

# NPC



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National People's Congress of China



**CHINA HOLDS MASSIVE  
V-DAY PARADE, PLEDGING  
PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT**

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China holds a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. Yao Dawei







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**COVER:** Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, waves at Tian'anmen Rostrum during a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. *Ding Haitao*



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# China holds massive V-Day parade, pledging peaceful development



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech during a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. Xie Huanchi







Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, reviews troops during a grand gathering commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. *Li Gang*

**C**hina held a massive military parade in central Beijing on September 3 to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in World War II, pledging the country's commitment to peaceful development in a world still fraught with turbulence and uncertainties.

Towering structures shaped like the Great Wall, crowned with giant numerals "1945" and "2025," stood in Tian'anmen Square, symbolizing the Chinese nation's courage and solidarity in resisting foreign aggression.

Wearing a dark grey, high-collar suit, President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, oversaw the parade and reviewed the troops.

Standing beside Xi on Tian'anmen Rostrum were Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, along with more than 20 other foreign leaders, some of whom attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in the city of Tianjin on August 31-September 1.

Representatives of people who had supported China's resistance endeavors, or their family members -- from countries such as Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada -- were invited to the event.

## Preventing historical tragedies from recurring

This was the second time since 2015 that China has held a military parade to mark the hard-won victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

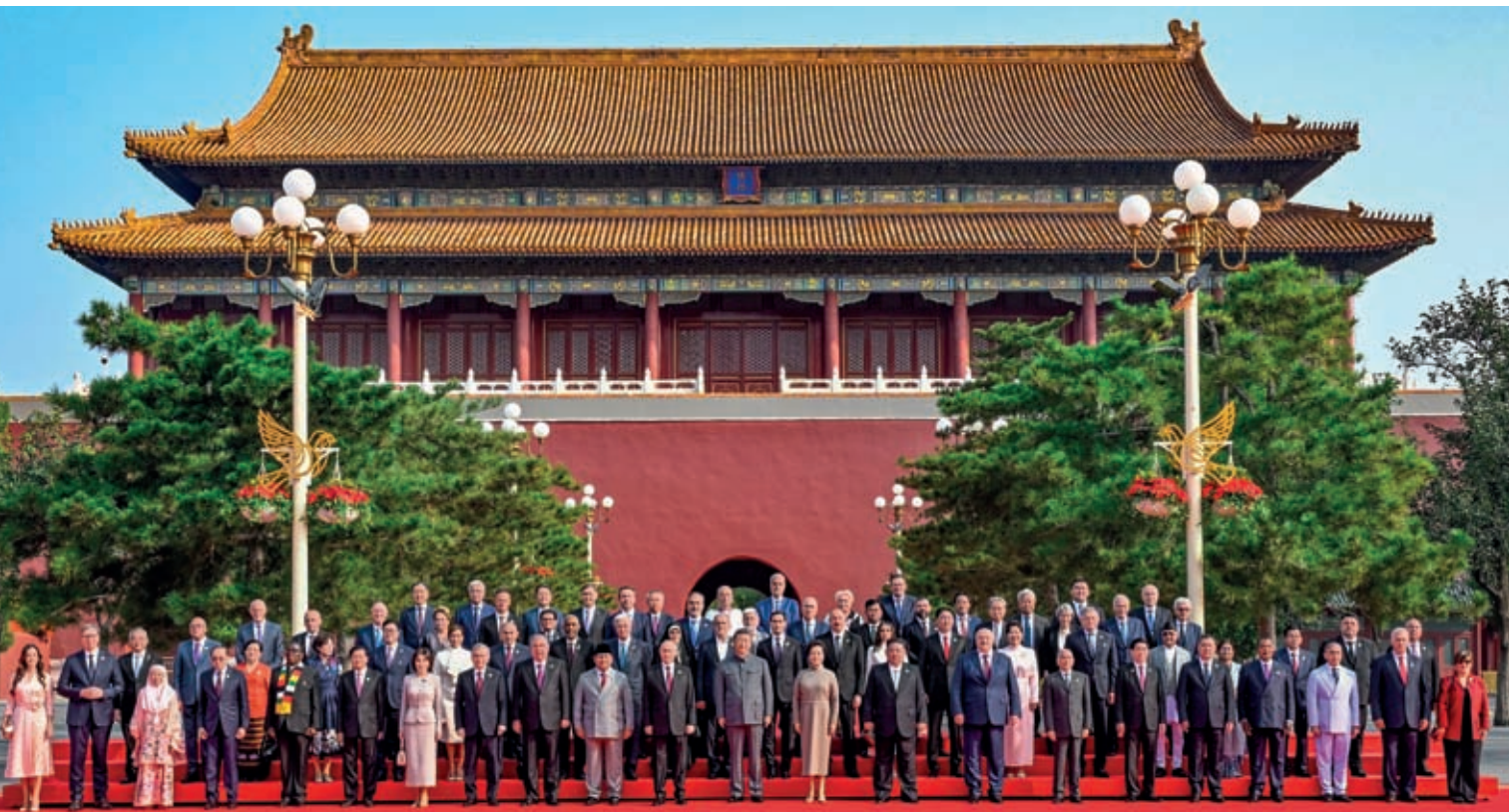
The commemorative event began at 9 a.m. with an 80-gun salute, followed by a solemn flag-raising ceremony, and a chorus of the national anthem.

Helicopters flew over the square carrying banners that read "Justice Prevails," "Peace Prevails," and "The People Prevail." The high-morale, well-equipped soldiers marched along the Chang'an (Eternal Peace) Avenue in tight, powerful formations, their faces lit with confidence and pride. Columns of new tanks, artillery and other military equipment rumbled through the square.

Xi delivered a speech before the parade. Highlighting the significance of the victory 80 years ago, Xi said it marks China's first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times.

Xi noted that the Chinese people made a major contribution to the salvation of human civilization and the defense of





Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a group photo with the heads of foreign delegations and their spouses ahead of a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. *Shen Hong*

world peace with immense sacrifice in the war. He called on nations to “eliminate the root cause of war and prevent historical tragedies from recurring.”

Japan officially surrendered on September 2, 1945, by signing the Instrument of Surrender. China designated September 3 as Victory Day.

Xi attended a military parade held in Moscow in May to mark the WWII victory in Europe. China and the Soviet Union served as the mainstay of resistance against Japanese militarism and German Nazism, making pivotal contribution to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War.

China was the first country to rise against fascist aggression with the longest-lasting resistance that began in 1931. The country tied down and struck over half of Japan's overseas forces, at the cost of 35 million military and civilian casualties -- accounting for around one-third of all WWII casualties worldwide.

Yokichi Kobayashi, son of a Japanese veteran who was a POW-turned soldier in a CPC-led army during the war, watched the parade on site.

“I feel like as long as China stays united and sticks together, it will always be an invincible force,” he said.

International organization leaders such as UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua, and former political leaders, including ex-Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, also attended.

**“Humanity is again faced with a choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and win-win outcomes or zero-sum games,” Xi said.**

### Unstoppable rejuvenation

The military parade was the first since Xi led China to embark on “a new journey to pursue Chinese modernization on all fronts.” The country has laid out a roadmap to basically achieve modernization by 2035.

In his speech, Xi demanded that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) provide strategic support for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. He urged the PLA to build itself into world-class forces and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

The 70-minute military parade demonstrated the transformation of the armed forces from a “millet-and-rifle” army to a modern military. It was attended by more than 10,000 soldiers, over 100 aircraft and hundreds of ground armaments,



organized under a wartime command system.

The PLA's new structure of services and arms made its collective debut, showcasing the outcomes of a sweeping military reform under Xi's leadership.

Troops from the four services of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Rocket Force, as well as the four arms of the Aerospace Force, the Cyberspace Force, the Information Support Force, and the Joint Logistics Support Force, marched past Tian'anmen Square.

The advanced armaments put on display included unmanned intelligence and counter-unmanned equipment, hypersonic missiles, directed-energy weapons, and electronic jamming systems.

In the parade, China unveiled its land-, sea-, and air-based strategic forces as the nuclear triad for the first time. The armaments, hailed as China's strategic "ace" power to safeguard the country's sovereignty and national dignity, included JingLei-1 air-based long-range missile, JuLang-3 submarine-launched intercontinental missile, DongFeng-61 land-based intercontinental missile, and new type DongFeng-31 land-based intercontinental missile.

Televised and livestreamed to a national audience, the event became the top trending topic on Chinese social media as people shared photos and videos of the spectacle.

Yang Jieyu, a student at Peking University and a spectator at the event, said, "The parade showed China's growing strength and filled me with confidence in national rejuvenation."

Scholars believe the life-or-death struggle more than 80 years ago reshaped the national psyche and marked a historic turning point as the Chinese nation transitioned from decline to rejuvenation.

"The rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is unstoppable," Xi said in his speech.

He reiterated China's commitment to peaceful development. "Humanity is again faced with a choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and win-win outcomes or zero-sum games," he said.

Kong Peng, a spectator from Beijing, said after watching the parade, "It's clear who's right and who's wrong, who's really standing for peace and who's a bully."

Chinese soldiers who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations made their first appearance in a V-Day parade.

China is the largest contributor of troops among the UN Security Council permanent members, having deployed over 5,000 peacekeepers and maintaining a standing force of 8,000 personnel ready for UN missions, making it a key player in UN peacekeeping operations.

"We have the capability to defend the peace forged with the blood of our forefathers," said Shao Xiaoguang, a member of the reviewed troops who previously served on a peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Zhang Zijin, a 7-year-old girl who watched the parade with her parents in the square, said she dreamed of joining the armed forces when she grows up. "I believe if I keep trying, I can make it come true," she said.

"Eighty years ago, we were revived. Eighty years later, we are thriving with greater vitality," said Lyu Shouye, a spectator at the event and a graduate student studying AI.

"Now our country has reached a stage where we need to undertake greater responsibilities," he said. (Xinhua) ■



The trainer aircraft echelon flies over Tian'anmen Square during the parade of a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. Wei Peiqian



The militia formation attends a parade during a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. Jiang Kehong



The hypersonic missile formation attends a parade during a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025. Zhang Tao



# Staying true to SCO founding mission and ushering in a better future

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China  
At the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State  
Of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization  
Tianjin, September 1, 2025



上海合作组织成员国元首理事  
25-ое заседание Совета глав государств-членов Шанхай

中国·天津 Тяньцзинь, Китай

2025年9月





Distinguished Colleagues,

As early as 24 years ago when it was founded, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization established the Shanghai Spirit, i.e., mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations, and pursuit of common development. The member states have since acted in this spirit to share opportunities and seek common development. They have brought about groundbreaking and historic achievements in SCO development and cooperation.

We were the first to set up a military confidence-building mechanism in our border areas, turning our extensive borders into a bond of friendship, mutual trust and cooperation. We were the first to take multilateral actions against the three forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism. We steadily promoted law enforcement and security cooperation, properly managed and settled differences, unequivocally opposed external interference, and maintained peace and tranquility in the region.



We were the first to launch Belt and Road cooperation. A large number of signature projects and "small and beautiful" livelihood projects have been successfully implemented, and industrial investment cooperation has been actively advanced, providing robust driving forces for development and prosperity across the region. China's cumulative trade with other SCO countries has surpassed US\$2.3 trillion, hitting ahead of schedule the target that I had set. Our multidimensional connectivity network has been further improved. Nearly 14,000 kilometers of international land transport routes are in operation among member states. And the China-Europe Railway Express has operated more than 110,000 train services.

We were the first to conclude a treaty on long-term good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation, proclaiming our commitment to forge lasting friendship and refrain from hostilities. We set up and fully leveraged mechanisms such as the SCO Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission. We built a network for people-to-people friendly exchanges, and expanded cooperation at the subnational level and in such areas as media, think tank, women and youth, bringing the hearts of our peoples closer to each other.

We were the first to put forth the vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit as an effort to practice true multilateralism. We deepened cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations, and played a constructive role in international and regional affairs. We always stand on the side of international fairness and justice, champion inclusiveness and mutual learning between civilizations, and oppose hegemonism and power politics, thus becoming a proactive force for world peace and development.

Colleagues,

The SCO has grown into the world's largest regional organization, with the participation of 26 countries, cooperation covering more than 50 areas, and a combined economic output of nearly US\$30 trillion. Its international influence and appeal are increasing day by day.

Looking back, we have weathered the storms on our journey and emerged stronger because we have adhered to the Shanghai Spirit. Looking ahead, we should carry forward the Shanghai Spirit in a world fraught with challenges and changes, forge ahead with solid steps, and better tap into the potential of our Organization.

First, we should seek common ground while putting aside differences. Shared aspirations are the source of strength and advantage, and the will to seek commonality while shelving differences reflects vision and wisdom. SCO member states are all friends and partners. We should respect our differences, maintain strategic communication, build up consensus, and strengthen solidarity and collaboration. We should make the pie of cooperation bigger, and fully utilize the endowment of every country, so that we can fulfill our responsibility for peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region.

Second, we should pursue mutual benefit and win-win results. We need to better align our development strategies





Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and delivers a speech titled "Staying True to SCO Founding Mission and Ushering in a Better Future" in Tianjin, north China, Sept. 1, 2025. Xie Huanchi

and promote the high-quality implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, so that in planning and building relevant projects together and benefiting from them together we can strengthen the momentum of regional development and improve the well-being of the people. We should leverage the strengths of our mega-sized markets and economic complementarity between member states, and improve trade and investment facilitation. We should enhance cooperation in such areas as energy, infrastructure, green industry, the digital economy, scientific and technological innovation, and artificial intelligence. We should march toward modernization hand in hand by bringing out the best in one another and working together for a shared future.

Third, we should champion openness and inclusiveness. The vast land of Asia and Europe, a cradle of ancient civilizations where the earliest exchanges between the East and the West took place, has been a driving force behind human progress. Since ancient times, people of different countries have bartered and traded for mutual benefit and learned from each other. SCO member states need to enhance mutual understanding and friendship through people-to-people

## China has always focused on taking real actions to ensure better development of the SCO.

exchanges, firmly support one another in economic cooperation, and jointly cultivate a garden of civilizations in which all cultures flourish in prosperity and harmony through mutual enlightenment.

Fourth, we should uphold fairness and justice. We must promote a correct historical perspective on World War II, and oppose the Cold War mentality, bloc confrontation and bullying practices. We should safeguard the U.N.-centered international system, and support the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. We should advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and make the global governance system more just and equitable.



Fifth, we should strive for real results and high efficiency. We should continuously promote SCO reform, increase resources input and enhance capacity building to improve its institutional structure and make its decision-making more scientific and its actions more efficient. We should put into use the SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-drug Center and set up an SCO development bank as soon as possible to provide stronger underpinnings for security and economic cooperation among member states.

Colleagues,

China always aligns its development with that of the SCO and with the aspiration of the people of member states for a better life. To date, China's investment stock in other SCO member states has exceeded US\$84 billion, and its annual bilateral trade with other SCO member states has surpassed US\$500 billion.

China has always focused on taking real actions to ensure better development of the SCO. Going forward, China plans to implement 100 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects

in member states with such need. It will provide RMB 2 billion yuan in grant to SCO member states within this year, and will issue an additional RMB 10 billion yuan in loan to the member banks of the SCO Interbank Consortium over the next three years. Starting from next year, China will double the current number of SCO-specific scholarships, and launch an SCO innovative PhD program to jointly train high-caliber talent in academic as well as scientific and technological research. In the next five years, China will establish 10 Luban Workshops in SCO member states and provide 10,000 human resources training opportunities.

Colleagues,

As a Chinese saying goes, "Where will prevails, no boundary holds." Let us stay true to SCO's founding mission, step up to undertake our duties, promote the sound and sustained development of the SCO with greater resolve and more practical measures, and march steadily toward a brighter tomorrow of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Thank you. (Xinhua) ■

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# Pooling the strength of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to improve global governance

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China  
At the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus" Meeting  
Tianjin, September 1, 2025

Distinguished Colleagues,

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations. It is a milestone prompting us to remember the past and create a better future together. Eighty years ago, the international community learned profound lessons from the scourge of two world wars and founded the United Nations, thus writing a new page in global governance. Eighty years later, while the historical trends of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit remain unchanged,

the Cold War mentality, hegemonism and protectionism continue to haunt the world. New threats and challenges have been only increasing. The world has found itself in a new period of turbulence and transformation. Global governance has come to a new crossroads.

History tells us that at difficult times, we must uphold our original commitment to peaceful coexistence, strengthen our confidence in win-win cooperation, advance in line with the trend of history, and thrive in keeping pace with the times.

To this end, I wish to propose the Global Governance Ini-





Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Plus” Meeting and delivers a speech titled “Pooling the strength of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to improve global governance” in Tianjin, north China, Sept. 1, 2025. *Huang Jingwen*

tiative (GGI). I look forward to working with all countries for a more just and equitable global governance system and advancing toward a community with a shared future for humanity.

First, we should adhere to sovereign equality. We should maintain that all countries, regardless of size, strength and wealth, are equal participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in global governance. We should promote greater democracy in international relations and increase the representation and voice of developing countries.

Second, we should abide by international rule of law. The purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and other universally recognized basic norms of international relations must be observed comprehensively, fully and in their entirety. International law and rules should be applied equally

and uniformly. There should be no double standards, and the house rules of a few countries must not be imposed upon others.

Third, we should practice multilateralism. We should uphold the vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit, strengthen solidarity and coordination, and oppose unilateralism. We should firmly safeguard the status and authority of the U.N., and ensure its irreplaceable, key role in global governance.

Fourth, we should advocate the people-centered approach. We should reform and improve the global governance system to ensure that the people of every nation are the actors in and beneficiaries of global governance, so as to better tackle the common challenges for mankind, better



## All countries, regardless of size, strength and wealth, are equal participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in global governance.

narrow the North-South gap, and better safeguard the common interests of all countries.

Fifth, we should focus on taking real actions. We should adopt a systematic and holistic approach, coordinate global actions, fully mobilize various resources, and strive for more visible outcomes. We should enhance practical cooperation to prevent the governance system from lagging behind or being fragmented.

Colleagues,

The founding declaration and the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization made it clear at the outset that we should promote a more democratic, just and equitable international political and economic order. Over the past 24 years, the SCO has adhered faithfully to the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations, and pursuit of common development. We have discussed regional affairs together, built platforms and mechanisms together, and benefited from cooperation together. We have also initiated many new global governance concepts and put them into practice. The SCO has increasingly become a catalyst for the development and reform of the global governance system.

In response to the once-in-a-century transformations unfolding faster across the world, the SCO should step up to play a leading role and set an example in carrying out the GGI.

We should contribute to safeguarding world peace and stability. With a vision for common security, SCO member states have signed the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborhoodness, Friendship and Cooperation, conducted effective security cooperation, and maintained overall stability in the region. We should continue to uphold the principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation and not targeting any third party. We should combine our efforts in addressing various threats and challenges, give full play to the newly established SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-drug Center, and build a community of common security in the region. We should remain a force for stability in this volatile world.

We should step up to take the responsibility for open cooperation across the globe. SCO member states have rich energy resources, big markets and strong internal driving forces, and we are contributing a rising share to world economic growth. We should continue to dismantle walls, not erect them; we should seek integration, not decoupling. We should advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and push for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

China will readily share the opportunities of its vast market, and continue to implement the action plan for high-quality development of economic and trade coopera-

tion within the SCO family. China will establish three major platforms for China-SCO cooperation in energy, green industry, and the digital economy, and will set up three major cooperation centers for scientific and technological innovation, higher education, and vocational and technical education. We will work with fellow SCO countries to increase the installed capacity of photovoltaic and wind power each by 10 million kilowatts in the next five years. We are ready to build with all sides the artificial intelligence application cooperation center, and share the dividends of progress in AI. We welcome all parties to use the Beidou Satellite Navigation System and invite countries with relevant capacities to take part in the International Lunar Research Station project.

We should set an example in championing the common values of humanity. Among SCO member states, cultural exchanges are packed with highlights, people-to-people interactions are frequent and robust, and different civilizations radiate their unique splendor. We should continue to promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and write brilliant chapters of peace, amity and harmony among countries different in history, culture, social system and development stage.

China will host and ensure the success of the SCO Political Parties Forum, the SCO Green and Sustainable Development Forum, and the SCO Forum on Traditional Medicine. In the next five years, China will treat 500 patients with congenital heart disease, perform 5,000 cataract operations, and carry out 10,000 cancer screenings for other SCO countries.

We should act to defend international fairness and justice. In compliance with the principles of justice and fairness, SCO member states have engaged constructively in international and regional affairs, and upheld the common interests of the Global South. We should continue to unequivocally oppose hegemonism and power politics, practice true multilateralism, and stand as a pillar in promoting a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations.

China supports the SCO in expanding cooperation with other multilateral institutions, such as the U.N., ASEAN, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, to jointly uphold the international economic and trade order and improve global and regional governance.

Colleagues,

An ancient Chinese philosopher said of the importance of principles, "Uphold the Great Principle, and the world will follow." In two days, China will commemorate solemnly the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Many colleagues will join us in Beijing. We are ready, together with all parties, to uphold courageously the great principle and the common good of the world, promote a correct historical perspective on World War II, resolutely safeguard the fruits of our victory in the War, and deliver more benefits to the entire humanity through the reform of the global governance system and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Thank you. (Xinhua) ■



# Championing the China-Central Asia Spirit for high-quality cooperation in the region

Keynote Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China  
At the Second China-Central Asia Summit  
Astana, June 17, 2025



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech during the second China-Central Asia Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, June 17, 2025. The second China-Central Asia Summit was held in Astana on Tuesday. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev chaired the summit. Xi, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the summit. Huang Jingwen



Your Excellency President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev,  
Distinguished Colleagues,  
Friends,

I am delighted to join you at the second China-Central Asia Summit in the beautiful city of Astana. I'd like to thank President Tokayev and the government of Kazakhstan for the gracious hospitality and thoughtful arrangement.

During our meeting in Xi'an two years ago, we jointly outlined the Xi'an Vision for China-Central Asia cooperation. The six pomegranate trees we planted together are in full bloom today, auguring the vitality of the cooperation among the six nations.

Two years on, China and Central Asian countries have further deepened and substantiated Belt and Road cooperation. Our trade has grown by 35 percent, and we have made important progress in industrial investment, green mining, technological innovation and other fields of cooperation. The package of projects with Chinese financial support are well underway. While more and more Chinese new energy vehicles and photovoltaic products are entering Central Asian markets, Central Asian agricultural products, including honey, fruits, wheat and poultry, are diversifying the dinner tables of Chinese families.

Two years on, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project has been officially launched. We are making steady progress in planning for the third railway link between China and Kazakhstan, phase II restoration of the China-Tajikistan highway and China-Turkmenistan energy cooperation. Freight train services are connecting more and more Chinese cities to Central Asia. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route has been upgraded and expanded. Green industries, digital economy, artificial intelligence, aviation and space are becoming new drivers of our cooperation. Cross-border e-commerce, online education and other new business models are benefiting more and more people in China and Central Asia.

Two years on, China and Central Asian countries have made progress in establishing cultural centers in each other's countries, as well as opening branches of Chinese universities and Luban Workshops. China has made mutual visa-free arrangements with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, facilitating more than 1.2 million travels between China and Kazakhstan alone in 2024. Central Asian tourism, culture years and art festivals are very popular in China. Chinese films and TV dramas, such as *Min-Ning Town* and *To the Wonder*, have become great hits in Central Asia. The China-Central Asia train services for cultural tourism have been successfully inaugurated. And today, we will witness the number of sister cities between China and Central Asia reach the milestone of 100 pairs.

Two years on, we have launched 13 ministerial cooperation platforms under the China-Central Asia mechanism. The secretariat is fully functioning, and the core framework of the mechanism is largely in place.

I am pleased to see that our consensus at the first summit has been implemented across the board from the millennium-old Xi'an to Astana, "the pearl of the steppe"; from the coast of the Yellow Sea to the shores of the Caspian Sea; from the Tianshan Mountain Range to the Pamir Plateau. The path of our cooperation is steadily widening

and our friendship is blooming ever more brightly.

Distinguished Colleagues,  
Friends,

Our cooperation is rooted in more than 2,000 years of friendly exchanges, cemented by solidarity and mutual trust cultivated through more than three decades of diplomatic ties, and taken forward via openness and win-win cooperation in the new era. Building on our collective efforts over the years, we have forged a China-Central Asia Spirit of "mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit and mutual assistance for the joint pursuit of modernization through high-quality development."

—We practice mutual respect and treat each other as equals. All countries, big or small, are equal. We handle issues through consultation and make decisions by consensus.

—We seek to deepen mutual trust and enhance mutual support. We firmly support each other in safeguarding independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity. We do not do anything harmful to the core interests of any party.

—We pursue mutual benefit and win-win cooperation and strive for common development. We view each other

## **This China-Central Asia Spirit is an important guideline for our endeavor to carry forward friendship and cooperation from generation to generation.**

as priority partners, and share development opportunities together. We accommodate each other's interests, and work to build a win-win and symbiotic relationship.

—We help each other in time of need and stand together through thick and thin. We support each other in choosing development paths suitable to our respective national conditions and in taking domestic matters into our own hands. We work together to address various risks and challenges, and uphold regional security and stability.

This China-Central Asia Spirit is an important guideline for our endeavor to carry forward friendship and cooperation from generation to generation. We should always uphold it and let it shine forever.

Distinguished Colleagues,  
Friends,

Today, unprecedented changes are unfolding at a faster pace across the globe, thrusting the world into a new state of heightened turbulence and volatility. A strong belief in fairness and justice and an unyielding commitment to mutual benefit and win-win cooperation are the only way to maintain world peace and achieve common development. There is no winner in tariff wars or trade wars. Unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism will surely backfire,

while hurting others.

I always maintain that history should move forward, not backward; and the world should be united, not divided. Humanity must not regress to the law of the jungle. Instead, we should build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Three years ago, we announced together that we would build a China-Central Asia community with a shared future, setting out the goal and direction of our six nations in building consensus, overcoming challenges and pursuing development. We should act on the China-Central Asia Spirit, enhance cooperation with renewed vigor and more practical measures, promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and forge ahead toward our goal of a community with a shared future for the region.

First, we should stay committed to our fundamental goal of unity, and always trust and support each other. China consistently takes Central Asia as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy. With a firm belief in an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood, as well as a strong dedication to amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, China interacts with Central Asian countries on the basis of equality and sincerity. We always wish our neighbors well.

Today, we will sign together a treaty on eternal good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation to enshrine the principle of everlasting friendship in the form of law. This is a new landmark in the history of the relations between our six countries and a pioneering initiative in China's diplomatic engagement with its neighbors. It is a milestone for today and a foundation for tomorrow.

Second, we should optimize our cooperation framework to make it more results-oriented, more efficient and more deeply integrated. We have agreed to designate 2025 and 2026 as the Years of High-Quality Development of China-Central Asia Cooperation. We should focus our cooperation on smooth trade, industrial investment, connectivity, green mining, agricultural modernization and personnel exchanges, and roll out more projects on the ground. We should do our best to get early harvests as soon as possible.

China is ready to share with Central Asian countries development experience and latest technological advances, promote connectivity in digital infrastructure, enhance cooperation on artificial intelligence and foster new quality productive forces.

In order to promote relevant cooperation, China has decided to establish three cooperation centers, i.e. on poverty reduction; education exchange; and desertification prevention and control; as well as a cooperation platform on smooth trade under the China-Central Asia cooperation framework. China will provide a grant of 1.5 billion yuan to Central Asian countries this year to be used in livelihood and development projects high on their agenda. China will also provide 3,000 training opportunities to Central Asian countries in the next two years.

Third, we should develop a security framework for peace, tranquility and solidarity. We should step up regional security governance; deepen law enforcement and security cooperation; jointly prevent and thwart extreme

ideologies; and resolutely fight terrorism, separatism and extremism, so as to maintain peace and stability in our region.

China supports Central Asian countries in modernizing their national defense, law enforcement and security capacities. We will do our best to help Central Asian countries combat terrorism and transnational organized crime, and safeguard cybersecurity and biosecurity. We will launch more Safe City projects and conduct more joint exercises and training cooperation.

Afghanistan is our close neighbor. We should strengthen coordination to help the country boost its development capacity and achieve peace, stability, reconstruction and development at an early date.

Fourth, we should cement the bonds of shared vision, mutual understanding and mutual affection between our peoples. China will enhance cooperation between legislatures, political parties, women, youth, media and think tanks with Central Asian countries; conduct in-depth exchange of governance experience; and share experience in green development, poverty reduction and anti-corruption.

China is ready to set up more cultural centers, university branches and Luban Workshops in Central Asia, and launch new majors in Central Asian languages in Chinese universities. We will continue to effectively carry out the "China-Central Asia technology and skills improvement scheme" to train more high-caliber talent for Central Asian countries.

**No matter how the international situation changes, China will remain unwavering in opening up to the outside world.**

China supports deepening subnational cooperation with Central Asia. We will make good use of sister city relations and people-to-people exchanges to nurture heart-to-heart connections at central and subnational levels between official and non-governmental actors, and from adjacent to broader areas.

I hope that the travel facilitation measures we adopt today will be implemented as soon as possible to help our people visit each other more conveniently, efficiently and frequently like relatives, and in the course of it, help them become ever closer to each other.

Fifth, we should uphold a fair and equitable international order and an equal and orderly world structure. China supports Central Asian countries in playing a bigger role in international affairs. We stand ready to work with all parties to defend international fairness and justice, oppose hegemonism and power politics, and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of





«ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯ—ҚЫТАЙ»  
ЕКІНШІ САММИТІ

2025 жылғы 17 маусым, Астана

第二届中国—中亚峰会

2025年6月17日, 阿斯塔纳

ВТОРОЙ САММИТ  
«ЦЕНТРАЛЬНАЯ АЗИЯ—КИТАЙ»

17 июня 2025 года, Астана



Chinese President Xi Jinping, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev pose for a group photo in Astana, Kazakhstan, June 17, 2025. The second China-Central Asia Summit was held in Astana on Tuesday. Tokayev chaired the summit. Xi, Japarov, Rahmon, Berdimuhamedov and Mirziyoyev attended the summit. *Xie Huanchi*

the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. In the strenuous times of war, Chinese and Central Asian peoples supported each other through adversity, and jointly made important contributions to the cause of justice for humanity. We should promote the correct view of history, defend the fruits of the victory of World War II, uphold the UN-centered international system, and provide more stability and certainty for world peace and development.

Distinguished Colleagues,  
Friends,

China is building a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese moderniza-

tion. No matter how the international situation changes, China will remain unwavering in opening up to the outside world, and embrace higher-quality cooperation with Central Asian countries to deepen the integration of interests and achieve common development.

Distinguished Colleagues,  
Friends,

Ancient Chinese philosophy advocates "mutual care and mutual benefit." Similarly, a Central Asian proverb compares harmony and unity to happiness and wealth. China is ready to work with all parties to carry forward the China-Central Asia Spirit, pursue the goal of a community with a shared future, and strive for new progress in China-Central Asia cooperation.

Thank you. (Xinhua) ■

# Upholding multilateralism and building a beautiful home for all

Written Intervention by H.E. Zhao Leji  
Chairman of the Standing Committee  
Of the National People's Congress  
Of the People's Republic of China  
At the General Debate  
Of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament  
Geneva, July 29, 2025



Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, delivers a speech at the sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in Geneva, Switzerland, on July 29, 2025. *Li Tao*



Your Excellency President Tulia Ackson,  
Your Excellencies Speakers of Parliament,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you by Lake Geneva for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. On behalf of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, I extend warm congratulations on the opening of the Conference.

As humanity entered the new millennium 25 years ago, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held the first World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. In response to the aspirations of people across all countries for peace, tranquility, development and prosperity, the Conference made a solemn pledge—leverage the role of legislatures to strengthen international cooperation, tackle global challenges together and realize the ideals of the United Nations (U.N.) Charter.

Over the past 25 years, legislatures the world over have deepened exchanges and cooperation, making a positive contribution to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improving global governance.

Yet, the world we live in remains far from being peaceful. The resurging unilateralism and protectionism, the ever-widening wealth and development gaps, and the flaring geopolitical conflicts and regional wars have dealt severe blows to the international rules and order, and posed grave challenges to humanity's pursuit of peace and development. Legislatures have a responsibility to play a positive part in fostering a new type of international relations and building a community with a shared future for mankind. To this end, I wish to share four observations.

First, let us work together to uphold peace and tranquility of the world. Humanity is an indivisible security community, and the security and development of all countries should be respected. Legislatures should uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and respect the development paths independently chosen by the people of all countries. We should oppose interference in other countries' internal affairs, and oppose the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation. We should advocate bridging differences through dialogue and resolving disputes with cooperation, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises, with a view to contributing to the realization of lasting peace and universal security in the world.

Second, let us work together to facilitate global development and prosperity. Economic globalization is a trend of the times. Protectionism leads nowhere, and tariff wars and trade wars produce no winners. Legislatures should place development and people's well-being front and center, pursue mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, keep global industrial and supply chains stable and smooth, and jointly create an open, inclusive and nondiscriminatory environment for international economic cooperation, so as to provide a legal safeguard for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promoting common devel-

opment of all countries.

Third, let us work together to advocate exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Civilizations are diverse and equal, and all of them are treasures of humanity. Legislatures should advocate respect for the diversity of civilizations, champion humanity's common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, promote dialogues among civilizations and cultural exchanges, increase mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries, so that different civilizations will inspire each other and prosper together.

Fourth, let us work together to promote international fairness and justice. All countries are equal, regardless of their size, strength and wealth. International affairs should be handled through discussion by all, under universally agreed rules, and with all countries' interests and concerns in view. Legislatures should uphold and practice true multilateralism, firmly safeguard the international system with the U.N. at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, oppose all forms of hegemonic, high-handed and bullying acts, and oppose double standard, with a view to building a more just and equitable global governance system.

Colleagues,  
Friends,

The NPC of China highly values and actively supports the work of the IPU. Last year, we successfully held the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the NPC's affiliation to the IPU and the sixth Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries to exchange best practices and deepen cooperation, sending a message of developing countries working together for peace and development. On this occasion, I wish to announce that the NPC of China decides to donate US\$1.5 million to the IPU, and continue to jointly run Seminars for Parliaments of Developing Countries, with a view to supporting fellow legislatures in strengthening capacity building.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. It also marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the U.N. China always upholds a correct historical perspective on the Second World War, and firmly defends its victorious outcomes and the postwar international order. The NPC of China supports the IPU in developing a closer working relationship with the U.N., and in playing a bigger role in international affairs. We will strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the IPU and fellow legislatures of all countries. We will work together to deliver on the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. Let us join hands to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and usher in a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress for the world.

Thank you. (NPC) ■

# Lawmakers adopt revised law on fair market practices



A deliveryman checks his phone for orders. VCG

**L**awmakers passed a revised version of the anti-unfair competition law on June 27, as part of the country's broader efforts to drive a fair and orderly market environment.

The revised law, adopted at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, consists of five chapters that include general provisions, acts of unfair competition, investigation of suspected violations, legal liabilities and supplementary provisions. It will come into effect on October 15.

According to the law, China will improve the rules and sys-



**The law holds significant importance for promoting high-quality economic and social development.**

tems to combat unfair competition, strengthen related law enforcement and judicial work, maintain the order of market competition, and promote a unified, open, competitive and orderly market system.

Notably, the law stipulated that platform operators must clearly include fair competition rules within platforms, such as in service agreements and trading policies, and establish mechanisms for reporting, handling and resolving unfair competition disputes.

Operators are also required to take timely and lawful actions when unfair practices are detected. They are obligated to retain relevant records and notify local supervisory authorities.

Shi Hong, an official from NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission, said, "The latest revision of the law came as China further deepens reform. The law holds significant importance for promoting high-quality economic and social development."

Shi emphasized that in recent years, the rapid emergence of new technologies, business formats and models has brought new challenges in market competition, such as rat-race competition, infringement of data rights and malicious transactions.

"Addressing these prominent problems has made it urgent to revise the law and improve the legal framework for the socialist market economy," he added.

In a further move to refine rules on data-related misconduct, the revised law defines specific types of malicious transactions. These include abuses such as manipulating platform rules to direct false transactions, fake reviews, or unjustified returns, all of which have harmed businesses and disrupted market order.

Moreover, the law targets abuse of dominance by large enterprises, stipulating that companies must not exploit their capital, technology, distribution channels or industry influence to impose unreasonable contract terms on smaller firms.

Prohibited conduct also includes enforcing unfair payment periods or conditions, and delaying payment for goods, construction projects or services-practices that have burdened small and medium-sized businesses. (China Daily) ■



# Revised law enhances efforts to restore mining areas

**C**hina has ramped up efforts to protect and restore mining areas, emphasizing green, sustainable and high-quality development in the sector under a revised Mineral Resources Law that took effect on July 1.

For the first time, the law includes a dedicated chapter on ecological restoration in mining areas at the national legislative level, Lu Lihua, deputy director-general of the land space ecological restoration department at the Ministry of Natural Resources, told a news conference on June 27.

“This chapter outlines clear provisions for ecological restoration, providing a robust legal guarantee for systematically rebuilding the governance system for ecological restoration in these regions,” Lu said.

The revised law, composed of 80 articles across eight chapters, modifies nearly every item to align with the new circumstances and requirements for mineral resources exploitation and protection, said Zhuang Xiaoyong, deputy director of the economic law department at the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee.

The law requires the integration of natural and artificial restoration efforts in mining areas, following principles of adapting to local conditions, scientific planning, systematic management and reasonable utilization.

Mining right holders are required to fulfill ecological restoration obligations if mining activities cause environmental damage, even after mining rights expire. In the event that mining areas are abandoned or the responsible party cannot be identified, local governments at or above the county level are responsible for organizing restorative work, with private sector participation encouraged.

According to the amended law, before mineral extraction can take place, mining rights holders must submit a plan for ecological restoration that should include specific measures for tailings ponds, along with the mining plan for approval. Restoration should proceed concurrently with mining if possible, or within a reasonable period after mining activities conclude, Zhuang said.

Local governments are tasked with strengthening coordination and supervision of ecological restoration, ensuring it aligns with pollution prevention, soil and water conservation, and vegetation restoration to improve environmental outcomes. Local natural resources departments are also responsible for supervising the allocation and use of restoration funds.

Lu said the ministry is drafting guidelines to support the law’s implementation, focusing on technology-driven restorative approaches that are tailored to local conditions.

Gutian county in Ningde, Fujian province, was among the first batch of exemplary cases of ecological restoration in mining regions announced by the ministry last year. The county used techniques such as subsequent filling mining and ore selection to enhance extraction efficiency, reduce tailings storage and minimize damage to surface vegetation.

In Shandong province, sediment from the Yellow River was used to fill coal collapse areas, achieving a land reclamation rate of 100 percent, with potential restoration to farmland within one to three years.

First enacted in 1986, the Mineral Resources Law was previously amended in 1996 and 2009 before its revision and adoption at the 12th session of the NPC Standing Committee last year. (China Daily) ■



This aerial photo shows part of the Nanfen open-pit iron mine under the Bensteel Group Corporation Limited, which has been transformed into a national AAA-level scenic area. Pan Yulong

# Draft aims to expand social support access

**C**hina is seeking to expand and improve access to its social assistance programs to better support those in need, according to a draft law under review by national lawmakers.

Aiming to build a fairer and more inclusive social safety net, the draft law proposes broader coverage beyond the current beneficiaries such as extremely poor households and those receiving minimum living allowances. It also seeks to include families that are just above the threshold for such allowances or are struggling to meet essential expenses.

Assistance will be tailored based on recipients' individual needs and situations, with support covering not only basic living expenses but also specialized social services and emergency aid, such as employment, housing, healthcare and education.

The draft law, comprising of 76 articles across seven chapters, was submitted on June 24 to the ongoing session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, for a first reading.

"The current social assistance system now faces new circumstances and challenges amid socioeconomic development efforts," Civil Affairs Minister Lu Zhiyuan told lawmakers while explaining the draft.

"These include difficulties in coordination, limited coverage, complicated procedures and insufficient participation by society as a whole."

To address these issues, the draft law calls for making assistance more efficient, accessible and timely.

County-level governments would be required to establish coordinated processing mechanisms to reduce repeated application visits.

Township-level governments and subdistrict offices would

**Grassroots-level officials are encouraged to monitor residents' living conditions and provide assistance in accordance with the law.**

be mandated to set up reception windows to accept and refer applications promptly.

The verification process for applicants would also be streamlined. County-level authorities would be authorized to check income and asset information, and the results would be shared and recognized across departments.

Grassroots-level officials are encouraged to monitor residents' living conditions and provide assistance in accordance with the law. The draft also promotes digitizing social assistance data to strengthen dynamic monitoring of low-income groups.

In addition, the proposal calls for stronger public participation in social assistance efforts, including from citizens, businesses and nonprofit organizations. It emphasizes closer coordination between government and society and allows for government procurement of services to support assistance programs.

China introduced interim measures for social assistance in 2014, which have played a key role in promoting social equity and stability. However, the country still lacks a comprehensive legal framework to guide and support these efforts. (China Daily) ■



Young people provide assistance to elders. VCG



# NPC considers revision of medical insurance law

**L**awmakers are mulling over a draft revision for the medical insurance law that would improve the nation's basic healthcare insurance system and strengthen safeguards for access to medical services.

Highlights of the draft include boosting coverage for gig workers, adjusting reimbursement range at times of acute disease outbreaks and strengthening supervision over fund management.

The draft was submitted to a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for first review on June 24.

Zhang Ke, director of the National Healthcare Security Administration, said that China has been pushing for reforms in its medical insurance system in recent years. The draft law is being considered to solidify reform outcomes and integrate fragmented rules and regulations.

"The draft establishes a dedicated chapter that systematically outlines the framework of the healthcare security system," he said. "Specifically, it provides clear provisions regarding coverage scope, financing mechanisms and benefits for three well-established insurance programs--employee insurance plans, residents insurance and maternity insurance."

Regarding immature programs, including those offering large-volume medical expense assistance for employees and critical illness insurance, the draft authorizes local authorities to formulate specific implementation measures.

The draft also states that self-employed individuals and part-time workers, as well as gig workers such as ride-hailing drivers and food delivery workers, are encouraged to participate in the basic employee insurance program.

"The nation will also expand coverage of maternity insurance and gradually include flexible workers enrolled in the basic program," it says.

To incorporate experiences gained during previous battles against infectious epidemics, the draft states that the top healthcare insurance authority can propose modifying the scope of insurance reimbursement policies alongside other government departments.

Zhang added that the draft emphasizes stepping up oversight over insurance fund management, such as mobilizing lawmakers, government agencies and the public to roll out supervisory and whistle-blowing channels.

"Comprehensive measures, including fines, suspension of medical services involving fund usage, and termination of service agreements should be taken to strengthen penalties for illegal activities," he said.

By the end of 2024, China's basic medical insurance pro-



Medical insurance VCG

**The nation will also expand coverage of maternity insurance and gradually include flexible workers enrolled in the basic program.**

gram had covered nearly 1.33 billion people, with a long-standing participation rate of 95 percent, according to the administration.

The number of people enrolled in the maternity insurance program grew by 3.9 million year-on-year to 253 million by the end of last year. (China Daily) ■



# More oversight urged for liquid food transport



Food safety VCG

**Falsifying or tampering with transport records, container cleaning certificates or related documentation is strictly prohibited.**

Market Regulation, told lawmakers while presenting the draft.

Luo cited media reports from last year that exposed tanker trucks being used to carry both chemical liquids, including coal-to-liquids, and edible products such as soybean oil, often without proper cleaning in between the transportation of different goods. The reports highlighted lax entry thresholds and weak penalties in the industry, prompting public alarm and intervention by multiple government departments.

To address these concerns, the draft introduces a licensing system for the road transport of key bulk liquid food items. Transport operators would be required to obtain permits from county-level or higher food safety supervision authorities. The licensing process would verify that operators have qualified personnel, compliant management systems and containers that meet food safety standards.

The draft also sets clear responsibilities for all parties involved. Transport operators must comply with national regulations, use appropriate containers, clean them regularly and avoid carrying non-food goods. Consignors must confirm that containers meet food safety requirements and check operators' permits, while consignees are responsible for reviewing operators' permits and transport records, and verifying container seals.

Falsifying or tampering with transport records, container cleaning certificates or related documentation is strictly prohibited.

The draft further proposes harsher punishments for illegal activities. Operators who transport liquid food without permits could face suspension of their businesses, confiscation of illegal earnings, and fines ranging from 50,000 yuan (\$7,000) to 500,000 yuan. Other violations--such as improper storage, transport, or loading--would require correction and could result in similar fines and possible license revocation in severe cases.

In response to growing domestic demand for liquid infant formula, the draft also introduces registration requirements for its production. Manufacturers must follow registered technical standards for product formulas and production processes to ensure the safety and quality of infant food. (China Daily) ■

**C**hina will strengthen oversight of bulk liquid food transport in response to public concerns over food safety, with draft legislation proposing harsh penalties for violations, according to a proposed amendment under review by the top legislature.

The draft revision to the Food Safety Law was submitted on June 24 to the ongoing session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for a first reading.

"Currently, there are more than 16,000 tanker trucks nationwide engaged in the bulk transport of liquid food products on roads, posing significant food safety risks. There is an urgent need to enhance standardized management and address regulatory gaps," Luo Wen, head of the State Administration for







# NPC Standing Committee inspects enforcement of Forest Law in Inner Mongolia

The photo shows an aerial view of the birch forest in Hulunbuir, North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. VCG

**W**est of the Greater Hinggan Mountains, a majestic landscape unfolds in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region. Towering pines and glistening birch forests stretch endlessly, blending with boundless grasslands under a brilliant expanse of blue skies and white clouds.

From June 16 to 19, a team from the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee visited Hinggan League, Chifeng and Hohhot in Inner Mongolia to inspect the enforcement of the Forest Law. The team visited forestry farms, businesses and the homes of forestry workers to learn about local efforts to implement the law. They also held symposiums to solicit opinions and suggestions from government officials, forestry experts and frontline workers on strengthening the enforcement of the law.

The inspection team noted that as the largest ecological functional zone with the most diverse range of ecosystems in northern China, Inner Mongolia is the main front in the "Three-North" Shelterbelt Forest Program and the battle against desertification. They emphasized that it is crucial to diligently implement the Forest Law, continuously promote the protection of natural forests and the development of arti-

ficial forests and consistently improve both the quantity and quality of forest resources.

## Afforestation

On June 18, the inspection team visited the Ma'anshan Forest Farm in Harqin Banner, Chifeng.

Established in October 1962, the farm's forest coverage rate has increased from less than 20 percent at its inception to 95.7 percent today. The farm has cumulatively afforested over 5,800 mu (around 386.67 hectares) of land, steadily improving the forest area and the quality of the forest and turning once-barren mountains into lush green landscapes.

Over the years, Inner Mongolia has achieved a historic transformation away from desertification. In 2023 and 2024, the region has completed nearly 44 million mu of ecological development tasks, including 12.15 million mu of afforestation, exceeding annual targets.

Since the revision of the Forest Law in December 2019, Inner Mongolia has been cultivating, protecting and developing forest resources in accordance with the law, and has continuously enhanced law enforcement supervision, public aware-

ness campaigns and forest protection management.

The region has afforested around 33.79 million mu of land, which is 130.22 percent of the planned target, ranking first nationwide in both scale and forest area.

The inspection team fully affirmed the remarkable achievements in Inner Mongolia's forestry development. They also urged the region to continue pursuing law-based afforestation, forest protection and forest economy vitalization, strictly implementing the Forest Law and carrying out large-scale land greening initiatives using scientific methods to safeguard the hard-earned ecological gains made through generations of effort.

## Forest protection

Fires pose the greatest threat to forests. The Forest Law establishes a comprehensive framework for the scientific prevention, control and management of forest fires, which is a key focus of this law enforcement inspection.

On June 17, the team visited the Emergency Affairs Center of the Arxan Forest Industry Company in the Hinggan League to learn about the efforts in forest fire prevention.

The center, which integrates early warning, monitoring and firefighting, has established a fire emergency command platform combining ground patrols and aerial monitoring, enabling round-the-clock real-time fire monitoring. It has successfully intercepted six wildfires originating from across the China-Mongolia border and extinguished two lightning-ignited fires, ensuring that the Arxan forest area has not experienced any major or particularly serious man-made forest fires for 21 consecutive years.

According to reports at an symposium held by the inspection team, since 2020, Inner Mongolia has allocated 4.96 billion yuan (around \$697 million) from central and autonomous regional funds to improve its fire prevention and control capabilities. By 2024, the number of forest fires in the region had

decreased by 33 percent compared to 2020.

Meanwhile, Inner Mongolia has been promoting the effective implementation of the Forest Law through local legislation, institutional development, law enforcement inspections and public awareness campaigns, utilizing the rule of law to protect valuable forest resources such as natural forests, public benefit forests and nature reserves.

To strengthen local legislation, Inner Mongolia has successively formulated and revised local regulations including the Measures for Implementing the Forest Law and the Regulations on Forest Seeds. The region also issued guidelines on comprehensively promoting the "forest chief" system in 2021 and has appointed more than 25,000 forest chiefs at all levels to enhance forest governance.

The inspection team urged further efforts to advance forestry infrastructure construction and scientific research to enhance fire prevention and pest control capabilities. They also highlighted the necessity to strictly implement the "forest chief" system, promote public involvement in lawful expansion and protection of forests, strengthen oversight of forest resource protection and crack down on violations that damage forest resources.

## Forest economy vitalization

The Forest Law includes a dedicated chapter on management and operation, which stipulates the rational use of public benefit forests and forest landscapes, allowing for the appropriate development of under-forest economy and forest tourism to promote high-quality development in forestry regions.

Officials from the Arxan National Forest Park explained how the park earnestly implements the provisions of the Forest Law, prioritizing conservation and leveraging the park's natural and cultural resources to attract more visitors for health and wellness tourism.

In recent years, Inner Mongolia has closely integrated ecological protection with green development and livelihood improvement. It has rationally developed and utilized forest, grassland and desert resources, vigorously cultivating specialty industries such as flowers, fruits, mushrooms, medicinal plants and herbs as well as forest-based health tourism. In 2024, the total output value of the region's forestry and grassland industries reached 101.3 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 16.2 percent.

Not far from the Arxan National Forest Park, a forest farm has developed an under-forest economy using land retired from farming for afforestation, planting large areas of sea buckthorn. After five years of cultivation, the plants have entered their peak fruiting period, with expected revenue of nearly 4 million yuan this year, creating significant employment opportunities.

The inspection team said that it is critical to firmly uphold and practice the concept that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets." While ensuring forest ecological security, efforts should be made to promote the transformation and upgrading of the forestry industry, developing under-forest economy suited to local conditions and forest characteristics, they said. This will advance comprehensive rural vitalization and income growth for forest residents, the team added. (NPC) ■



In recent years, the Ma'anshan Forest Farm in Harqin Banner, Chifeng, has vigorously implemented the Forest Law, achieving a cumulative afforestation area of over 5,800 mu. Li Xiaojian





The Dapingzhang ancient tea forest in Jingmai Mountain of Pu'er, Southwest China's Yunnan province, is shrouded in mist and clouds. *Jia Tianyong*

# Protecting heritage, sustaining tradition

—Regulation enforcement inspection for preserving ancient tea trees

**N**estled in its mountains, Yunnan province is more than just famous tea—it's the ancestral home of tea. This province is a living museum of ancient tea trees, a one-of-a-kind kingdom of biodiversity that's vital to protect.

In line with the province's high-quality development vision and guided by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Yunnan Provincial Committee, the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress took action by introducing a series of regulations aimed at safeguarding its ancient tea trees, which came into force starting from March 1, 2023.

This year, the standing committee conducted an enforcement inspection of the regulations—all about preserving these natural treasures while helping the local tea industry thrive.

## Protection first

Yunnan's wild tea tree communities, ancient tea gardens

and centuries-old tea trees are not just living fossils of tea's origin and cultivation, they're also a vital genetic resource for the future of tea. These precious and unique biological and cultural treasures form an irreplaceable part of China's tea heritage.

In recent years, Yunnan has vigorously promoted the green development of its tea industry. However, challenges such as inadequate conservation of ancient trees and unreg-



ulated construction near tea gardens still persist. That made legal protection not just necessary, but urgent.

The provincial people's congress took a leading role, establishing a special legislative task force and collaborating with scientific institutions like the Tea Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to draft a science-backed plan for relevant legislative work. They also opened online channels for public opinions and talked with local governments, village administrative committees, tea farmers and enterprises to gather practical insights.

After several rounds of research, consultation and refinement, the regulations were passed on November 30, 2022. Its 30 articles clearly define ancient tea trees as those over 100 years old, whether wild or cultivated. It also set out holistic protections covering their genetics, environment, transplantation, use and even procedures for when a tree dies.

"The regulations prioritize ecology and green development, ensuring they are actionable and enforceable," said Gong Li, director of the Legislative Research Division of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress. Gong added that the regulations safeguard the lawful rights and interests of ancient tea tree owners and operators, while further strengthening the responsibilities of the government and relevant authorities. Moreover, the regulations specify six categories of prohibited activities that could damage ancient tea trees or their ecosystems, and introduce stricter protocols for transplant approval and procedures for handling deceased trees. These measures reflect local's commitment to protecting the ecological environment through institutional arrangements.

"The introduction of the regulations provides a solid legal foundation for the scientific conservation and utilization of ancient tea tree resources," Gong said. "It also paves the way for green development in Yunnan's tea industry, promotes comprehensive rural revitalization, and contributes to building a more beautiful Yunnan."

## Taking action

More than two years have passed since the regulations took effect. How has it been implemented so far? In June, the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress launched an enforcement inspection. The inspection team visited different localities, conducting on-site evaluations of the preservation, management, research and utilization of ancient tea trees.

"Since the regulations came into force, relevant departments across the province have coordinated efforts in key

## The introduction of the regulations provides a solid legal foundation for the scientific conservation and utilization of ancient tea tree resources.

tasks such as resource surveys, registration, conservation planning, brand development and cultural-tourism integration," said Zi Dengxiong, director of the General Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the provincial people's congress. "These measures have promoted the scientific protection, standardized management and sustainable use of ancient tea tree resources, contributing to higher quality and efficiency in Yunnan's tea industry."

As the world's first tea-themed World Heritage Site, the Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023, comprises five vast, contiguous ancient tea forests spanning 18,000 mu (approximately 1,200 hectares).

This cultural landscape, developed by the Blang and Dai people over 1,000 years ago for tea production, is characterized by their innovative understory cultivation technique. This method involves nurturing shade-tolerant shrubs or trees under taller tree canopies, a practice deeply rooted in the region's mountainous ecosystem and subtropical monsoon climate.

The forests are meticulously managed through a distinctive conservation system, blending government oversight with grassroots autonomy and honoring traditional tea cultivation practices and creating a unique cultural landscape where forests and tea thrive in harmony, and people coexist sustainably with the land.

The inspection team found that remarkable progress has been made in cataloging ancient tea resources and designating protected areas with identifying markers. To date, the province has registered approximately 676,600 mu (about 45,107 hectares) of ancient tea tree resources, totaling over 20.62 million trees. Preliminary statistics show that nine prefectures and cities have demarcated protection zones for ancient tea gardens and forests and erected 928 informational signs.

Efforts for technical protection and research have also advanced. Relevant regions have implemented the Technical Code for the Protection and Management of Ancient Tea Trees, adopting tailored conservation measures by category and class. Additionally, the province has established tea germplasm resource nurseries, which collectively preserve nearly 7,000 accessions of tea plant germplasm resources.

"In the past, the tea leaves were much thinner. Now, with greater protection efforts, the leaves have grown broader and the tea forests are lusher than ever," said Ke Aihua, an official of Mangjing village in Huimin town, where the landscape is located. "Protecting tea trees is like protecting our own eyes--this is a principle passed down by our ancestors."

Ke emphasized that as the regulations have taken root in people's hearts, and as everyone has consciously taken re-





sponsibility for safeguarding these ancient tea gardens, a precious heritage will be handed down through generations.

Picking tea is now restricted to only spring and autumn. The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is prohibited, and destructive harvesting is strictly banned--all codified into village administrative regulations.

Beyond community agreements, local people's congresses have also enacted supporting legislation. For example, Pu'er city implemented the Pu'er City Ancient Tea Tree Resources Protection Regulation and the Protection Regulation on the Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er, providing a legal foundation for city-wide conservation.

"Today, villagers are much more conscious about protecting ancient tea trees. Both the local ecology and the quality of life in the community have improved significantly," Yang Zezhong, a deputy to the People's Congress of Xishuangbanna autonomous prefecture, said.

## Tea treasures

"My family has made a living from tea for generations. In the past, life was hard--we lived in wooden huts with thatched roofs. But over the years, Jingmai Mountain has gained more recognition and better protection. Our tea has become more valuable, and our lives keep improving every day," tea farmer Yan Yikan said.

Tea gardens centered around Jingmai have developed a comprehensive production system--from harvesting to packaging--while extending into tourism, food and health products. In the first half of this year, Lancang Lahu autonomous county in Pu'er city welcomed nearly 4 million tourists, generating tourism revenue of 3.4 billion yuan (\$477 million).

Menghai county, another region famous for tea production, earned the Guinness World Record for the "World's Largest Contiguous Ancient Tea Forest," with a total projected area of 563,570 mu (approximately 37,571 hectares). By integrating tea with tourism and enhancing ecological initiatives, Menghai has promoted the convergence of primary, secondary and tertiary industries across five ancient tea mountains, extending the benefits of the Menghai Tea brand to more local residents.

From guarding ancient tea trees to starting organic tea farms, and from hi-tech processing to wellness retreats inspired by tea--that one humble leaf now ties together a full economic cycle. It connects growing, processing, research and development, cultural creativity, and shipping into one complete system.



A tea farmer is picking tea leaves. Zha Wei

These days, new kinds of tourism are taking off--like hands-on tea harvesting sessions and scenic tea field photo tours. Even local services, like homestays and restaurants, have leveled up. All of this is bringing fresh energy and better livelihoods to rural communities.

Since the regulation came into effect, tangible progress has been made in accelerating the integrated development of the ancient tea tree industry with other industries. Across the province, efforts to integrate tea culture with tourism are well underway. A variety of new products and themed routes have been launched, including educational tours of tea mountains, and cultural journeys along the Ancient Tea Horse Road.

The Ancient Tea Horse Road refers to trade passages in southwestern and northwestern China in ancient times, which mainly traded tea and horses. The large transportation network offered three major routes, Sichuan-Tibet, Yunnan-Tibet, and Qinghai-Tibet route, as well as many branch routes.

"In recent years, we have adopted technologies such as tree radar to enhance the protection of ancient tea trees, ensuring sustainable development based on sound conservation," said Lin Song, a deputy to the people's congress of Menghai and director of the Menghai County Tea and Green Food Industry Development Center.

The inspection team identified several challenges in enforcing the regulation and put forward several recommendations: improve training and public outreach to strengthen conservation awareness and practices; improve legal protections for ancient tea trees; carry out planned measures more effectively to ensure sustainable and healthy development; and promote the integrated development of tea culture, tea industry, and tea technology to enhance the value of ancient tea resources and support high-quality growth across the sector. (NPC) ■



Chairperson of the National Assembly (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan Dünýägözel Gulmanowa (third from left) visits the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Center for Young People. Guo Feng

# Strengthening national cooperation through legislative engagement

—Exclusive interview with Dünýägözel Gulmanowa, chairperson of the National Assembly of Turkmenistan

**A**t the invitation of Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, chairperson of the National Assembly (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan Dünýägözel Gulmanowa recently led a delegation to visit China.

In an exclusive interview with *The People's Congress of China* magazine, she stated that through bilateral initiatives, the friendly cooperative relationship between Turkmenistan and China will see new developments. She also extended her best wishes to China and the Chinese people. Edited excerpts of the interview follow:

*The People's Congress of China: China was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan. Over the past 33 years, the bilateral relationship has evolved from friendly cooperation to strategic partnership, and now to comprehensive strategic partnership. How do you evaluate the development of relations be-*

*tween the two countries over the past few decades? What are your expectations for deepening bilateral relations?*

Dünýägözel Gulmanowa: After Turkmenistan gained independence, China was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with our country. We've consistently deepened our bilateral ties and worked together on major joint projects, making China an important strategic partner for us.

Turkmenistan and China have established practical and effective mechanisms, solidifying our legal foundations. At the government and legislative levels, we have engaged in fruitful cooperation and deepened our partnership through social organizations, cultural exchanges and scientific collaboration. In the future, we look forward to enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, logistics, energy, technology, culture, sports, healthcare and tourism, and sharing experiences.



*In January 2023, China and Turkmenistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Revival of the Great Silk Road. China has been Turkmenistan's largest trading partner for several consecutive years. What new opportunities do you see in bilateral economic cooperation?*

Thanks to the joint efforts of our leaders, bilateral relations have flourished, unlocking fresh potential in trade and investment. The natural gas pipeline connecting our two nations stands as a powerful symbol of friendship. Large Chinese companies are actively involved in developing Turkmenistan's oil and gas resources, establishing modern processing facilities, and introducing advanced technologies to bolster local industrialization.

Today, we're synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative and Revival of the Great Silk Road through joint investments, manufacturing projects, energy security initiatives, and environmental improvements—all to benefit both our peoples.

*In October 2024, a signing ceremony for an MOU to establish a Luban Workshop in Turkmenistan was held in China's Shaanxi Province. This Luban Workshop will be the world's first Luban Workshop with full coverage of master's, undergraduate and vocational education. What's your perspective on this project?*

On October 18, 2024, key institutions, including Yagshygeldi Kakayev International Oil and Gas University of Turkmenistan, Xi'an Shiyou University, Hebei Petroleum University of Technology, China Education Association for International Exchange and China National Petroleum Corporation, signed the MOU. This partnership will facilitate student and faculty exchanges, joint research and knowledge-sharing, bridging industry and education to cultivate highly skilled professionals.

Alongside this, initiatives like the "New Era of the Great Silk Road" forum for the youth of Central Asia and China and the Turkmen-Chinese scientific and innovative forum Innovations, New Technologies and Issues of Their Implementation in Production have yielded remarkable results. We're confident that these collaborations will propel our bilateral relations to even greater heights.

*As a permanently neutral nation and the initiator of the Group of Friends of Neutrality, Turkmenistan has played a constructive role in maintaining international and regional peace and stability. In your view, how can legislative bodies contribute to promoting peace and dialogue?*

National legislative bodies and international parliamentary organizations have made positive contributions to promoting peace and dialogue. In meetings held by international and regional parliamentary organizations, such as the Inter-Par-

liamentary Union, efforts should focus on highlighting the important role of parliamentary organizations in building mutual trust for peace and facilitating effective dialogue. The National Assembly (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan will continue to proactively present our constructive initiatives to the international community and work toward their implementation.

Both Turkmenistan and China adhere to diplomatic principles of peace, equality and mutual benefit. We deeply appreciate China's steadfast support for the UN General Assembly resolution reaffirming Turkmenistan's status of permanent neutrality.

*Legislative exchanges are a vital part of state-to-state relations. During this visit, what new areas of cooperation did the two countries' legislative bodies explore? What steps will be taken to strengthen future exchanges and mutual learning?*

We highly value the outcomes of this visit to China. During the visit, our delegation held discussions with NPC chairman Zhao Leji and Chinese vice president Han Zheng. Both sides exchanged views on deepening political, economic, diplomatic and cultural cooperation through legislative exchanges, as well as on conducting activities within the frameworks of the China-Central Asia mechanism and the meetings of the heads of parliaments of the members of the Group of Friends of Neutrality.

Our two countries share similar stances on major issues within the UN and other multilateral platforms. The National Assembly of Turkmenistan is committed to enhancing friendly ties with China's National People's Congress, particularly through closer collaboration between specialized committees, as well as exchanges among youth and female legislators. We aim to contribute to the improvement of Turkmenistan-China relations through legislative efforts. (NPC) ■



Chairperson of the National Assembly (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan Dünýägözel Gulmanowa (center) visits the Palace Museum in Beijing. Guo Feng

# We are eager to learn from China's advanced experience

—Exclusive interview with Maria Fernanda Lay,  
president of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste



Maria Fernanda Lay (second from right), president of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, visits the deputy liaison office at Chunshu subdistrict in Beijing's Xichang district. *Bi Nan*

If you want to go far, go together. Maria Fernanda Lay, president of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, recently visited China at China's invitation and attended commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. In an exclusive interview, she said that China's friendly cooperation with other countries is a model that Timor-Leste can learn from.

*China was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Timor-Leste. How do you feel about being invited to attend the commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War? What are your expectations for deepening bilateral relations?*

I was very excited to be invited to such a grand commemorative event, which left me deeply impressed. I would like to extend my congratulations on its complete success.

China was among the first nations to recognize Timor-Leste's independence. Historically, Timor-Leste has also resisted foreign aggressors, and we deeply cherish peace and independence. At the same time, we recognize that after overcoming external invasion and achieving national liberation, it is essential to focus on advancing na-

tional development and fostering friendly relations with as many respectable partners as possible. In this regard, we have learned a great deal from China's experience, such as remaining committed to peace and maintaining the determination and drive for national development.

*During your visit, you toured the Museum of the Communist Party of China, the National Museum of China and the Hakka Museum of China. Which of these visits particularly resonated with you?*

Through my visit to the Museum of the Communist Party of China (CPC), I gained a deeper understanding of the CPC's great journey, and I was particularly impressed by its spirit of perseverance and hard work. China possesses a splendid civilization spanning five thousand years, and in the course of modernization, it has attached great importance to preserving its unique cultural identity. Its experience in cultural heritage preservation offers valuable lessons to learn from. As a Hakka descendant myself, I was deeply moved by the opportunity to visit the Hakka Museum of China and learn in detail about Hakka history. Many Hakka descendants live in Timor-Leste, and they have made contributions to the country's cultural exchange and diverse development.

*The China-supported Watuwa-Modob Irrigation Project was officially commenced lately, marking another fruitful result of the Belt and Road cooperation between China and Timor-Leste. Could you share your views on promoting practical cooperation between the two countries in various fields?*

Timor-Leste and China have established sound cooperation in multiple areas. The Watuwa-Modob Irrigation Project, an infrastructure collaboration carried out under the Belt and Road Initiative framework, will tangibly improve the lives of the people in Timor-Leste. Coffee is a signature product of Timor-Leste, and distinctive agricultural products like coffee have been exported to China, enjoying popularity among Chinese consumers and helping increase the income of local people in Timor-Leste. The two countries enjoy close people-to-people exchanges. Thanks to Chinese scholarship programs, many students from Timor-Leste pursue studies in China, further enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. In the future, Timor-Leste hopes to further expand cooperation with China in areas including infrastructure, energy, agriculture, food security and tourism.

During my visit, I witnessed China's rapid development





Maria Fernanda Lay (sixth from left), president of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, visits the Museum of the Communist Party of China. (Photo provided by the Museum of the Communist Party of China)

## We are eager to learn from China's experience in grassroots-level democratic practices in this regard.

in science and technology, particularly in the clean energy sector. Timor-Leste has favorable conditions for solar power generation, and we hope to cooperate with China in this field.

*In July 2024, the two countries signed a joint statement on deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership, which emphasized enhancing exchanges between legislative bodies. During this visit, what new directions of cooperation were explored between the legislative bodies of the two countries?*

I held talks with Chinese leaders, and we reached consensus on strengthening exchanges and cooperation between high-level officials, bilateral friendship groups, parliamentarians and representatives of the legislative bodies to deepen exchanges of experiences in governance and state administration and enhance cooperation in the training of professionals for legislative institutions. Timor-Leste is a founding member of the G7+ and the only Asian country in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, and it will soon become a full member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The National Parliament of

Timor-Leste is ready to engage in close exchanges and cooperation with China's National People's Congress (NPC), particularly to learn from China's advanced experience in legislation. We also hope to strengthen coordination and collaboration in multilateral settings to jointly safeguard the interests of developing countries.

*Deputy liaison offices and legislative outreach offices serve as crucial platforms for NPC deputies to maintain close ties with the public and practice whole-process people's democracy. After visiting the deputy liaison office, could you share your views on China's whole-process people's democracy?*

During my visit to the deputy liaison office in Chunshu subdistrict, Xicheng district in Beijing, I gained a deep understanding of China's people-centered philosophy and its commitment to putting the people first. The staff there presented the process of how motions and suggestions from deputies are formed, and I witnessed firsthand the lively practice of whole-process people's democracy at the grassroots level. People are deeply engaged in democratic practices, and deputies maintain close connections with the people.

Democracy must be rooted in tradition and tailored to national conditions. Like China's NPC, the National Parliament of Timor-Leste also seeks to solicit public opinions and pool public wisdom in a more scientific, systematic and efficient manner to improve people's livelihoods. We are eager to learn from China's experience in grassroots-level democratic practices in this regard. (NPC) ■

# NPC hosts seminar for SCO parliamentarians, seeking common development

On June 15, 2001, the heads of state of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan gathered in Shanghai to jointly announce the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a new regional international organization spanning the Eurasian continent.

Over the past 24 years, the SCO has grown into the world's largest and most populous comprehensive regional cooperation organization. As a constructive force with significant international influence, it has expanded its "circle of friends" and explored a development path of cooperation for win-win results.

In a remarkable display of pragmatic cooperation and cultural exchange, the first-ever seminar for SCO parliamentarians was hosted by China's National People's Congress (NPC) from July 14 to 20.

With the aim of strengthening exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies to promote the building of an SCO community with a shared future, the seminar included special sessions in Beijing and a visit to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

It brought together 22 parliamentarians and three parliamentary officials from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The seminar was held as China assumes the rotating presidency of the SCO this year, and the SCO Summit will be held in north China's Tianjin from August 31 to September 1, when leaders from more than 20 countries and heads of 10 international organizations are expected to attend relevant events.

Peng Qinghua, vice-chairman of China's NPC Standing Committee, attended the opening ceremony of the seminar and delivered a speech.

He called for efforts to strengthen exchanges between legislative bodies, continuously deepen practical cooperation and pool the "SCO strength" to improve global governance, so as to jointly promote the SCO's development towards a higher level.

## SCO: A unique platform for dialogue, coordination and cooperation in political, economic and cultural sectors

In Beijing, participants attended lectures on topics such as building platforms for exchange among legislative bodies, sharing governance experiences, promoting economic and trade cooperation to achieve the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and promoting the "Shanghai Spirit."

During discussions after the lectures, they agreed that the SCO has become a unique platform for dialogue, coordination and cooperation in cultural, economic and political sectors, especially during China's rotating presidency.

In a world undergoing profound changes, they noted, legislative bodies play a crucial role in fostering trust among peoples, ensuring stability through the rule of law and advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

They further highlighted the enormous potential for expanding cooperation within the SCO framework in the fields of green economy, digital transformation, sustainable agriculture, water resources, energy and connectivity. They also spoke highly of China's legislative practices, such as soliciting public input on draft laws, describing them as valuable experiences worth sharing.

In addition to attending lectures, participants gained firsthand insights into China's development and modernization efforts. They visited the Museum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing, where they explored the CPC's century-long journey and China's remarkable achievements under its leadership.

Oleg Vasilyevich Matytsin, chairman of Russia's State Duma Committee on Physical Culture and Sports, expressed his admiration for China's progress, emphasizing the importance of mutual learning within the SCO framework for regional peace and stability.

They also visited the Forbidden City, where they experienced the beauty of Chinese culture. A Kyrgyz parliamentarian remarked, "Behind the Forbidden City lies China's profound traditional culture, and the preservation of traditional culture is a common topic among SCO member states."



The parliamentarians engage in discussions on carrying forward the Shanghai Spirit and contributing the SCO's strength to global governance. Zhang Weiqi



The journey continued with a visit to the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, where participants observed how the regional legislature works.

In Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang, they visited a community service center, which features a liaison station for deputies to the people's congresses and grassroots legislative outreach office. The center also houses cultural spaces such as an intangible cultural heritage studio and a calligraphy room.

"Though small, the community connects countless households. The liaison station ensures that small issues are addressed, and difficult problems can be solved," Matytsin noted, "China's steady economic growth and improved living standards are attributed to its whole-process people's democracy and an efficient governance system based on public opinion."

Ilimbek Kubanychbekov, a member of the Committee on Social Policy of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament, praised the smooth expression of diverse voices in Xinjiang, noting that "democracy in China is not just a slogan but a visible practice."

At iFlytek's Xinjiang branch, participants were impressed by advances in software development, artificial intelligence and digital products.

A representative from Tajikistan's Parliament voiced the hope for greater promotion of these technological advancements in Tajikistan, emphasizing the potential for deeper cooperation within the SCO framework.

At the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Museum, participants learned about the history of ancient Silk Road, which played a crucial role in cultural integration.

From the Silk Road 2,000 years ago to today's SCO and Belt and Road Initiative, win-win cooperation remains the underlying theme, which is deeply rooted in China's profound traditional culture, participants remarked. It is the traditional Chinese culture that cultivated the "Shanghai Spirit" featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development, they added.

### **SCO: A guardian of regional security and stability and a contributor to regional development and prosperity**

Throughout their stay in China, the parliamentarians from the SCO member states agreed that exchanges among legislative bodies of SCO member states are vital to practicing the "Shanghai Spirit."

Pakistani National Assembly member Raja Usama Sarwar noted that the "Shanghai Spirit" provides framework and guiding principles for legislative cooperation. He called for deeper dialogue, coordination of legal frameworks and sharing of experiences in state governance and public service.

Regardless of size or economic development level, SCO member states treated each other on an equal footing, embodying the "Shanghai Spirit," one of the participants said, adding that the seminar created opportunities for mutual understanding and exchange of legislative experiences.

Echoing this sentiment, Kubanychbekov emphasized the importance of exchange mechanisms among legislative



The parliamentarians visit a community service center at Gaotie subdistrict in Urumqi Economic and Technological Development Zone (Toutunhe district). Zhou Yudong

**"Though small, the community connects countless households. The liaison station ensures that small issues are addressed, and difficult problems can be solved," Matytsin noted.**

bodies, which are grounded in mutual trust, respect, and the pursuit of sustainable development.

Matytsin was impressed by China's grassroots legislation outreach office, noting China and Russia are both at an important juncture for development. "Exchanges and mutual learning in legislative experiences begin with dialogue. Such communication will contribute to national and regional development," he said.

Aleksei Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the Standing Commission on Legislation and State Building of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, also emphasized the positive role of legislative exchanges and cooperation among SCO member states, noting that the seminar provides insights into China's new practices in promoting democracy and the rule of law.

Kydyrali Darkhan Kuandykuly, secretary of the Committee on International Relations, Defense and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, highlighted that SCO member states are committed to upholding the SCO community with a shared future and the "Shanghai Spirit" to make greater contributions to regional security, stability, development and prosperity.

The seminar concluded with heartfelt expressions of friendship and solidarity. At the closing ceremony, participants emphasized that the SCO is a "big family" and called for collaborative efforts to harness the strength of the organization, safeguard regional stability, and strive for common development, so as to make the world a better place. (NPC) ■

# Oilfield deputy contributes strength to national energy security



Zhang Hongling (left) talks with her workmate to help her resolve problems in production. Courtesy photo

**I**n Nanliang township of Huachi county, northwest China's Gansu province, lies the oil extraction operation area of the No.2 oil production plant of Changqing Oilfield, China's largest oil-and-gas field.

In this remote mountainous area with harsh working conditions, Zhang Hongling, a frontline worker with PetroChina Changqing Oilfield Company and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), has been working for over two decades.

Zhang began her journey as an oil worker in 2003 as a novice in oil extraction. Through persistent training and hands-on experience over the years, she grew from a rookie to a senior technician, contributing to the safe operation of the oilfield.

The tough work and harsh conditions haven't worn down Zhang's passion, but have instead sparked her courage to overcome challenges.

"What keeps us going in the oil field is not only the faith in our hearts, but also the responsibility on our shoulders. We always bear in mind our mission to produce more oil and gas to contribute to the country's energy production," she said.

Thanks to the joint efforts of Zhang and her team, the Nanliang oil extraction operation area has maintained an annual output of over 500,000 tons since 2018, providing a steady flow of energy to power the country's industrial development. She has been honored as a model employee

of her company multiple times and as a national model worker in 2023.

In 2023, Zhang was elected as a deputy to the 14th NPC. "Securing the stable supply of oil and gas is crucial to the overall economic and social development as well as the immediate interests of the people. I will apply the same dedication and expertise I have demonstrated in the energy sector to my duties as an NPC deputy," she said.

As a frontline oil worker, Zhang pays close attention to national energy security and the sustainable development of the energy industry.

"China boasts abundant coalbed methane resources with immense exploration and development potential, which is crucial for advancing the development of a new energy system and achieving the dual carbon goals," Zhang said.

Through on-site research, Zhang identified gaps in the current management and key technologies hindering the development and utilization of coalbed methane.

At this year's NPC session in March, she proposed advancing the large-scale development and utilization of coalbed methane and called for greater exploration efforts and strategic planning.

She also emphasized the need to improve key technologies for coalbed methane exploration and utilization and provide support for enterprises to explore feasible engineering technology and production models, as well as to provide financial and tax incentives to enhance coalbed methane exploration and development.

Her suggestions received positive responses and prompt actions from relevant departments, reinforcing her resolve to fulfill her duties as an NPC deputy.

Every year after the NPC session, Zhang promptly returned to the oilfield to convey the guiding principles of the session to grassroots workers. She presents national policies to her fellow workmates using straightforward language and inspires them with firsthand accounts from the sessions.

"An NPC deputy must listen to the people's voices and effectively safeguard the fundamental interests of the grassroots workers," Zhang said.

She proactively addressed practical issues and concerns of her workmates in their work and life, gathering extensive suggestions and opinions from them on energy industry development and local economic growth in order to put forward targeted suggestions at NPC sessions.

"I will continue to fulfill my duties as an NPC deputy diligently, stay rooted in the grassroots and always remain committed to safeguarding national energy security," Zhang said. (NPC) ■



# Huang Chenghui speaks for industrial workers



Huang Chenghui (second from right) discusses with his workmates about technical details. Zhang Si

**A**t Guangxi Guigang Iron and Steel Group Co. Ltd. in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, Huang Chenghui, deputy director of the preparation workshop of the steel rolling plant, has built a reputation for technical excellence and perseverance over his 16 years of frontline work at the company.

Huang has played a key part in establishing and developing the roll machining production line from scratch.

His persistent efforts have led to a series of technical breakthroughs. Among them was the transformation of the wire-cut electrical discharge machining conductive system, which significantly extended the lifespan of essential components like molybdenum wires. His innovative approach enhanced the efficiency of the tools and technology by more than 40 percent, earning him the honorable title of "Guigang Craftsman."

Reflecting on his career, Huang said that while technical work may appear monotonous, the satisfaction of overcoming challenges and the joy of success make it all worthwhile.

In 2023, Huang's dedication to his craft propelled him to the national stage as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), where he embraced his role as a bridge between the government and the grassroots.

Huang gathered suggestions and opinions from his fellow workers and advocated for their aspirations and concerns at annual NPC sessions.

Through in-depth dialogues and heartfelt exchanges,

Huang learned about the pressing need of industrial workers for streamlined pathways for professional advancement.

At the first session of the 14th NPC in 2023, he presented suggestions for eliminating hurdles on career advancement and elevating the status and benefits of skilled workers, which received prompt responses from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, leading to the establishment of a self-assessment mechanism for skilled workers within Guigang Group.

In 2024, Huang broadened his focus to vulnerable groups, as he championed policies to provide incentives and assistance to elderly individuals who have lost their only child, receiving positive feedback from the National Health Commission.

Ahead of this year's NPC session, Huang conducted a meticulous survey, during which he found pressing public concerns about rural healthcare insurance and the emerging challenges faced by workers involved in new forms of employment.

Based on his findings, Huang submitted a set of suggestions to the session on enhancing rural healthcare insurance, safeguarding the rights and interests of workers in new job landscapes and protecting the rights and interests of workers during the upgrading and transformation of the manufacturing industry.

As an NPC deputy from the private sector, Huang said he is happy to see the adoption of the Private Sector Promotion Law.

"I am most delighted that the law provides substantial support for technological innovation in private enterprises," he said.

The law guides private businesses to strengthen fundamental and cutting-edge research, develop core technologies in key fields and promote the development of advanced cross-disciplinary technologies according to national strategic needs, industry development trends and global technological frontiers.

Huang said that private enterprises are highly responsive to market trends. "We react swiftly to market needs. Whatever the market demands, we immediately turn to research and development to adjust and optimize our products," he said.

Huang suggested that it is necessary to promptly improve policy support to facilitate the effective implementation of the Private Sector Promotion Law.

Particularly, he called for efforts to optimize services, standardizing policy implementation and providing targeted support to alleviate burdens and mitigate risks for private enterprises, thereby assisting them in achieving sustainable development. (NPC) ■

# Deputy committed to rural development after military service



Shi Bingqi works in an orchard in his village. *Courtesy photo*

**W**ith a remarkable 37-year military career, Shi Bingqi returned to his hometown of Dazhuang village in Hejian city, north China's Hebei province, after retirement in 2018.

Over the past seven years, Shi has rooted himself in the countryside, leading Dazhuang onto the prosperous path as the village's Party secretary.

"I am a soldier at heart no matter where I am. I stand ready to serve the people as always," he said.

Shi joined the army in 1978 at the age of 18 with a fervent desire to serve the country. The resolute spirit and selfless dedication became ingrained in his very being ever since.

Driven by a deep-rooted passion to uplift his hometown, Shi moved back to the village with his wife in 2018 and embarked on a new chapter of service to his community.

Shi seamlessly transitioned into his role as a village leader, embodying the same steadfast commitment to serving the people. Under his leadership, Dazhuang village transformed from a struggling community to a shining model of rural vitalization.

Shi's vision for the village centered around enhancing agricultural productivity and increasing farmers' incomes. Through initiatives such as land consolidation and the establishment of a village agricultural product showcase center, he propelled the village's collective economy to new heights.

By spearheading reforms in collective property rights and establishing an agricultural cooperative, Shi catalyzed

the transition from traditional vegetable farming to large-scale cultivation and marketing. In 2024, the collective economic income of Dazhuang exceeded 200,000 yuan (\$27,843).

Beyond economic development, Shi focused on holistic improvements in the village, including comprehensive upgrades in infrastructure, landscaping while forging community unity and harmony. Thanks to his efforts, Dazhuang village witnessed harmonious resolution of disputes, economic prosperity and an overall enhancement in residents' well-being and sense of security.

Since he was elected as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in 2023, Shi recognized the broader challenges facing rural communities and embarked on a mission to advocate for high-quality rural development and the cultivation of a skilled workforce.

Through extensive visits to over 200 villages, he found that while the rural economic growth gained a good momentum, there are still issues restraining agricultural and rural development, such as weak collective economies, a lack of competitiveness and talent shortages.

"Rural vitalization is a relay race. We should not only solve current challenges but also pave the way for future generations," Shi said, adding that talent is the most crucial factor in rural revitalization.

He noted that building a high-quality talent pool in rural areas is not only a practical requirement for rural revitalization but also an aspiration from the grassroots population.

Based on the opinions and suggestions he collected from local residents through field visits and research, Shi submitted suggestions at this year's NPC session which aim to comprehensively promote high-quality development of rural collective economies, strengthen talent cultivation to boost high-quality rural vitalization and nurture social etiquette to foster new cultural norms within rural communities.

"We need to attract a wide range of villagers and industry professionals to boost rural collective economies, and continuously optimize talent structure. Attracting talent is not enough, we also need to find a way to retain them, and encourage more outstanding individuals to engage in rural revitalization," Shi said.

He also stressed the necessity to develop new types of rural collective economies tailored to local conditions, broaden new growth paths and explore new pathways for rural development.

Shi's commitment to rural revitalization is unwavering, as he continues to lead Dazhuang village towards a brighter future. "I will fulfill my duty as an NPC deputy and bring more voices from the grassroots to NPC sessions," he said. (NPC)■



# Hunan deputy boosts prosperity through oilseed rape cultivation



Shen Changjian checks rape flowers in the field. Courtesy photo

**S**hen Changjian, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), is revered as “king of oilseed rape” in his village of Baiyun in Linli county, central China's Hunan province.

Emerging from the fields, he has dedicated over 30 years to the research of oilseed rape, focusing on developing super hybrid varieties to boost the income of local residents.

The journey of Shen and his father with oilseed rape began over 40 years ago in a serendipitous moment in southwest China's Guizhou province. His father witnessed the exceptional growth of wild oilseed rape plants and envisioned creating a new variety in Hunan to address the scarcity of edible oil in their hometown.

Ever since, Shen and his father dived into the world of oilseed rape. Facing financial constraints and a lack of expertise, Shen sought guidance from experts like Fu Tingdong, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Huang Song, a professor at the Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Despite being ridiculed by locals, who didn't believe a farmer could conduct scientific research, Shen and his father remained undeterred, focusing wholeheartedly on their project.

Their efforts paid off in 2004, when the “Guiye A” variety they bred was granted a national invention patent. In 2014, Shen successfully cultivated “Shen Hybrid Oilseed Rape No.1,” a high-yielding and collapse-resistant variety that is suitable for mechanized sowing and harvesting.

In 2016, 43.8 grams of hybrid rape seeds he developed were carried aboard the Shenzhou-XI spacecraft, making it the first farmer-bred oilseed rape variety to reach space.

In addition, Shen has developed over 20 varieties of colorful rape flowers. The new oilseed rape varieties bred by Shen have been promoted nationwide, achieving high yields and oil content.

“Making money for myself isn't enough; true prosperity

comes from helping impoverished neighbors escape poverty,” said Shen.

In 2024, he spearheaded the planting of 20,000 mu (1,333.33 hectares) of oilseed rape by local farmers and provided over 500 kilograms of quality seeds free of charge to households that have just been lifted out of poverty. In just one oilseed rape season, he helped farmers increase their income by over 20 million yuan (\$2.79 million).

In 2018, Shen was elected as an NPC deputy. While continuing to work as a farmer/scientist, he delved deeper into rural life, advocating for the concerns of farmers and rural communities and dedicating himself to contributing to revitalization in his hometown.

Reelected in 2023, he started his second five-year term as a national lawmaker. Over the past years, he has submitted 85 suggestions to the NPC sessions, reflecting his commitment to the well-being of farmers and rural development.

During a visit to a mountainous village in Lilin in October last year, Shen learned that the unprofitability of oilseed rape cultivation in hilly areas led to fallow farm fields in the season. He recognized the necessity of agricultural industrialization to unlock the full potential of oilseed rape planting in mountainous areas.

At this year's NPC session in March, Shen called for attention to the issue of oilseed rape production during deputies' group discussions.

He proposed organizing oilseed rape production through industrialized methods and a market-oriented approach and reducing production costs through agricultural mechanization.

His suggestions garnered significant attention from relevant authorities of the State Council and the Hunan provincial people's government, leading to substantial financial support for farmland renovation and agricultural infrastructure development in Lilin.

Growing up in rural settings, Shen has long been concerned about rural elderly care. In his numerous suggestions to the NPC sessions, he emphasized the importance of strengthening rural elderly care services, advocating for the development of social welfare and mutual aid organizations and increase of basic pension benefits for rural residents to address the needs of vulnerable elderly individuals.

His suggestions have prompted the Ministry of Civil Affairs to increase investment in the construction of nursing homes in rural areas, raise standards for rural elderly care pensions and commend exemplary figures in elderly care to ensure a more dignified and fulfilling life for elderly residents in the countryside.

From providing technical guidance to local farmers to renovating ponds for villages at his own expense, Shen has spared no efforts to promote rural prosperity. “As an NPC deputy, it's my duty to translate the guiding principles of the Government Work Report into concrete actions,” he said. (NPC) ■

# Liu Bing values every opportunity to speak for her rural community



Liu Bing visits an elderly woman in her community. Courtesy photo

**L**iu Bing, Party secretary of the Laolong community in Pingtian township of Nanxiong city, south China's Guangdong province, has helped over 1,000 households in her community increase their incomes by raising black chickens.

As a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), Liu values every opportunity at the annual NPC session to speak for her community in order to enable the policymakers to hear the voices and concerns of those at the grassroots level.

Seventeen years ago, Liu and her husband made the bold decision to quit their jobs in Zhongshan city of Guangdong shortly after getting married and returned to their hometown in a village in northern Guangdong, where they started the business in raising pigs.

Overcoming difficulties, Liu and her husband propelled the pig farm on the right track, achieving an annual output of over 1,300 pigs.

In 2015, she was elected as a member of the village committee. "To prosper in our mountainous village, we need to develop specialty industries," Liu often said to her villagers. She set her sights on black chickens, a local specialty.

She provided chicken seedlings free of charge to her villagers, learned the skills of raising chickens and shared

all her experience. The business model incorporating companies, cooperatives, breeding bases and farmers she established has drawn participation of more villagers and increased their incomes significantly.

As the chicken farming grew steadily, marketing surfaced as a pressing issue. Leveraging the internet, Liu turned to e-commerce platforms. Through livestreaming sales, she helped villagers expand the market for black chickens, ultimately creating a distinctive brand for farm produces in Nanxiong.

In 2017, Liu was elected as the Party secretary of the Laolong community. She is known for her efficiency, decisiveness and proactive approach.

"The immediate concerns of the people must be addressed without delay," she said.

Over the years, Liu has sponsored over 40 students to complete their education and regularly visited the elderly in nursing homes. Her sincerity has earned widespread praise and recognition from the community.

In 2023, Liu was elected as an NPC deputy. Reflecting on her journey from a small rural village to the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Liu expressed her gratitude for the opportunity.

"Our country has such a good fundamental political system. As a grassroots deputy from the countryside, I'm committed to speaking for people at the grassroots level to ensure that the top-level decision-makers hear the voices from rural communities," she said.

Focusing on improving water conservancy infrastructure for national food security and the development of high-standard farmland, Liu has put forward numerous suggestions on rural revitalization.

Recognizing the significance of efficient transportation networks in facilitating the growth of rural areas, she has called for improving railway facilities, receiving timely responses from relevant government departments.

"For rural revitalization, industry support and road infrastructure are essential," Liu said.

As this year marks the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for national economic and social development, while the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) is in the pipeline, she said it is important to plan major engineering projects in northern Guangdong.

She expressed the hope that the Ganzhou-Shaoguan railway capacity expansion project could be included in the national medium and long-term railway network plan during the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

"Since becoming an NPC deputy, I've often felt stretched for time. I even wish there were 48 hours in a day so I could do more to better serve my communities," she said. (NPC) ■



# Li Nannan breathes new life into elderly care industry



Li Nannan talks with an elderly person at the nursing home. Courtesy photo

**L**i Nannan, head nurse of an elderly care center in Nantong city in east China's Jiangsu province, has been dedicated to the elderly care industry with love, care and patience.

Li, in her 30s, gave up her secure job at a hospital 14 years ago and became a caregiver at Nantong Fuai Elderly Care Center.

Over the years, she has provided care to over 200 elderly residents, spending more time with them in the nursing home than she does with her parents. "Unlike hospitals, caring for the elderly in nursing homes requires not only professional nursing knowledge but also emotional investment," Li said.

Serving as a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) for over seven years, she has submitted a number of suggestions on developing the elderly care industry to the annual NPC sessions.

Recognizing the inadequate support for the elderly care industry and the lack of standardized training and evalua-

**"Care for the elderly is not a 'sunset industry' but a 'sunrise industry'," she said.**

tion mechanism for caregivers, Li called for restoring caregiver qualification certificates. Her suggestions were highly regarded by the relevant government departments, leading to the restoration of the caregiver certification system that had been stagnant for years.

To address the issue of low salaries and difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in the elderly care sector, she proposed measures to open up career advancement pathways for caregivers. Thanks to her suggestion, Jiangsu has introduced guidelines on strengthening the workforce development in elderly care services, boosting the confidence of those involved in the sector, especially young people.

Li emphasized the necessity to attract more young people to join the elderly care workforce to meet the substantial demand for elderly care services. "Compared to the vast demand, the current supply of elderly care services remains significantly inadequate, and the quality of service needs to be improved," she said.

"The development of the elderly care service industry needs involvement of more young people. This is also the goal that I, as an NPC deputy, have been advocating for."

In 2015, the fifth plenary session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee decided to establish a long-term care (LTC) insurance system to effectively meet the evolving needs of its aging population and the corresponding increasing demand for long-term care services. The following year, Nantong became one of the first 15 pilot cities nationwide to implement the LTC insurance.

Beyond her regular work, Li spent a lot of time in conducting in-depth research by visiting surrounding cities, local towns and residents' homes to learn about the development of the LTC insurance. She found that the implementation standards for the insurance vary among different cities in Jiangsu.

At this year's NPC session, Li submitted a suggestion regarding the LTC insurance standards and cross-region utilization to enhance the efficient operation of the LTC system.

"Care for the elderly is not a 'sunset industry' but a 'sunrise industry'," she said. (NPC) ■

# Jiangsu deputy keeps old Suzhou embroidery up to the times



Yao Jianping poses for a photo with her works. Xu Hang

**Yao said that art should reflect the pulse of societal development and capture the essence of contemporary culture.**

Suzhou embroidery shines brightly in the vast expanse of China's cultural heritage. As tourism industry thrives, the revitalization and creative transformation of intangible cultural heritage has become both culturally significant and economically promising.

As a deputy, Yao cares most about the preservation and development of intangible cultural heritage. "My field research shows the local embroidery tourism market lacks direction and is not well-integrated into the broader industry," she said.

Through collaboration with a research center at Nanjing Normal University, she gained insights into the challenges faced by artisans in transforming their works into tourism products, such as limited product-market fit and underdeveloped sales channels.

Her meticulous fieldwork and observations of how intangible heritage products are displayed in popular tourist destinations, coupled with feedback from tourists, Yao made suggestions on strengthening standardization for integrating intangible cultural heritage with tourism at the annual NPC session in 2024.

"I suggested the establishment of an expert pool to provide technical guidance, formulating standards for the use of the intangible cultural heritage logo in the tourism industry and revising the Regulations on the Management of China Intangible Cultural Heritage Label, aligning it with national efforts in cultural and tourism standardization," she said. Her suggestion was eventually included among the key suggestions prioritized by the NPC Standing Committee in 2024 and followed up by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

At this year's NPC session, Yao put forward multiple suggestions regarding promoting the high-quality development of the Chinese embroidery industry and advancing traditional Chinese embroidery techniques to be considered as candidate projects for inclusion in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

"Progress is now being made in the standardization of intangible cultural heritage, and relevant authorities are promoting the better integration of intangible cultural heritage with tourism," she said. (NPC) ■

**Y**ao Jianping, a passionate artist and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), has dedicated nearly 50 years to Suzhou embroidery, one of the oldest embroidery techniques in the world and a quintessential type of Chinese embroidery.

With a simple needle moving rhythmically across fabric, Yao breathes life into fabric and threads, creating works infused with cultural heritage and a resonant, contemporary spirit.

Yao, a national intangible cultural heritage inheritor, is widely recognized for her unique style of the art featuring elegant patterns, ingenious designs, exquisite needlework, clever stitches and graceful colors.

Driven by a commitment to innovation and a desire to align with contemporary trends, she has enabled this traditional fine art to reach a wider audience.

Yao said that art should reflect the pulse of societal development and capture the essence of contemporary culture.

Through her work, Yao depicts the concept of "embroidery evolving with the times," using Suzhou embroidery as a medium to support the country's diplomacy, promote people-to-people ties, reflect the beauty of life and tell China's stories to the world.

By breaking free from traditions and embracing innovation, Suzhou embroidery can exude a more captivating artistic allure, she said.

As a vital component of traditional Chinese culture,



# Chen Aizhu propels village into prosperity



Chen Aizhu poses for a photo in front of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Courtesy photo

“I’m a farmer through and through and I speak for farmers,” said Chen Aizhu, a deputy to the National People’s Congress (NPC) and an edible bamboo shoot farmer from Aojiang town in east China’s Zhejiang province.

In 1992, Chen leased 100 mu (6.67 hectares) of land on barren hills in Fengao village. She sought guidance from agricultural experts while researching suitable species and varieties, determined to reforest the barren hills.

Through constant experimentation, she developed a feasible planting plan that balanced environmental restoration with economic benefits, introduced special, superior and rare bamboo varieties and established an experimental farm for edible bamboo shoots.

Thanks to Chen’s efforts, the bamboo shoots emerged from the soil, bringing greenery back to the barren hills.

Chen’s success in bamboo cultivation drew many villagers back to the mountains. She provided free bamboo seedlings to them, and shared her techniques and experience. With her help, many villagers started planting bamboo. Reforestation efforts turned the barren hills green and paved the way for the villagers to prosper. “Chen Aizhu has truly transformed barren hills into ‘golden mountains’ and led us to prosperity,” said her fellow villagers.

Chen’s ambition extends far beyond growing bamboo; she has a bigger vision--promote comprehensive revital-

**In addition to economic development, Chen also cares about public well-being, especially the rights and interests of the elderly and children.**

ization of her hometown. Recognizing that science and technology is crucial for sustainable growth, she started literacy classes to help women in the village learn to read and write and shared cultural knowledge, agricultural techniques and planting experience with fellow villagers. She also advocated for the rights of impoverished students who had dropped out of school and helped 12 students return to campus.

Since elected as an NPC deputy in 2018, Chen has remained committed to her responsibilities, regularly visiting rural households to listen to villagers’ concerns. She has presented multiple suggestions to the annual NPC sessions, focusing on issues such as the development of the planting industry, the reuse of vacant rural housing as well as the improvement of infrastructure and the living environment.

At the annual NPC session in 2024, Chen urged support for Wenzhou in building a near-sea international shipping center to reduce regional logistics costs and increase efficiency. Her suggestion was listed as a priority and was handled by a number of authorities including the Ministry of Transport.

In addition to economic development, Chen also cares about public well-being, especially the rights and interests of the elderly and children. Drawing on her long-term experience in supporting disadvantaged students, she advocated for increased attention to the mental well-being of and support for minor victims, and suggested establishing an information-sharing platform to extend the reach of judicial protection.

She also called for more policy support to promote the early application of artificial intelligence in elderly care services while advancing the development of information security protection systems for digital elderly care.

Over nearly eight years of fulfilling her duties, Chen has traveled extensively to fields, enterprises, communities and villagers’ homes to explain government policies and learn about the needs of residents.

“As a rural NPC deputy, the concerns of villagers are my own. I will continue to do my best to resolve their issues and work towards a better life for all,” she said. (NPC) ■

# Hubei deputy speaks for well-being of deliverymen



Wang Yong (front row, first from right) visits frontline deliverymen. Courtesy photo

**I**n the streets and alleys of bustling cities and towns in China, deliverymen clad in various uniforms can be seen everywhere. Driving a motorcycle with a box full of parcels on the back, they deliver convenience and goods into people's lives with their racing wheels.

Wang Yong, manager of SF Express Jiangnan Branch in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei province, is one of them.

In 2014, China's express delivery service handled more than 10 billion parcels. Wang entered the express delivery industry that year. "I was 30 years old at that time, and when I was looking for a job, I thought that express delivery could be a good option," Wang said.

Over the past decade, he has seen the rapid development of the express delivery industry in China. In 2024, the industry handled more than 175 billion parcels, a 21.5-percent year-on-year increase.

"Since I started in this sector, I have experienced all the ups and downs. So I really believe those who can persevere in this industry are exceptionally resilient," he said.

In 2020, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wang volunteered as a "full-time driver" for medical staff at the Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital. He organized a fleet of two to three dozen people to address the transportation needs of medical personnel.

He was presented Touching China Award 2020 in recognition of his selfless commitment. The award is presented annually to honor the country's most inspiring role models from various backgrounds. Wang humbly responded, "I simply fol-

**"Since I started in this sector, I have experienced all the ups and downs. So I really believe those who can persevere in this industry are exceptionally resilient," Wang Yong said.**

lowed my heart and did what I felt was right."

Starting as a frontline deliveryman, Wang has grown into the manager of the Jiangnan branch of SF Express, and was elected as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in 2023.

"With a stronger sense of mission, I always think about how to better leverage my strengths to provide good suggestions at the NPC annual sessions to make the express delivery industry better," he said.

He is acutely aware that for most of the deliverymen, the income from delivering a package is not much. Any unexpected event can make life extremely difficult for their families.

Therefore, Wang submitted a suggestion that all deliverymen nationwide should be provided with personal accident insurance to the NPC session in 2024. His suggestion was accepted by relevant authorities and implemented in various regions across the country.

The Government Work Report delivered at the NPC session in 2025 emphasized enhancing protection for workers in flexible employment and the new types of jobs. It also highlighted the expansion of the occupational injury insurance pilot programs.

Wang, speaking at a group discussion during the NPC session, expressed his appreciation for the attention given by the central government to rights protection of these workers, including deliverymen, truck drivers, warehouse managers and customer service personnel, and expressed his hope for the swift implementation of relevant policies.

To improve the working conditions of deliverymen in urban areas, Wang suggested that delivery vehicles could be categorized as special vehicles in cities, subject to standardized and unified management, to ensure better delivery services.

Wang also emphasized the need for express delivery companies to allocate workloads reasonably to allow deliverymen to have adequate time for rest, and pay more attention to their mental health.

"Express delivery connects countless households. While we demand speed and kindness for parcels, we must also ensure deliverymen are met with understanding and generosity that they deserve," Wang said. (NPC) ■



# How are deputies' suggestions handled?

By Kong Ling

**M**aking suggestions, criticisms and opinions on all aspects of work is the legal right of deputies to the people's congresses and an important way for them to perform their duties in accordance with the law. During the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), deputies made 9,160 suggestions focusing on the major decisions and plans of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the aspirations of the people. The Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, in coordination with relevant authorities, reviewed and analyzed these suggestions and forwarded them to 211 related departments for handling. These suggestions, which encapsulate public wisdom and will, are being transformed into pragmatic measures to advance high-quality development.

## Institutional evolution

In 1954, the first session of the First NPC adopted the Constitution, marking the formal establishment of the people's congress system, which constitutes the fundamental political system of the People's Republic of China. In the early years of the NPC, motions and suggestions submitted by deputies were collectively referred to as proposals. In 1982, the fifth session of the Fifth NPC adopted the Organic Law for the National People's Congress, which for the first time defined deputies' suggestions in legal terms. In 1992, the fifth session of the Seventh NPC adopted the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels, which explicitly affirmed the right of deputies to put forward suggestions. In 2005, the Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee approved in principle the Measures for the Handling of Suggestions, Criticisms and Opinions of the Deputies to the National People's Congress, establishing a systematic framework for handling deputies' suggestions.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has attached great importance to the work related to deputies. During each NPC session, General Secretary Xi attends deliberation with delegations, listens to deputies' opinions and suggestions, and calls on relevant authorities to earnestly handle them. The NPC Standing Committee has thoroughly implemented Xi's important instructions and continuously improved relevant institutions and mechanisms. In 2018, the Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee revised the Measures for the Handling of Suggestions, Criticisms and Opinions of the Deputies to the National People's Congress and included a chapter specifically addressing the handling of key suggestions. In 2023, the third session of the Standing Committee of the 14th NPC decided to establish the Deputies Affairs Commission and assigned it overall coordination responsibilities. In 2024, the Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee determined the arrangements for the supervision over the handling of key suggestions. In 2025, the third session of the 14th NPC adopted amendments to the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels, further improving the suggestion-handling mechanism by institutionalizing procedures for transferring suggestions and reporting on their handling, and adding provisions on supervision over suggestion handling. These major institutional developments have laid a solid foundation for the high-quality development of work related to deputies' suggestions and have made suggestions a vital channel for gathering public opinion and wisdom.

## A well-structured process

The handling of deputies' suggestions follows a tightly linked process that aligns policy-making more closely with public needs and helps transform the will and wisdom, appeals and aspirations of the people from written text into tangible outcomes.

Preliminary research and suggestion submission: from the fields to the Great Hall of the People. Suggestions originate from the grassroots. Every year, deputies conduct field research, inspections, symposiums and

visits to hear public concerns and expectations. The Deputies Affairs Commission regularly briefs deputies on the work of relevant authorities and provides reference materials to smoothen communication before suggestions are submitted, enabling deputies to be well-informed and involved in governance, and ensuring that the submitted suggestions are the result of careful research and consideration.

Precise categorization and assignment: from 9,160 to 211. After suggestions are put forward, they go through procedures such as initial review, preliminary classification, batch classification and assignment. Organizations handling the suggestions meticulously study them and identify applicable laws and policies. For suggestions involving multiple departments, joint deliberation is required to ensure precise classification. On March 26, 2025, the suggestion assignment conference was convened, where the 9,160 suggestions were assigned to 211 organizations to handle, matching each suggestion with the appropriate "solution provider."

Whole-process communication and handling: from "paper exchanges" to "joint problem-solving." During the handling process, the suggestion-handling organizations adhere to the principles of pre-handling needs solicitation, in-process communication, and post-handling effectiveness evaluation. Through face-to-face discussions and side-by-side field research, they learn about the people's concerns, build consensus, and solve problems. This effectively overcomes the limitations of one-way communication and superficial, paper-only responses.

Supervision and feedback: from "written-only replies" to "on-site oversight." According to the newly revised Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels, the Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee designated the key suggestions that need supervision in handling, with special committees of the NPC being responsible for supervision and the Deputies Affairs Commission being responsible for daily follow-up. The terminology has evolved over time—from "key suggestions" in 2004, to "suggestions in need of special attention in handling" in 2005, to the briefly used "suggestions in need of special attention in processing" during the 12th NPC, and finally to today's "key suggestions in need of supervision in handling." These changes reflect the growth and refinement of the system and highlight the increasing effectiveness of suggestions in serving the overall development agenda and improving public wellbeing.

Enhanced services and management: Institutionalization and standardization of the handling process have further improved. The Deputies Affairs Commission has earnestly fulfilled its responsibilities as entrusted by the CPC Central Committee, fully exercises its coordination function, and monitors critical milestones. By holding assignment meetings, training sessions, progress-review meetings, and seminars, it enhances whole-process services and oversight to ensure all suggestion-handling organizations complete their tasks within statutory timeframes.

Analysis and application of outcomes: from "one suggestion" to "sector-wide impact." Through in-depth analysis and systematic research on issues of common concern among deputies and topics receiving widespread public attention, high-quality analysis reports are produced. These reports promote improvements not only in individual cases but across the entire sector, providing references for policy formulation and work planning.

## A vision

According to legal provisions, deputies' suggestions must be replied to within three months, or no later than six months, from the date of assignment. From submission to response, a suggestion needs not just written responses—it demands tangible action beyond paperwork.

The response is not the goal, nor the end. The essence lies in turning deputies' suggestions into policy measures that improve governance and protect people's wellbeing. When suggestion handling resonates with public expectations, the path of whole-process people's democracy will broaden with ever-greater vitality. ■

*(The author is deputy director of the Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.)*



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