Whether I’m working as an NPC deputy or a power supply worker, my duty to serve the people remains the same,” Tashi Nyima said.

He has trained dozens of apprentices, many of whom have become skilled technicians maintaining a record of “zero accidents” for several consecutive years.

In 2023, when he was elected as an NPC deputy, Tashi Nyima felt a great sense of responsibility. Upgrading and renovating rural power grids and promoting comprehensive rural vitalization have drawn much of his attention.

“Whether I’m working as an NPC deputy or a power supply worker, my duty to serve the people remains the same,” he said. “Serving as an NPC deputy is also a technical task that requires down-to-earth efforts and continuous improvement.”

During the first session of the 14th NPC in 2023, Tashi Nyima put forward suggestions regarding the planning and construction of rural power grids in pastoral areas and the

comprehensive upgrading of power facilities. How to build a well-structured, safe, flexible and economically efficient rural power grid for the people of all ethnic groups in Xizang is high on the agenda of his duty performance as an NPC deputy.

To this end, he conducted research visits to communities, enterprises and key projects, inquiring about the difficulties that concern local residents. He said that although Xizang’s power grid is undergoing rapid development, its construction and maintenance face immense challenges due to vast geographical range and complex natural conditions in the region, with the overall foundation of rural power grids remaining weak.

During the second session of the 14th NPC in 2024, Tashi Nyima submitted suggestions on supporting Xizang in accelerating the development of backbone power grids and introducing policies for the development of microgrids in remote areas. His suggestions received responses from related departments, leaving him greatly encouraged.

“It is such a happy thing to be able to protect the light shining on this land,” he said, pledging to continue improving his performance as an NPC deputy, embodying the craftsmanship and leading his team to explore innovation in urban energy installation and civilian power supply services. (NPC) ■



Ma Jinping (first on the right) talks with her fellow villagers. Courtesy photo

Ma Jinping strives to deliver tangible benefits to her village

In the vast eastern Gansu loesslands lies the tranquil village of Xigouquan, where Ma Jinping, a dedicated deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), serves as the Party secretary.

Ask anyone in Xigouquan about Ma and you will be met with an affirmation of her tireless efforts in uplifting the village.

Since taking the role as the Party secretary of Xigouquan village in 2016, Ma has shifted her focus from her own livestock farm to the welfare of villagers. Believing that helping those in need is more meaningful than personal gain, she has meticulously recorded every detail of villagers' needs in her notebook and worked tirelessly to address them.

Ma has initiated tailored poverty alleviation measures for each impoverished household in the village, including relocation and housing renovations for more than 200 households. She has also promoted livestock breeding, traditional Chinese medicine cultivation and grain production, securing subsidies of over one million yuan (\$138,600) for rural industrial development. Infrastructure improvements such as road construction, flood control projects and environmental sanitation have transformed the village's landscape.

Under Ma's leadership, the village has witnessed significant progress in agricultural development, infrastructure enhancement and rural governance. Her initiatives have revitalized

abandoned land into high-standard farmland and increased maize cultivation, boosting the income and morale of villagers.

"It is important to deliver real benefits to villagers," she said. "When the roads are accessible, the village is beautiful and industries thrive, everyone's lives will become more prosperous."

Since being elected an NPC deputy in 2018, Ma has been dedicated to addressing various issues concerning the well-being of the communities she serves. She has conducted field research to listen to voices from the grassroots and advocated for the construction of a railway and support for ecological conservation projects along two rivers in the region, which have received positive responses from relevant departments.

Over the years, Ma has submitted more than 40 suggestions to NPC sessions, focusing on energy security, ecological conservation and rural revitalization. Her commitment to serving the people has helped government address issues related to people's standard of living.

Returning to her hometown after each NPC session, Ma would engage with local communities, explaining government policies in an accessible manner and acting as a bridge between the people and the government.

"My goals are to convey the voices of the people to policy-makers, and bring the good policies of the Party and the country to every household in the village," she said. (NPC) ■

Lin Hao balances ecological conservation and economic growth

In the heart of Hainan Island in south China lies Wuzhi Mountain, also known as Five Fingers Mountain. The Shuiman township, the highest-altitude settlement on the island, thrives at the foot of this majestic peak.

In recent years, Lin Hao, Party secretary of Shuiman township and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), has embarked on a journey with over 4,000 local villagers to drive green development with local characteristics. By fostering eco-friendly industries and turning ecological resources into economic benefits, they have blazed a trail towards prosperity.

In 2019, when Lin took office as secretary, he carried out a thorough field research with Party members, where they discovered local conditions were ideal for cultivating tea leaves due to the township's low latitude, high altitude, significant day-night temperature range, misty environment, rich negative oxygen ions and acidic red soil. Subsequently, the township's Party committee spearheaded the cultivation of local "large leaf tea variety" through agroforestry.

Over the years, Lin has championed a "small yet exquisite, beautiful and refined" development strategy, concentrating on industrial development and job creation, particularly the integration of tea plantation, culture and tourism.

In 2023, Shuiman township established an innovation base for practicing the philosophy of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," with tea cultivation surpassing 10,000 mu (666.67 hectares) and revenues from tea leaves exceeding 10 million yuan (\$1.38 million).

"Moving forward, we will not only expand tea cultivation, increase yields and farmers' incomes, but also enhance farmers' skills in tea cultivation and processing through the establishment of tea cooperatives to foster industry upgrading," Lin said.

Since ancient times, Wuzhi Mountain has captivated numerous literati and artists with its stunning scenery. Today, rural tourism drives local development thanks to the fusion of ecology and culture.

"Our advantageous ecological environment is a natural asset for advancing rural tourism," Lin said.

Shuiman township, predominantly inhabited by the Li and Miao ethnic groups, boasts rich intangible cultural heritage, including Li brocade, Miao embroidery, traditional tea-making and mountain rice wine.

To preserve local intangible cultural heritage, Lin took the initiative to establish the Wuzhi Mountain Li-Miao Children's Choir in August 2022. In May 2024, the choir made its debut on the international stage, in Paris, as part of celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-France diplomatic relations. They performed alongside the Le Choeur Des Polysons in Paris, and sang an original song, Chantons La Montagne Wuzhishan à la France (Sing Wuzhishan Mountain to France) in French.

To better meet market demand, Lin took the lead in promoting the integration of agriculture and tourism in Shuiman



Lin Hao talks to a tea farmer during a field trip. Courtesy photo

township by blending tropical rainforest elements with the cultural traditions of the Li and Miao people. A series of signature events have been held to enhance the visibility of the township's eco-tourism brand.

Nowadays, with convenient transportation and a pleasant and harmonious environment, Shuiman township attracts a steady stream of visitors from around the world. Hotels and scenic spots have markedly upgraded their services, charting a new path of rural vitalization that unifies ecological conservation, green development and improvements in people's livelihoods. In 2023, the township welcomed nearly 600,000 visitors, generating tourism revenues of over 43 million yuan.

Since being elected as an NPC deputy, Lin has pledged to deepen his grassroots engagement. Over the years, Lin has travelled throughout the township, which spans a total area of about 108 square kilometers, administering five villages with a registered population of 4,517.

"A competent NPC deputy must engage with the people at grassroots. I personally visit every household to understand their thoughts, needs and aspirations. This is crucial for proposing high-quality motions and suggestions," he said.

Through his research and survey, Lin said he realized that the primary aspiration of residents was to lead prosperous lives. With over 85 percent of Shuiman township's land situated within the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park, the imperative to balance ecological conservation and local development needs became essential in achieving rural vitalization, he said.

At the first session of the 14th NPC in 2023, Lin proposed accelerating the top-level design of national parks, expediting related legislation, establishing a sound national park management mechanism and franchise operation mechanism, and promoting the economic development of counties within national parks to ensure that the dividends of eco-civilization are shared by the people.

“Developing distinctive industries, protecting the ecological environment and advancing rural vitalization directly concern the interests of farmers and are the issues I care most about,” Lin said.

At the second session of the 14th NPC, he put forward a suggestion to enhance people’s sense of fulfillment and happiness through development of national parks.

On December 21, 2024, the second draft of the law on national parks was submitted for review at the 13th session of the 14th NPC Standing Committee. The draft law embodies the

people-centered development philosophy, balances ecological conservation and economic development, and promotes the harmonious coexistence of ecological protection, green development and livelihood improvement.

“We eagerly anticipate the promulgation of the national park law, as it holds significant importance in strengthening the protection and management of national parks, preserving the originality and integrity of vital natural ecosystems and accelerating the modernization of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature,” Lin said (NPC) ■

Xia Yongxiang committed to serving local fishing community

In Daishan county of Zhoushan city, east China’s Zhejiang province, fishermen live off the bounty of the sea.

Xia Yongxiang, chairman of the Heyuren Fishery Professional Cooperative in Daishan county and a deputy to the 14th National People’s Congress (NPC), embodies this way of life and is dedicated to serving local fishing community.

The cooperative’s headquarters, known as the “home of fishermen,” houses the fishery command center. It also serves as a Party members’ activity center, a reception room for deputies to the people’s congress, and a gathering place for fishermen.

Now in his late 60s, Xia remains deeply committed to serving his fellow fishermen, staying busy every day.

In 2006, Xia organized over 1,700 fishermen from five villages in his town to establish the cooperative. At first, they rented six rooms, but they quickly proved inadequate for such a large group.

Determined to build a home for his fellow fishermen, he worked tirelessly to secure support for the construction of the cooperative building. Now, the three-storey structure features a spacious meeting room on the third floor that can accommodate up to 150 people for annual meetings.

Under Xia’s leadership, the local fishing community secured steadily increasing incomes. Once impoverished and underdeveloped, the fishing villages have undergone a remarkable transformation, leading the way in implementing shareholding reform of the collective economy and achieving the building of a moderately prosperous community.

Despite challenges such as a diverse fishing fleet, varied operational styles and high labor turnover, Xia has managed to address conflicts within the cooperative effectively. His principle of “major issues stay in house, minor issues stay on boat” has proven successful in mediating over 100 disputes each year, delivering strong results in maintaining harmony within the community.

“As a grassroots NPC deputy in Zhoushan, I feel a strong sense of responsibility,” Xia said. “Having been born and raised in a fishing village, I am most concerned about fisheries.”

Since becoming an NPC deputy in 2018, Xia has put for-



Xia Yongxiang (third from the left) solicits opinions and suggestions from fishermen on upgrading and improving the refrigeration equipment on board. Courtesy photo

ward more than 40 suggestions related to fisheries, covering issues such as sustainable growth, green marine development, combating illegal fishing, accelerating technological upgrades for fishing vessels, and enhancing work safety supervision. His suggestions have provided valuable insights for top-level planning and decision-making by relevant government departments.

At the “Heyuren” deputy outreach and liaison office, Xia attentively listens to the voices of his fellow fishermen, understanding their concerns and facilitating the resolution of over 120 disputes.

Recognizing the communication difficulties faced by fishermen spending extended periods at sea, he proposed displaying deputy QR codes on fishing vessels, helping solve pressing issues more efficiently.

“The QR code on fishing vessels not only helps address the immediate needs of fishermen but also helps foster the idea of ‘in times of need, turn to your deputies’ within the community,” Xia said.

With unwavering commitment, he has tackled numerous challenges on behalf of his fellow fishermen, earning the title of “caring guardian” in the “Heyuren” community. (NPC) ■

Tao Xunhua leads village on path of hope and vitalization

Nestled amidst the serene land of Wenjiang district in southwest China's Sichuan province, Minjiang village is known for its picturesque setting and prosperous community, a beacon of rural vitalization.

Against the backdrop of white walls, black tiles and meandering streams, the village radiates a charm that captivates visitors, making it a sought-after destination for suburban excursions near the provincial capital of Chengdu.

When discussing these remarkable changes, one cannot overlook Tao Xunhua, the village's chief. Her resilience and unwavering determination have led the villagers to spearhead a remarkable transformation, turning the village into a vibrant hub of sustainable development and cultural preservation.

Back in 2010, the village faced serious challenges such as weak infrastructure and difficulties in industrial development.

Tao confronted the challenges head-on. "If we work hard, no hurdle is insurmountable," she said.

Under Tao's leadership, Minjiang has undergone significant renovation. Infrastructure improvements — such as village-wide roads, comprehensive waste management and wastewater treatment — not only enhanced the village's appearance but also significantly improved the quality of life of its residents.

Embracing an eco-centric approach, the village leveraged its natural resources to create 65-km enchanting greenways, offering a harmonious blend of nature and community.

The revitalization efforts in Minjiang attracted private capital, leading to the introduction of innovative agriculture and rural tourism projects. New forms of business, including a campsite, boutique hotels, Minjiang Academy of Classical Learning and Minjiang Art Gallery, injected fresh vitality into the village. Camping and homestays have emerged as key pillars of the local economy.

Since taking office, Tao has consistently placed villagers at the center of decision-making, striving to improve their well-being.

"The villagers trust me and elected me as the village head, so I must live up to their expectations," Tao said.

"No matter how small the matter is — whether it's repairing ditches, fixing roads or installing street lights — as long as it benefits the villagers, it's a 'major matter'. Similarly, things like attracting investment, bringing in talent or initiating projects that boost the villagers' income are all 'important matters' that I am determined to focus on."

Beyond improving infrastructure and promoting rural tourism, Tao's forward-thinking approach extended to leveraging digital technologies for rural development. Initiatives like the "Households Alliance" and "Minjiang Family Feast" fostered a sharing economy model by pooling local resources through a service platform, while the development of the "Baijia Employment" mini-program addressed the evolving labor needs



Tao Xunhua (second from right) solicits views from fellow villagers.
Courtesy photo

of local businesses, showcasing Tao's commitment to innovation and community empowerment.

Recognizing the transformative potential of new technologies, Tao championed the digitalization of Minjiang village to ensure widespread access to gigabit networks and 5G technology. The integration of digital platforms in rural tourism projects and the establishment of a rural micro-landscape market further underscored her commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth and village management.

Looking ahead, Tao envisions that Minjiang will continue to strengthen its digital infrastructure and harness emerging technologies to further support rural revitalization.

In 2018, Tao was elected as a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) due to her dedication to rural development. She has consistently championed the interests of farmers and rural communities through her practical proposals and initiatives, such as promoting agricultural insurance and rural emergency broadcasting systems.

At last year's NPC session, Tao put forward suggestions on accelerating digital development in rural areas. "I hope that digital technology can further empower rural development across economy, politics, culture, society and ecological civilization, making agriculture smarter and production more efficient, so as to bring more benefits to farmers and contribute to rural vitalization," she said.

As Tao continues to lead Minjiang village on its path of transformation, her vision for rural development transcends mere economic prosperity. She said that rural revitalization is about enhancing people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security.

She calls for greater social engagement in rural development and envisions a future where talent thrives, communities flourish and the "fields of hope" brim with vitality. (NPC) ■



Zhang Shunyong (second L) talks with teachers and students from the University of Science and Technology of China at the agricultural industry workstation. *Courtesy photo*

Deputy leads rural development through beekeeping

Zhang Shunyong, a farmer from Di'er village in Luobie township of Liupanshui city in southwest China's Guizhou province is a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). He has transformed his community through beekeeping and agricultural innovation, expanding pathways toward prosperity and making his fellow villagers' lives "as sweet as honey".

After graduating from university in 2005, Zhang spent several years working in the cities of Dongguan and Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong province. In 2010, he established an electronics factory in Shenzhen, which unfortunately closed down five years later, leaving him with a debt of over 100,000 yuan (\$13,817).

Refusing to succumb to difficulties, Zhang returned to his hometown, and stumbled into beekeeping business by chance, seeing an opportunity to sell local honey at a good price.

Through innovative practices like using scrap wood for beehives and attracting bees with beeswax on rocks, Zhang not only repaid his debt but also purchased a car. Currently, he manages over 1,800 hives of local rock bees, with an annual income of more than 3 million yuan.

Coupled with his personal success, Zhang remains committed to helping his community thrive. He has provided training and guidance to villagers like Zhang Yu, who now earns up to 160,000 yuan annually from beekeeping.

Beyond beekeeping, Zhang realized the potential for culti-

vating medicinal herbs in his hometown. After extensive research and market analysis, he established an agricultural development company in 2019, focusing on beekeeping and medicinal herb planting. His efforts have resulted in over 700 mu (46.67 hectares) of medicinal herb cultivation, providing more than 3,000 job opportunities every year.

Zhang was elected as a deputy to the NPC in 2023. As a grassroots lawmaker, Zhang actively participated in inspections and research trips organized by the NPC and the local people's congresses, gaining a better understanding of public needs and concerns.

"Being an NPC deputy is more than an honor, it represents a statutory duty, a heavy responsibility," Zhang said, adding that he always keeps in mind the mission of serving the people and setting an example by leading the way.

At the first session of the 14th NPC in 2023, Zhang put forward a suggestion on increasing funding for the construction of high-standard farmland, which was adopted by relevant departments and incorporated into national policies. The central and provincial financial subsidies for high-standard farmland have since increased from the original 1,500 yuan per mu to 2,530 yuan.

Zhang said he would focus on the voices of the people at the grassroots level in his future duty performance, addressing their concerns in employment, healthcare, elderly care, education and other pressing issues. (NPC) ■

How NPC deputies perform duties in accordance with law

On the afternoon of March 5, 2023, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, took part in a deliberation with fellow lawmakers of the Jiangsu delegation during the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). At the meeting, Wei Qiao, an NPC deputy who started her own business upon returning to her hometown in Jiangsu, shared her story as a "new farmer" in the new era. "We are currently cultivating over 20,000 mu (1,333 hectares) of rice, achieving a yield of 1,100 jin (550 kilograms) per mu. Through digital management, we have greatly improved labor efficiency and effectively boosted the incomes of farmers in the neighboring areas," Wei told Xi. During the session, Wei put forward the suggestion on implementing a support plan for new farmers to build up strength in agriculture, which was prioritized for handling by the NPC Standing Committee.

Wei was elected as an NPC deputy, participated in NPC sessions, deliberated reports, submitted her proposals, and saw them put into practice. This epitomizes how the country's nearly 3,000 NPC deputies perform their duties in accordance with the law and is a genuine representation of Chinese democracy characterized by its breadth, authenticity and effectiveness.

In September 1954, the first session of the first NPC adopted the first Constitution of the People's Republic of China, which stipulated that "All power in the People's Republic of China belongs to the people. The organs through which the people exercise State power are the National People's Congress and the local people's congresses at various levels," marking the nationwide establishment of the people's congress system, a new type of political system in which the people are the masters of the country. The people elect deputies to form the people's congresses, which exercise State power on behalf of the people.

The 1954 Constitution, the Organic Law of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and the Organic Law of Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments of the People's Republic of China stipulate the duties of deputies to the people's congresses. In April 1992, the fifth session of the seventh NPC deliberated and adopted the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels, which comprehensively regulates the nature, status, rights and obligations of deputies; their work during sessions and activities between sessions; guarantees for their performance of duties; and oversight of deputies. As a fundamental law that guarantees and regulates the work of deputies to the people's congresses at all levels, it has undergone four amendments, in 2009, 2010, 2015 and 2025.

The current Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels stipulates that the work of deputies during sessions of the people's congresses at their respective levels, as well as their activities during the intervals between sessions, all constitute the performance of their duties. Their work during sessions mainly includes participating in plenary sessions of the people's congresses, plenary meetings of delegations and group meetings to review motions and reports; submitting motions, inquiries and proposals of recall in accordance with the law; putting forward suggestions, criticisms and

opinions on various aspects of work; and participating in various elections and voting procedures of the people's congresses. During the intervals between sessions, deputies conduct inspections and investigation and research on specific issues in accordance with arrangements, participate in law enforcement inspections, sit in meetings of the standing committees of the people's congresses at their respective levels and sit in meetings of the people's congresses and their standing committees of their original electoral units. The activities of deputies during the intervals between sessions are mainly collective activities, with group activities as the basic form. They listen to and collect the opinions and demands of voters in their original constituencies or the original electoral units through various means.

Xi has emphasized that the key to the people's congress system's strong vitality and marked strengths is that it is deeply rooted in the people. Deputies to the people's congresses in China do not break away from their respective production and work and maintain close ties with the general public, which is an essential advantage of the system of people's congresses.

On May 16, 1955, the CPC Central Committee issued the notice on the inspection work by deputies to people's congresses. Subsequently, on May 18, the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee of the first NPC adopted the notice on the inspection work by deputies to the National People's Congress, which proposed that, in preparation for the second session of the first NPC scheduled for July 1955, deputies are requested to "take time before June 20 to conduct inspections in the areas where they were elected, in their places of origin, or in other regions." This marked the inception of inspection work by NPC deputies.

In May 2005, the CPC Central Committee forwarded the several opinions of the leading party members group of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on further enhancing the role of NPC Deputies and strengthening the institutional development of the NPC Standing Committee, which specified that deputies to the NPC should conduct joint inspection tours at the end of each year and carry out investigation and research on specific issues during the middle of each year. In September of the same year, the NPC Standing Committee organized the first investigation and research on specific subjects for NPC deputies.

Drawing upon their unique advantage of being elected from among and rooted in the people, deputies have actively participated in joint inspection tours, thematic research, and activities of deputy groups. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, approximately 21,000 NPC deputies have participated in investigation and research on specific issues, producing 1,267 reports. Deputies have taken the lead in publicizing and implementing major decisions and policies of the Party and the State, listening to and reflecting the aspirations and concerns of the people, and promoting problem-solving and policy improvements from the perspectives of law and institutional mechanisms, thus serving as a vital bridge linking the Party and the State with the general public. ■

(Contributed by the Deputies Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress)

WESTERN (CHONGQING) SCIENCE CITY

The home of scientists and the city of entrepreneurs

