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The grassroots legislative outreach office in Guangzhou's Nansha District, Guangdong Province. (Provided by the Standing Committee of Guangdong Provincial People's Congress)



17 Seeking the CPC's "success code"

Contents

Focus

6
Xi leads China's diplomacy to usher in new chapter in turbulent world

9
Upholding and improving the system of people's congresses and ensuring that the people run the country

Decoding the "Governance Code" of the CPC

14
"How CPC leadership fueled national progress"



17
Seeking the CPC's "success code"

Getting Firsthand Insight into Chinese Modernization

20
"Sensing the dynamic pulse of China's development"

22
Through the eyes of exchange students: How the Guangdong speed tells the story of China's path

Witnessing Whole-Process People's Democracy in Action

24
"The people's republic 'means just that'"

26
Building a bridge of communication between China and the world

28
"A system that truly ensures every voice is heard"



22 Through the eyes of exchange students: How the Guangdong speed tells the story of China's path



40 From tea plant to lawbook: Conversations with deputies to the people's congresses



34 A close-up look at whole-process people's democracy

SPECIAL ISSUE 1 2026

Understanding China's People's Congress System

32
"A system worthy of great admiration"

34
A close-up look at China's people's congress system

36
Two cities, one river

38
Scan, send, solved: A QR code revolutionizing city service



Face-to-Face with NPC Deputies

39
Dialogue in Beijing: Understanding the deputy system

40
From tea plant to lawbook: Conversations with deputies to the people's congresses

43
Deputies in action, democracy at work
— A retrospective on the performance of grassroots deputies

COVER: In recent years, foreign guests have conducted field trips across China to decode the "governance code" of the CPC, get firsthand insight into Chinese modernization, witness whole-process people's democracy in action, and gain a deeper understanding of China's people's congress system.



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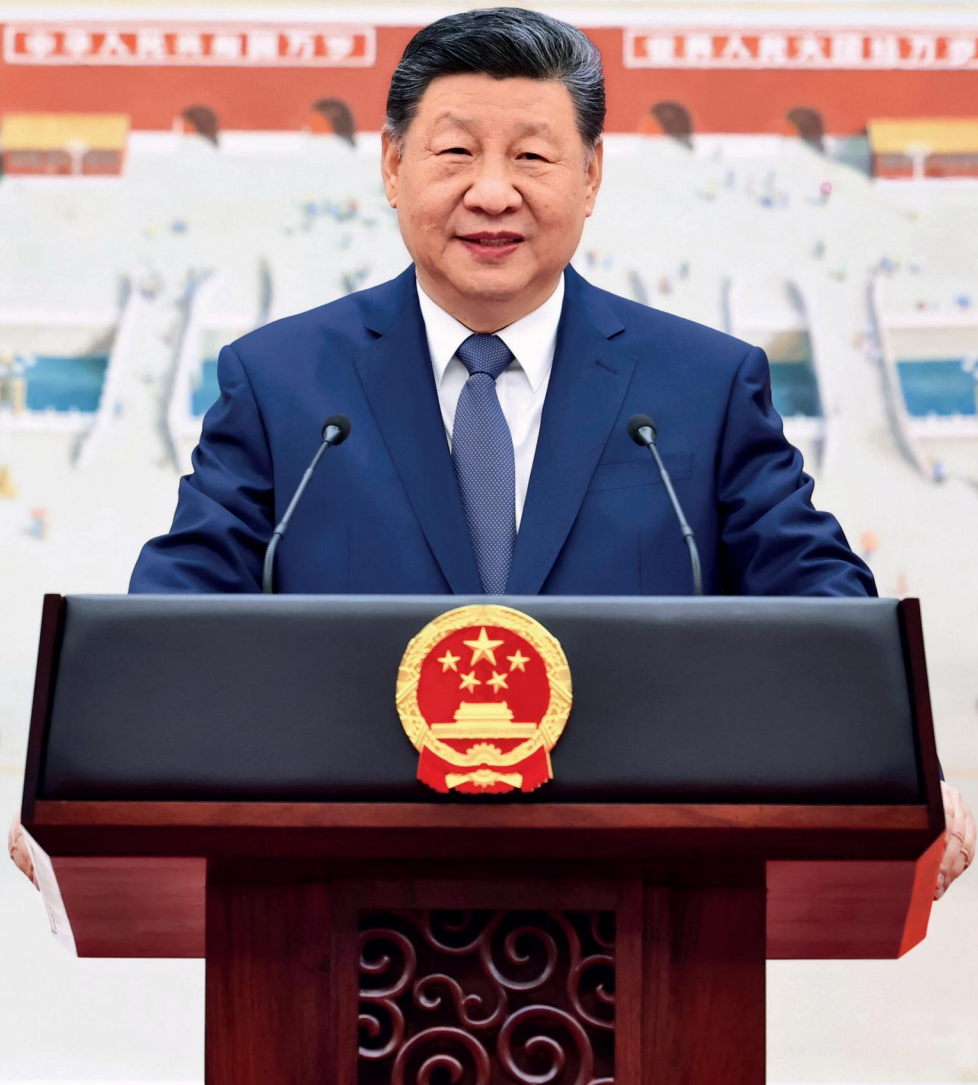
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Xi leads China's diplomacy to usher in new chapter in turbulent world



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech after receiving the credentials of 18 new ambassadors to China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Jan 16, 2026. *Huang Jingwen*



In the opening weeks of 2026, Chinese President Xi Jinping's intensive bilateral and multilateral interactions spanning China's neighboring regions, Europe, North America and the Global South, have drawn widespread attention across the world.

At a time when humanity once again stands at a crossroads, China's diplomacy under Xi's leadership opens a magnificent new chapter, demonstrating China's commitment to building a community with a shared future for humanity and promoting world peace and development.

Constructing closer global partnerships

On New Year's Eve, Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin exchanged New Year greetings. Xi took a comprehensive look back at 2025, a year marking a concrete step in the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, and expressed readiness to maintain close exchanges with Putin to jointly push for continuous new progress in bilateral ties in the new era.

On Jan. 5, Xi held talks with President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Lee Jae Myung, the first foreign head of state visiting China in 2026.

Xi said he and President Lee have met twice and conducted reciprocal visits, reflecting the importance both sides attach to China-ROK relations. As both friends and neighbors, China and the ROK should increase exchanges and maintain frequent communication.

On the same day, Xi met with Taoiseach of Ireland Micheal Martin, whose visit to China marked the first by an Irish Taoiseach in 14 years. Xi summarized the valuable experience gained from the long-term stable development of bilateral ties, and said China is willing to strengthen strategic communication with Ireland, deepen political mutual trust and expand pragmatic cooperation to benefit the peoples of both countries and add momentum to China-EU relations.

On Jan. 16, Xi met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, whose visit to China marked the first by a Canadian prime minister in eight years. Xi put forward four proposals on bilateral relations, and called on both sides to steer their ties onto the track of sound, steady and sustainable development, and bring more benefits to both peoples.

China's new year diplomacy also highlighted its firm solidarity with the Global South. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of launching diplomatic relations between China and Africa, Xi sent a congratulatory letter to the opening ceremony of the 2026 China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made his first overseas trip of the year to Africa, continuing a diplomatic tradition that has been carried out for 36 consecutive years.

During a phone call with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Jan. 23, Xi noted that China is committed to always being a good friend and partner to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and to jointly advancing the building of the China-LAC community with a shared future.

These events have highlighted China's sincere willingness to unite with Global South countries to address global challenges and jointly advance modernization.

With intensive and proactive diplomatic engagements in less than a month, China is deepening and expanding global

partnerships that feature equality, openness and cooperation.

Advancing multilateralism for shared future

Xi's new year diplomacy has strongly conveyed to the international community China's clear and consistent commitment to upholding openness, cooperation, and joint development amid a world beset by unilateralism, protectionism, and hegemonism.

During Lee's visit to China, Xi and Lee witnessed the signing of 15 cooperation documents between China and the ROK in fields including scientific and technological innovation, ecological environment, transportation, and economic and trade cooperation.

Martin said Ireland is committed to developing the strategic partnership for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, and is willing to deepen cooperation with China in trade, investment, science and technology, biomedicine, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, education and other fields.

During Carney's visit, both sides issued a joint statement of the China-Canada leaders' meeting, and signed eight cooperation documents, including an economic and trade cooperation roadmap. The two sides also made specific arrangements to properly address trade issues related to electric vehicles (EVs), steel and aluminum products, rapeseed, and agricultural and aquatic products.

As 2026 marks the beginning of China's 15th Five-Year Plan period, the momentum of various parties looking to embrace Chinese opportunities and pursue win-win cooperation clearly highlights the vast space for shared prosperity embedded in Chinese modernization.

China will open its doors still wider, and inject greater certainty and fresh momentum into the world through its high-quality development, so that countries will realize common development and shared prosperity, Xi said.

Strengthening economic and trade connections

Friendship, which comes from close contact between people, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. Promoting people-to-people exchanges and mutual understanding stands as another highlight of China's head of state diplomacy at the beginning of 2026.

When exchanging New Year greetings with Putin, Xi announced that 2026-2027 will be designated as the China-Russia Years of Education.

During his talks with Lee, Xi called on both sides to increase personnel exchanges and promote interactions in areas such as youth, media, sports, think tanks and local governments.

In his meeting with Martin, Xi extended a warm welcome for more Irish youth to come to China for study and exchanges.

Responding to a letter from a U.S. youth education exchange delegation comprised of teachers and students, Xi said he looks forward to more American youth joining the cause of China-U.S. friendship, becoming a new generation

China's diplomacy under Xi's leadership opens a magnificent new chapter, demonstrating China's commitment to building a community with a shared future for humanity and promoting world peace and development.

of envoys of friendship between the two countries, and making greater contributions to enhancing people-to-people exchanges and promoting the development of bilateral relations.

Xi's diplomatic style has showcased to the world the distinct traits of China's foreign policy – treating all nations as equals and upholding a long-term vision – and embodied the grandeur of Chinese civilization that is inclusive and embraces the diversity of all cultures.

In today's context, the broad-mindedness to replace civilizational estrangement and clashes with exchanges and mutual learning is particularly precious.

Deepening people-to-people bonds

"The world today is undergoing both changes and turbulence, and some regions are still engulfed in war. China always stands on the right side of history, and is ready to work with all countries to advance world peace and development and build a community with a shared future for humanity," Xi said in his 2026 New Year message, reflecting deep concern for the evolving global landscape.

Facing the severe challenge of fragmented global governance, China adheres to practicing true multilateralism. While managing its own affairs well, the country strives for human progress, emerging as a driving force for peaceful development and a stabilizer in a turbulent world.

All countries should respect the development paths chosen by the peoples of other nations, and abide by international law as well as the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, Xi said, stressing that major countries should particularly take the lead in doing so.

Xi's point of view demonstrates the country's sense of responsibility for humanity's shared future.

Division, confrontation and zero-sum games have no future, and returning the world to the law of the jungle is unpopular. Instead, global solidarity and cooperation represents the only right path forward. Xi's statement, made to newly appointed ambassadors to China, has found broad resonance.

At this critical historical juncture, where human society yearns for stability, reliability and direction, President Xi has steered China's major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics to a steady start in 2026, injecting into the world vital hopes for stable progress, broad opportunities for cooperation and positive forces for win-win outcomes. (Xinhua) ■

Upholding and improving the system of people's congresses and ensuring that the people run the country

XI JINPING

I

At the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee, it was clearly stated that law-based governance and law-based exercise of state power begin with compliance with the Constitution. Our emphasis on governing the country and exercising state power on the basis of the Constitution is fundamentally different from the so-called constitutionalism of the West and a clear distinction needs to be made. Governing the country and exercising state power on the basis of the Constitution includes remaining firmly committed to the leadership of the CPC, and upholding the state system of a people's democratic dictatorship and the political system of people's congresses, all of which are written in the Constitution.

—Excerpt from a speech at the Central Conference on Comprehensively Advancing Law-based Governance (November 16, 2020)

II

Over the 60-plus years since its inception, and particularly over the 40-plus years of reform and opening up, the people's congress system has provided an important institutional guarantee that has allowed our Party to lead the people in creating miracles of rapid economic development and long-term social stability.

Practice has shown that the people's congress system is a sound system that accords with China's national conditions and realities, embodies our country's nature as a socialist nation, ensures that the people run the country, and provides safeguards for national rejuvenation. Created by the people under the CPC's leadership, it is a great invention in the history of political institutions, and it is an entirely new political system of major importance in the history of China's political development and even in that of the world.

—Excerpts from a speech at the Central Conference on People's Congress Work (October 13, 2021)

III

Under the CPC's leadership, the people's congress system adheres to the basic tenets of Marxist theory of the state, adapts to the state system of a people's democratic dictator-

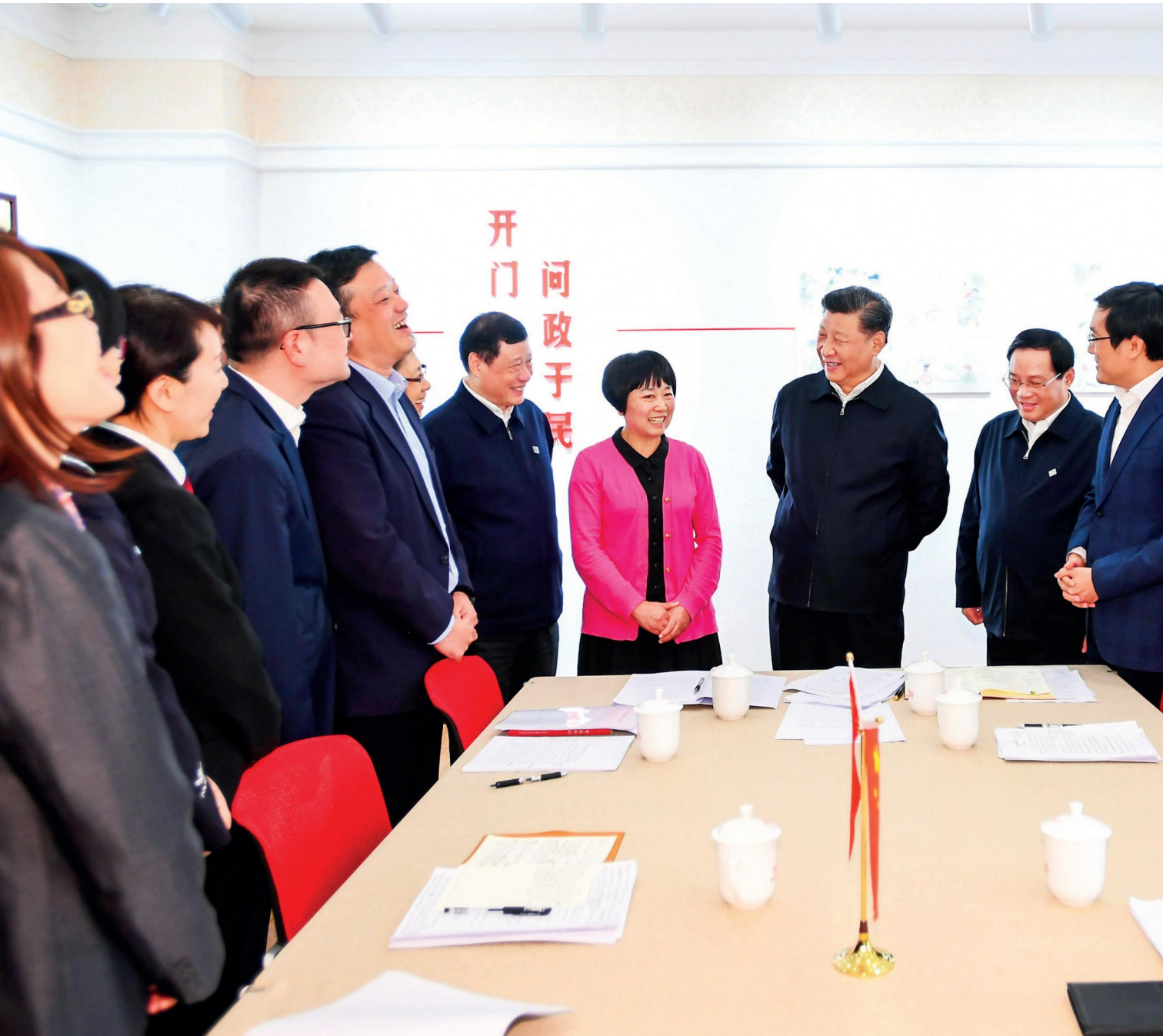
ship, and effectively ensures that China advances along the path of socialism. Under this system, all power of the state belongs to the people, the people's position as masters of the country is protected to the greatest extent, and the unity between leadership by the CPC, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance is upheld, thus ensuring that China escapes the historical cycle of rise and fall of political orders. Under this system, major political relationships that influence the nation's future are properly managed, social programs operate under the effective unified organization of the state, national unity and ethnic solidarity are maintained, and vigor, stability, and order prevail in the country's political life.

—Excerpt from a speech at the Central Conference on People's Congress Work (October 13, 2021)

IV

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Central Committee has implemented a national rejuvenation strategy against a backdrop of global change on a scale which has not been seen in a century. Taking into account the strategic requisites of upholding and improving the Party's leadership and consolidating the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, it has continued to advance theoretical and practical innovations in the people's congress system and put forward new concepts, ideas, and requirements, which are focused on the following aspects.

First, we must uphold the CPC's leadership. We must uphold the core role of the Party in exercising overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all sides, uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership, and ensure that our Party's theories, guidelines, principles, policies, decisions, and plans are fully and effectively implemented in the work of the state. We should provide the support and safeguards that bodies of state power need to carry out their work in accordance with the Constitution and the law and in an active, independent, and coordinated manner. We must strengthen and improve the leadership of our Party so that we become better at using statutory procedures to turn the Party's propositions into the will of the state and to ensure that candidates recommended by Party organizations assume leadership positions in bodies of state power, and so that we become better at using bodies of state power to exercise the



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits the Gubei civic center in Hongqiao subdistrict in Changning district, Shanghai, to learn about community governance on Nov 2, 2019. *Xie Huanchi*

Party's leadership over the country and society. This will allow us to safeguard the authority of the Party and country and uphold the unity of the entire Party and country.

Second, we must use a system of institutions to ensure the people run the country. We must remain committed to a people-centered approach, uphold the principle that all power of the state belongs to the people, and support and ensure the people's exercise of state power through people's congresses. We should improve democratic institutions, create more forms of democracy, and expand channels for democracy, and we

should protect the people's rights to equal participation and development, so as to promote a whole-process people's democracy that is broader, fuller, and more robust.

Third, we must advance law-based governance on all fronts. We must follow a path and develop a system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and build a socialist nation under the rule of law. We should carry forward the spirit of socialist rule of law, advance all undertakings and initiatives of the country in accordance with the Constitution and the law, safeguard social fairness and justice, respect and protect hu-



man rights, and make sure that all of the country's initiatives are on a legal footing.

Fourth, we must uphold democratic centralism. We must ensure that the people exercise state power in a unified manner through people's congresses and that people's congresses at all levels are formed through democratic elections, are responsible to the people, and are subject to their oversight; that administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory, and procuratorial organs at all levels are created by people's congresses, accountable to them, and subject to their oversight; that there is both

an appropriate division of labor and mutual coordination between decision-making, executive and oversight powers; that state organs exercise their powers and perform their duties in accordance with statutory mandates and procedures; and that local governments fully exert their initiative and enthusiasm under the unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, so as to ensure that all undertakings are advanced under the unified and effective organization of the state.

Fifth, we must keep to the path of socialist political development with Chinese characteristics. The core of maintaining the unity between leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance is upholding the CPC's leadership. The people's congress system is a foundational political system for upholding this unity; it ensures that the CPC leads the people in effectively governing the country in accordance with the law. We can learn from other countries' political achievements, but we will never blindly copy Western political systems and models.

Sixth, we must work to modernize China's system and capacity for governance. The people's congress system is an important component of the system of Chinese socialism and of China's system of governance. We must uphold and improve the system of institutions through which the people run the country, continue to improve the institutions, standards, and procedures of socialist democracy, and do better at translating our institutional strengths into effective governance.

—Excerpts from a speech at the Central Conference on People's Congress Work (October 13, 2021)

V

After our Party's 18th National Congress in 2012, we deepened our understanding of the laws governing the development of democracy and put forward the important concept of whole-process people's democracy. Whole-process people's democracy in China has not only a full complement of institutional procedures but full participation in practice. China's state system is a people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and farmers; its system of state power is the system of people's congresses; and its basic political systems are the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC, the system of regional ethnic autonomy, and the system of primary-level self-governance. Through these, China has consolidated and developed the broadest possible patriotic united front, it has formed a comprehensive, extensive, and well-coordinated system of institutions that guarantee the people run the country, and it has put into place diverse, open, and orderly channels for democracy. This allows the entire people to engage in law-based democratic elections, consultations, decision making, management, and oversight and to manage state and economic, cultural, and social affairs in various ways and forms and in accordance with the law. China's whole-process people's democracy successfully integrates process-oriented and results-oriented democracy, procedural and substantive democracy, direct and indirect democracy, and democracy of the people and the will of the state. It is a democracy that covers every link and every sector in every way possible—democracy at its most extensive, most genuine, and most effective. We will continue to promote the development of whole-process people's democracy, seeing that the principle



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits the Gubei civic center in Hongqiao subdistrict in Changning district, Shanghai, to learn about public participation in legislation on Nov 2, 2019. *Xie Huanchi*

of the people running the country is embodied explicitly and practically in the Party's national governance policies and measures, in all aspects and levels of the work of Party and state institutions, and in the efforts to realize people's aspirations for a better life.

—Excerpt from a speech at the Central Conference on People's Congress Work (October 13, 2021)

VI

The system of people's congresses is an important institutional vehicle for realizing China's whole-process people's democracy. Under the leadership of the CPC, we must expand the people's orderly political participation and strengthen legal protection for human rights to ensure that the people enjoy extensive rights and freedoms as prescribed by law. We

must ensure that the people are able to exercise their electoral rights in accordance with the law, and that people's congress deputies are elected democratically. We must see to it that the people's rights to information, participation, expression, and oversight are fulfilled in all aspects of the work of people's congresses, and that the people's voice can be heard in every stage of the work of the Party and the state from decision-making to implementation and oversight. We must improve democratic platforms and vehicles of people's congresses through which the will of the people can be expressed, refine working mechanisms for absorbing popular sentiment and drawing together the wisdom of the people, and advance consultations carried out by people's congresses, especially legislative consultations. In this way, we will see that social conditions and popular opinion are integrated as part of the fundamental interests of the majority. We should enhance our study of and public com-

munications on Chinese socialist democracy and the people's congress system, elucidate the features and strengths of China's political system, and share our story of democracy.

—*Excerpt from a speech at the Central Conference on People's Congress Work (October 13, 2021)*

VII

The election of deputies is the foundation of the system of people's congresses and an important manifestation of the people acting as masters of the country. We must closely integrate democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management, and oversight, and continue to develop whole-process people's democracy, so as to better ensure that the people run the country. We must strengthen oversight of the entire process of election and resolutely investigate and punish misconduct, so as to ensure that elections are conducted in a clean and upright manner and that the election results are satisfactory to the people.

—*Excerpt from a speech when voting to elect new deputies to the district people's congress in Beijing (November 5, 2021)*

VIII

We must strengthen the institutions through which the people run the country. We must uphold and improve our country's foundational, basic, and important political systems, expand democratic channels, and diversify the forms of democracy, so as to ensure that people participate in various ways in the management of state, economic, cultural, and social affairs in accordance with the law. We will support and ensure the people's exercise of state power through people's congresses, and we will ensure that people's congresses at all levels are formed through democratic elections, responsible to the people, and subject to their oversight. We will support and ensure that people's congresses and their standing committees lawfully exercise the powers of enacting laws, conducting oversight, making decisions, and appointing and removing officials. We will improve the system under which people's congresses conduct oversight of administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory, and procuratorial organs, and we will uphold the unity, sanctity, and authority of the law. We will see that deputies to people's congresses are better able to carry out their work and that they strengthen ties with the general public. We will improve working mechanisms for drawing on public opinion and pooling the wisdom of the people and ensure that local legislative outreach offices are well-run. We will intensify reform and development of trade unions, Chinese Communist Youth League organizations, women's federations, and other people's organizations and give full play to their role as bridges connecting our Party and the people. We will follow a Chinese path of human rights development, actively participate in global human rights governance, and promote all-around advancement of human rights.

—*Excerpt from a report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (October 16, 2022)*

IX

We must strengthen confidence in our political system, firmly stay on the path of socialist political advancement with

Chinese characteristics, and uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must remain committed to the leadership by the CPC, to the state system of people's democratic dictatorship, and to the political system of people's congresses, all of which are mandated by the Constitution. Under no circumstance will we copy the models or practices of other countries.

—*Excerpt from an article "Writing a New Chapter in the Practice of China's Constitution in the New Era: Marking the 40th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Current Constitution" (December 19, 2022)*

X

We must actively develop whole-process people's democracy, uphold the unity between the leadership by the CPC, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance, and improve the system of institutions through which the people run the country. All these will help fulfill the will of the people, protect their rights and interests, and fully inspire their enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity.

—*Excerpt from a speech at the First Session of the 14th National People's Congress (March 13, 2023)*

XI

The integration of the basic tenets of Marxism with the best of China's traditional culture has enabled us to retain both the theoretical and cultural initiative, effectively applying it to the path, theory, and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. From this perspective, we can observe that the systems of people's congresses and political consultation established by our Party reflect the Chinese concept of the people being the foundation of the state, the idea of universal participation in governance, the tradition of collaborative and consultative governance, and the political wisdom of being all-inclusive and seeking common ground while setting differences aside. China's implementation of a system of regional ethnic autonomy within a unitary state, rather than a federal system, is adapting itself to the underlying development trend of the Chinese nation toward internal cohesion and unity amid diversity. It also carries on the Chinese tradition of striving for great unity in the country to see all regions sharing common customs and practices amid rich diversity and all people coming together as one family. The integration of the basic tenets of Marxism with the best of China's traditional culture is yet another manifestation of our commitment to freeing the mind. It allows us to fully harness the precious resources of fine traditional Chinese culture to explore future-oriented theoretical and institutional innovations within a broader cultural framework.

—*Excerpt from a speech at the Meeting on Cultural Inheritance and Development (June 2, 2023)*

These are excerpts from General Secretary Xi Jinping's statements on upholding and improving the system of people's congresses and ensuring that the people run the country between December 2012 and June 2023.

(Originally appeared in *Qiushi Journal*, Chinese edition, No. 4, 2024)

(*Qiushi Journal*) ■



“How CPC leadership fueled national progress”

– Parliamentary speakers from multiple countries visit CPC Museum in Beijing

China’s remarkable development achievements that have drawn worldwide attention ultimately stem from its unwavering adherence to the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

In recent years, the Museum of the Communist Party of China has become a must-visit stop on the itineraries of foreign parliamentary delegations invited to China by

the National People’s Congress. Parliamentary speakers, parliamentarians, and friends from various countries have toured the exhibition “Staying True to the Original Aspiration and Keeping the Founding Mission Firmly in Mind: An Exhibition on the History of the Communist Party of China,” exploring the century-long journey of the CPC.

Upon entering, they were greeted by the magnificent,

striking 600-square-meter lacquer painting Ode to the Great Wall, composed of 100 lacquer panels.

The delegations paused before the model of the Red Boat on South Lake in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province, listening to the account of the founding of the CPC and taking photos. A century ago, the First National Congress of the CPC concluded aboard this very red boat. From here, the small vessel embarked on a journey that has spanned a hundred years.

The Long March of the Red Army (1934-36) has won admiration from many international friends. Standing before the railings, the delegations were immersed in panoramic XR animated scenes of the Red Army's arduous trek across snowy mountains and marshlands, as if experiencing the intensity of the Battle of Xiangjiang and the seizure of the Luding Bridge.

While viewing footage of the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China, the 35th and 70th National Day military parades, with the scenes of raising the Five-Starred Red Flag, ceremonial salutes, the powerful march of the People's Liberation Army, and fighter jets soaring over Tian'anmen Square, the delegation inquired in detail about how long the parades lasted and who the leaders present were, expressing high regard for China's remarkable and sustained achievements.

In the section on China's major technological accomplishments, the delegations stepped into a model cockpit of the Fuxing high-speed train, pushed the throttle to experience operating the train, and asked about China Speed.

Over the 75 years since the founding of the People's Republic, the CPC has led the people in achieving some of the world's most astounding miracles in economic growth and long-term social stability. In the Flying Over China virtual experience, the delegations "boarded" an aircraft to enjoy a bird's-eye view of China's colorful landscape, from the ink-wash scenery south of the Yangtze to the landscape of northern China, the eastern coastline to the western borders, all displaying harmony between humanity and nature.

In another immersive experience, they "descended" into the deep sea with the Jiaolong manned submersible and "soared" into space aboard a simulated rocket cabin, experiencing firsthand China's technological prowess in "reaching for the moon and exploring the ocean depths."

From a once impoverished nation to the world's second-largest economy, and to achieving a decisive victory in the fight against poverty, which fulfilled a millennia-old dream of the Chinese people, the exhibition presents the epic journey of the Party through four sections, featuring over 2,500 photos and more than 4,500 artifacts, including 420 national first-class relics. It offers a comprehensive, panoramic, and all dimensional account of the Party's century-long struggle. The profound transformations China has achieved under the leadership of the Party deeply impressed the delegations.



Tulia Ackson

President of the IPU and Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania

At the Museum of the Communist Party of China, through extensive historical materials, I gained a profound understanding of how China has grown and developed under the leadership of the CPC through-out its tumultuous history.

Observing how the Party has stepped up during critical moments, facing challenges and making choices, I came to appreciate the resilience of the Chinese people. This resilience is a valuable asset of the Chinese nation and an outstanding quality that we can all learn from.



Julie Lashell Adderley

President of the Senate of The Bahamas

China's achievements are astounding! The Museum of the Communist Party of China, organized chronologically the exhibition, showcasing the great historic accomplishments of the Chinese nation and its unwavering resolve to aim even higher. With its in-depth content, the museum serves as an outstanding platform for presenting China's history to the world. Congratulations. You have made truly remarkable accomplishments!



Wan Muhamad Noor Matha

Thailand's National Assembly President and Speaker of the House of Representatives

As a former professor of history, I felt deeply honored to visit the Museum of the Communist Party of China, gaining a close and vivid understanding of the history of the CPC. I believe that a nation's progress cannot be achieved without the arduous struggles and the contributions and sacrifices made by its martyrs. Only when the people understand history, commemorate its martyrs and learn from them can a nation grow strong.

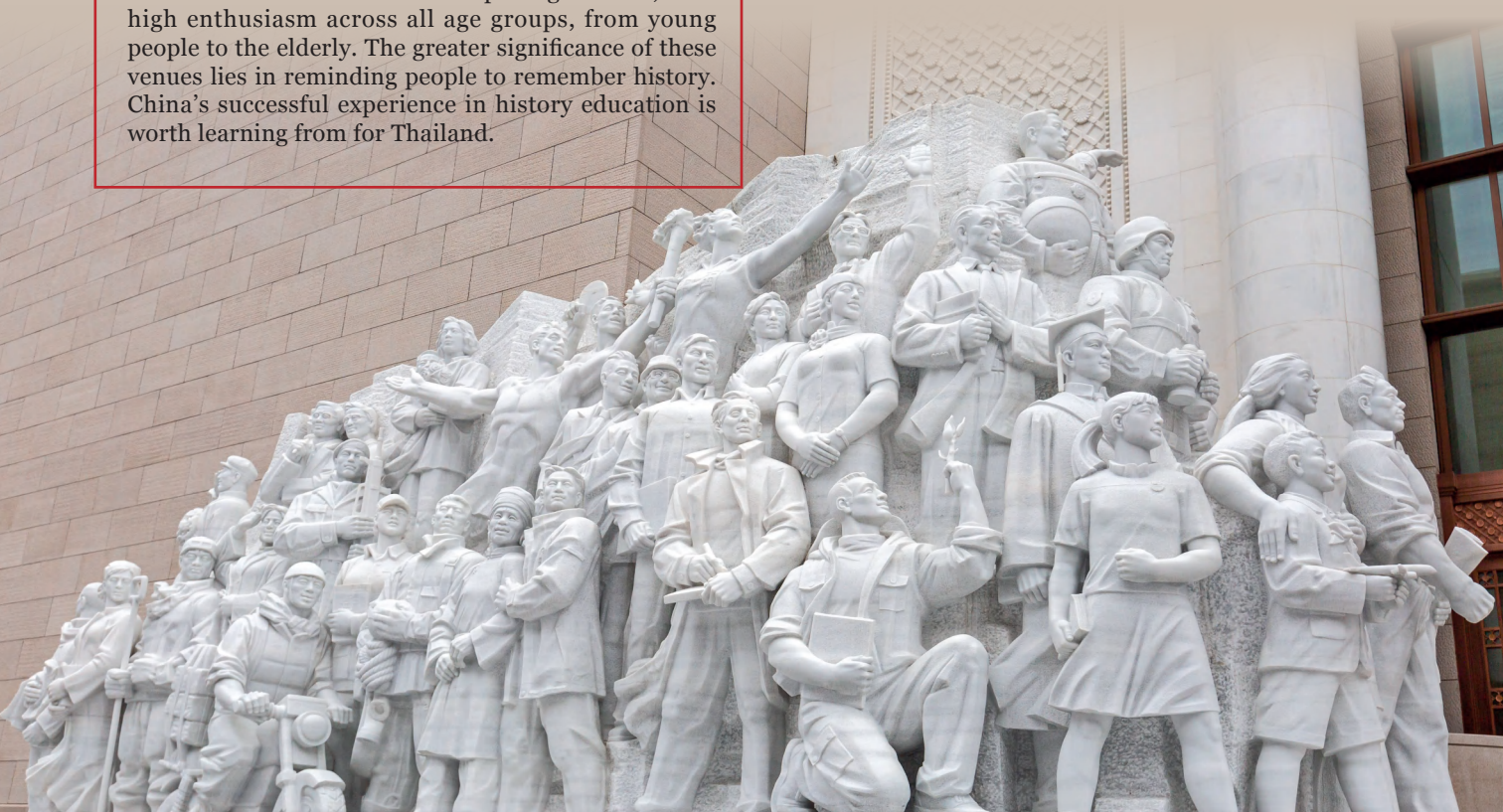
In China, historical museums enable people to truly understand the evolution of history. I learned that the CPC Museum has received over 5 million visitors from all walks of life since its opening in 2021, with high enthusiasm across all age groups, from young people to the elderly. The greater significance of these venues lies in reminding people to remember history. China's successful experience in history education is worth learning from for Thailand.



Helder Ernesto Injojo

Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique

At the CPC Museum, I learned about the epic historical journey of the Communist Party of China (CPC) since its founding, with the Long March (1934-36) leaving a particularly deep impression on me. Under the wise leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people have achieved one victory after another. These historical facts moved me with the “spiritual source” that drives the CPC to lead the Chinese people in sustained struggle. I also came to understand that this is the fundamental reason behind China's development miracle. I sincerely admire the great achievements of the CPC. ■





The historical exhibition of the first session of the Shijiazhuang Municipal People's Congress in Hebei province. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Shijiazhuang Municipal People's Congress)

Pacific parliamentarians explore Xibaipo: Seeking the CPC's “success code”

China's National People's Congress (NPC) hosted a seminar for lawmakers from Pacific Island nations from October 22 to 31, 2024. The event brought together 39 parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from nine countries: Fiji, Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

At the opening ceremony on October 22, Peng Qinghua, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, warmly welcomed the visiting delegation. “Great distances cannot separate true friends,” he said, quoting a Chinese proverb. “China is ready to join hands with all nations to advance global modernization—a path defined by peace, cooperation, shared prosperity and mutual benefit.”

On October 26, the delegation visited Baili Water Town in Xibaipo, in Hebei province. It is an eco-friendly leisure resort, which integrates specialty homestays, conference facilities, study programs, cultural experiences, outdoor sports, wellness activities and family entertainment.

By leveraging local resources to green the hills and build a tourism sector, the project has created local jobs and transformed the village. For parliamentarians learning its history, the contrast was striking—its beauty today made its poor, underdeveloped past difficult to picture.

When we all take action to protect the ecological environment and build a better home together, people can lead happier lives. The development experience here offers a valuable reference for us, noted Christine Ioane, advisor to

the Niue Assembly Speaker.

Another reason the delegation came here, is the “Xibaipo spirit.” From May 1948 to March 1949, Xibaipo served as the center of the leadership of the revolution and the supreme command headquarters of the Communist-led People’s Liberation Army. From there the Communist Party of China (CPC) emerged from the mountains to win ultimate victory and then found the People’s Republic.

This historic sequence of events gave rise to the “Xibaipo spirit.” The spirit of Xibaipo was defined by Mao Zedong at the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh CPC Central Committee, held in the village in April 1949, the gist of which is “to remain modest and prudent, struggle on tirelessly, and rely on the people to attain solidarity and unity.”

In the exhibition hall of the Xibaipo Memorial Hall, an old photograph drew the attention of visiting parliamentarians. The image depicted several people pushing loaded carts along rugged mountain paths. A parliamentarian pointed to the scene and ask, “What are these people doing?” The guide then explained, “This was the famous ‘civilian support cart brigade’ during the War of Liberation (1945-1949). The people pushing the carts were ordinary people who voluntarily supported the communist party troops, and what the carts carried was not just food and ammunition but also the profound trust and hope of the CPC.”

The leadership of the CPC is crucial to the country’s rapid modernization, and its people-centered approach is its greatest strength, said Rennie Gadabu, head of the Nauru delegation adding that he would bring back to Nauru the valuable spirit of the CPC—its humility and its unwavering dedication to the people.

The parliamentarians then stopped in front of a display case containing the yellowed pages of the Outline of China’s Land Law. Gazing at this historical document issued in 1947, they inquired about the specific process of the land reform.

The guide responded, “The core principle was ‘land to the tiller.’ Dedicated work teams were sent to rural areas to

I will bring back to Nauru the valuable spirit of the CPC – its humanity, its commitment to staying true to the original aspiration and its unwavering reliance on and dedication to the people.

help farmers calculate the exploitation by landlords, clarifying the injustices of land distribution. According to the provisions of the outline, landlords’ land was confiscated and fairly redistributed to landless or land-poor peasants through evaluations by peasant representatives. Land certificates were then issued to the farmers who received land, legally confirming their ownership rights.”

“The farmers’ enthusiasm for production increased after obtaining land, which not only improved their livelihoods but also laid the social foundation for subsequent national development,” the guide explained, adding, “Land reform was a crucial guarantee for winning public support during the War of Liberation.”

As the guide spoke, the visiting parliamentarians nodded. They noted that it is important that the voices of the people are truly heard and valued whether in poverty alleviation, rural revitalization, social governance or policy consultation

Xibaipo is a land of revolution and heroes, said Siniane Rehe, head of the Kiribati delegation.

A parliamentarian from Tonga added that visiting both the CPC Museum and the Xibaipo Memorial Hall had deepened his understanding of the Party’s leadership: On the path toward modernization, we should actively learn from China’s experience, respect one another, set aside differences, and cooperate to drive greater progress and development. ■



A panoramic view of the Xibaipo Memorial Hall. VCG

What makes the Party leadership an institutional strength in China?

You may find the phrase “Chinese characteristics” familiar if you read books, articles and online content about China. But what is meant when we say Chinese characteristics?

According to President Xi Jinping, the most important feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is that the country is under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The CPC leadership has gained the recognition and support of the Chinese people through decades of their pursuit of and struggle for national independence and prosperity.

Over the past 100 years, the CPC has evolved from a small group of some 50 members into one of the largest parties in the world, with more than 100 million active members.

Before the Party was founded, China was in the throes of a society plagued by feudalism and colonialism, with many lives torn apart by the ceaseless strife breaking out within the Chinese border. The CPC, which was founded in July 1921, injected hope into the masses.

At the time, China was largely made up of peasants who did not own land and were subjugated by landowners. Through strategies like “encircling the city from the rural areas” and reform initiatives such as redistributing the land to the peasants, the Party mobilized the vast majority of the peasantry and formed a united front comprising workers, peasants, democrats and intellectuals, successfully leading the Chinese people in defeating those standing in the way of Chinese unification while rooting out the historical woes that rendered China vulnerable.

The people’s republic was founded amid cheers and elation. But the Party’s mission did not end there. Since then, China under the CPC has continued to make great strides in terms of social welfare and economic prowess.

In the 30 years that followed the country’s foundation, the CPC, guided by the principle of self-reliance, devoted itself to industrializing China. With focus on accelerating the process, a complete industrial system was established. In 1978, Deng Xiaoping initiated the reform and opening-up policy, paving the way for the country’s rapid economic growth.

The groundbreaking reform initiatives have injected energy and vigor into China’s economic development. But new challenges also emerged in the meantime. To address the problems of the period, the CPC formulated approaches – advancing with the times, emancipating the mind and seeking the truth from facts – that would set the

country on a new course. As China learned from developed countries’ experience in developing market economies, a sophisticated social management and economic system with Chinese characteristics gradually came into shape.

Through over four decades of opening-up, China has made profound achievements and become the world’s second largest economy. The goal of leading the people to prosperity was achieved.

The 18th and 19th National Congresses of the CPC became another defining moment for China. Xi, who said socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered into a new era, placed issues concerning Chinese people’s well-being in a more prominent position.

“This is a new historic juncture in China’s development. It will be an era for the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to work together and work hard to create a better life for themselves and ultimately achieve common prosperity for everyone,” he said.

The most fruitful achievement in improving people’s lives is China’s final victory in eradicating absolute poverty.

Xi attributed this major success to the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC, which he said has provided a “political and organizational guarantee” for China’s poverty alleviation efforts.

The leadership of the CPC is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Party exercises overall leadership over all areas of endeavor in every part of the country.

This political framework has the advantage of ensuring the effectiveness of policy execution, making sure that once decisions and arrangements are made at the highest level, they are swiftly and correctly implemented by all levels of governments

Meanwhile, the Party’s centralized and unified leadership has allowed it to oversee the overall picture and coordinate all government and Party branches. Throughout the campaign, the CPC led the poverty relief work with its 100 million members, and party chiefs at all levels were required to assume the primary responsibility for achieving the ambitious targets.

Summarizing China’s experience in conquering absolute poverty, Xi said the country has blazed a poverty reduction trail and formed an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics.

“We must ensure the principal status of the people and adhere to the Party’s commitment to serving the public good and exercising power in the interests of the people,” Xi said. ■



“Sensing the dynamic pulse of China’s development”

Interviews with international parliamentary leaders

A country’s choice of a path to modernization is shaped by many factors, including its historical traditions, social system, stage of development, and external environment. Different national conditions naturally lead to different approaches to modernization. In advancing toward modernization, a country must both follow the general laws of modernization and, more importantly, ground its path in its own realities, developing

an approach with distinct national characteristics.

During their visits to China, parliamentary speakers and senior officials from multiple countries went deep into urban neighborhoods and rural areas, gaining a multidimensional and panoramic understanding of the distinctive features of Chinese modernization and exploring modernization paths suited to their own national conditions.

Tulia Ackson

President of the IPU and Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania



During my visit to Beijing and Shanxi, what impressed me the most was that China’s development is not only reflected in its rapid economic growth, but also in its commitment to preserving and valuing its rich cultural heritage. At sites like the National Museum of China, the Palace Museum, the Great Wall and the ancient city of Datong, I encountered many precious cultural relics that deeply moved me. Balancing the pursuit of development with the protection of one’s culture is no easy task, yet China has managed to do so, offering an inspiration to the world. I sincerely hope that countries can learn from China on how to safeguard their own cultural identities. Culture is not only the soul of a nation but also a vital part of global diversity. We must ensure that this diversity does not fade away over time, but continues to illuminate the landscape of human civilization.

Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



I still remember my first visit to Beijing in 1991. I was quite fond of the city. At that time, bicycles and motorcycles dominated the streets. Returning now, I see a modern and sustainably developed metropolis. The streets, the people living here — everything is in good order and is impressive to me. I also remember my first trip to Xiushui Street, which was more about street retail back then. Now it has evolved into a well-developed modern shopping center! This is a vivid example of China's development. Other cities I visited, including Taiyuan, Datong and Tianjin, similarly demonstrate how the continuity of policies under China's leadership has driven rapid progress.

Karol Cariola Oliva

Speaker of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies



China has achieved tremendous accomplishments in advancing Chinese modernization and is committed to benefiting other countries around the world, which we are genuinely pleased to see. In Fuzhou's Three Lanes and Seven Alleys (Sanfang Qixiang) historical district, we witnessed the harmonious relationship between residents and the community. At the grassroots legislative outreach office, we saw how the public can directly convey their views to the legislative bodies. In healthcare sector, Beijing Tiantan Hospital of Capital Medical University applies AI technology to medical services, conducting remote diagnoses and optimizing the patient experience. China is vigorously developing smart cities, with the integration of AI technology into urban governance being a major highlight. What I saw and experienced are concrete examples of the successful practices of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Annita Demetriou

President of the Cypriot House of Representatives



It was the first time that such a broadly representative delegation from Cyprus has visited China. We were profoundly impressed by Beijing and Shenzhen, and we greatly admired the progress China and its people have made over the years as well as the innovative development achieved through science and technology. I was particularly delighted to have the opportunity to visit Beijing Foreign Studies University and engage in warm conversations with students there. Cyprus-China cooperation covers many areas, and I believe education is one of the most important. Education is an investment in young people, in the next generation. Young people are precisely the crucial force that participates in social decision-making and development, capable of turning grand blueprints into beautiful realities. We are considering how to further facilitate Chinese citizens' visits to Cyprus, and we believe these measures will further expand our friendly cooperation. ■



Elysia, an international student from the United States, interacts with an industrial robot at the headquarters of Midea Group in Guangdong Province. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress)

Through the eyes of exchange students: How the Guangdong speed tells the story of China's path

An AI reality check at Midea

Elysia, a U.S. exchange student at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, found her expectations exceeded during a visit to the headquarters of Chinese home appliance giant Midea Group last year. Her guide was Zhong Zheng, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), who also serves as the company's vice president and chief financial officer.

Their conversation began in the lobby of the group's headquarters in Shunde district in Foshan, lined with Midea's flagship smart home appliances. What captured Elysia's attention most was a robotic arm. As she approached and touched it, the arm responded. A staff member explained it was produced by KUKA, a robotics subsidiary of Midea. "The latest data

shows that Midea's KUKA Intelligent Manufacturing Science and Technology Park in Shunde has already produced over 100,000 industrial robots," her guide noted. "They are widely used in industries from automotive and aerospace to electronics."

Later, Elysia visited the west campus of Midea Industrial City, the group's core manufacturing hub. This facility operates with an intelligent "brain" that employs various smart technologies to save energy and reduce emissions. "I couldn't see how an 'intelligent brain' related to low-carbon environmental goals," Elysia admitted. Gan Shuchun from the Midea Building Technologies Division explained, "If you look from above, you'll see neatly arranged panels on these rooftops. They capture solar energy, convert it into green electricity, and feed it

“I want to drive a Chinese new energy vehicle back in Serbia!”

into every stage of production.”

As a national legislator, Zhong has been closely following the spread of artificial intelligence (AI)-generated video content, a topic he raised during his conversation with Elysia. “What makes you so cautious?” she asked. “I’ve learned that Midea uses so much AI,” she added.

“Because the rapid advancement of AI has dramatically lowered the barrier to producing synthetic video,” Zhong replied. “We’re seeing a flood of AI-generated clips online, some featuring fabricated personas used to promote products and mislead consumers. I believe we need a clearer framework to manage how this content is disseminated.”

As she walked away from the visit, Elysia reflected on the pace of technological adoption she had witnessed. She noted that the development of AI in China was moving faster than she had imagined.

“An NPC deputy is actively weighing its governance,” she added. “That signals both how deeply it’s integrated into daily life and the conscious caution guiding its rise.”

China’s E-vision: a test drive

“I want to drive a Chinese new energy vehicle back in Serbia!” exclaimed Dostana, a Serbian student who has lived in China for about three years. Her excitement followed an advanced smart-driving demonstration at GAC Aion, a new energy vehicle company under Guangdong-based leading vehicle maker Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., Ltd. (GAC Group).

During a test drive on city roads, a staff member set the navigation destination and tapped the steering wheel stalk twice. The car smoothly entered autonomous driving mode. While the driver is still required to keep a hand lightly on the wheel for safety, tasks such as steering and maintaining speed are handled by the vehicle. “Is it really that simple?” Dostana asked in surprise. “It really is,” the technician replied.

Having studied China’s political system, Dostana was curious about the role of a national legislator from the automotive sector. She later met with Feng Xingya, an NPC deputy who also serves as the chairman and president of GAC Group.

Drawing on his experience in the auto industry, Feng shared insights and proposals on integrating low-altitude economy development with intelligent connected vehicles.

He explained that China’s intelligent new energy vehicle sector has established a globally leading industrial ecosystem. Flying cars—a key component of the low-altitude economy—share significant technological synergy with smart vehicles. The two fields can reinforce each other in research and development, manufacturing and real-world applications, offering a practical pathway to merge these two strategic emerging industries.

After hearing Feng’s perspective, Dostana observed that his suggestions reflected not only an NPC deputy’s foresight into industrial innovation, but also a strong sense of social responsibility in steering technological advancement. ■



The new energy vehicle production line of the manufacturing workshop of GAC Aion. VCG



Intelligent robots are sorting parcels for logistics. VCG



A robot is working at a factory in Foshan, Guangdong Province. VCG



“The people’s republic ‘means just that’”



From October 25 to 31, 2024, National Assembly of Zambia Speaker Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti led a delegation on a visit to China. The delegation traveled to Beijing, Zhejiang, and Qinghai, and attended a reception celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Zambia as well as Zambia’s 60th independence anniversary. They gained firsthand insight into whole-process people’s democracy, learned about the development of China’s clean energy industry, and im-

mersed themselves in the achievements of Chinese modernization, making the trip both enriching and highly rewarding.

The People’s Congress of Dongsheng Town in Beijing’s Haidian District is one of the local outreach offices of the Budgetary Affairs Commission of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. On the afternoon of the 25th, Speaker Mutti and her delegation visited the site to observe a consultation session on the town’s 2025 budget

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia Nelly Mutti observes a budget formulation consultation meeting at Dongsheng town people's congress in Haidian district, Beijing, in October 2024. (Photo provided by the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress)



formulation and engage in discussions. “What are the main sources of the town-level government’s annual budget?” “What taxes do private enterprises pay, and do they all go to the town?” “Can the public provide comments on final accounts? How are comments and suggestions handled?” The delegation asked with keen interest, and participating deputies, officials, entrepreneurs, and resident representatives answered each question in detail.

On the 27th, in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, Mutti and her



The Budgetary Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress Standing Committee conducts a research survey at the grassroots outreach office in the Dongsheng town people's congress in Haidian district, Beijing, one of the 15 outreach offices established by the commission around the country to enhance supervision over budget, state assets and debt management. (Photo provided by the Budgetary Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee)

delegation visited the China Small Commodity City Group legislative outreach station of the Yiwu Local Legislative Outreach Office under the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, where they learned about the extensive process of soliciting legislative suggestions from markets and merchants. When they discovered that over ten legislative suggestions from this single liaison station had been adopted in national legislation, the parliamentarians expressed their admiration.

Mutti was deeply moved. She said, “A few days ago in Beijing, I witnessed a budget consultation session, and today in Yiwu, I experienced the vitality and effectiveness of democracy in the legislative process. Whether it’s about how money is spent or how laws are made, the Chinese people can voice their opinions as true masters of their country. In China, the people are genuinely placed at the center. I have finally found the answer to why China is called the People’s Republic of China—because China is a republic of the people.”

Mutti said in an exclusive interview: Democracy means governing for the people and by the people. What impressed me most was the deep participation of the Chinese people in national governance, which is precisely the essence of democracy. The critical role of the budget in the operation of a country goes without saying. In China, public opinion is solicited and suggestions are incorporated in budget preparation. After the budget is formulated and implemented, feedback is again sought from the people: How do they perceive budget execution? If questions are raised, they are further addressed.

Chinese leadership has consistently worked for the better life of all Chinese people, and China has a sound institutional framework in place that requires the government, courts and other authorities to be accountable to the people. This is a blessing for the country and the people. I think China’s democratic policies are excellent. ■



Information collectors of the grassroots legislative outreach office in Shapingba are soliciting public opinion regarding the draft regulations on parking management in Chongqing at Zhongxinwan community on Aug 9, 2024. (Photo provided by the grassroots legislative outreach office in Shapingba in Chongqing)

Building a bridge of communication between China and the world

On May 23, 2025, the Zhongxinwan community grassroots legislative outreach office of the Chongqing Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee organized a visit to Chongqing Polytechnic University of Electronic Technology. Legislative suggestion collectors held a consultation on the draft environmental code with 63 international students from

10 countries—including Russia, Morocco, Thailand, and Laos—and 17 Chinese students.

The session opened with a video message from Alex, a Canadian journalist who serves as Chongqing's first foreign legislative suggestion collector. Away on a business trip, he shared his experiences and explained his practice-oriented approach to helping ensure the benefits of democratic de-

“I hope to build a ‘bridge of communication’ between China and the world by personally participating in China’s legislative process,” Alex said.

velopment reach households across the city. The idea that a foreign national could take part in China’s whole-process people’s democracy drew particular interest among the international students attending for the first time.

During small-group discussions, the 80 participants were divided into 10 groups, each led by a legislative suggestion collector. In one group, Tang Wenjie, a student at the university, asked a Laotian student, who calls herself Hong Wantong in Chinese—about forest rangers and reforestation in her home country. Hong noted that Laos does employ forest rangers and regards its forests and rivers as precious national resources. After reflecting on the draft code, she suggested adding clearer provisions on the use of artificial intelligence in environmental protection. She also observed that the draft demonstrates China’s systematic, forward-looking approach to eco-environmental governance—both in assuming domestic responsibility and in offering ideas and solutions with global relevance.

The session produced 52 opinions and suggestions. After sorting and analysis, they will be submitted to the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.

Alex is well known in Chongqing. As a journalist, host, and video producer with the Western China International Communication Organization, he has traveled extensively across the municipality. He has visited legislative outreach offices in the Zhongxinwan community, the Fuling High-Tech Zone, and the general office of the standing committee of the people’s congress in Panlong Town, Rongchang District. As he became more familiar with the work of these offices, he asked to join the team of legislative suggestion collectors. After careful consideration, the Zhongxinwan office accepted his request, and in November 2024 he officially became Chongqing’s first foreign collector. He has said that by personally participating in the legislative process, he hopes to build a bridge between China and the wider world and help international audiences understand Chinese democracy through its everyday details.

Public services have been evolving alongside these outreach efforts. The community health service center in Hualongqiao Subdistrict, Yuzhong District, upgraded its information system to allow full names of foreign nationals to be entered, making medical visits more convenient for expatriate residents. Designated hospitals and service centers in the district have also formed medical teams proficient in foreign languages to provide timely, efficient care.

These improvements were prompted by suggestions from two foreign residents at a subdistrict-level deputies meeting. On June 27, 2024, Hualongqiao Subdistrict convened the second meeting of its first council of deputies, where an American business executive and his wife par-

ticipated as non-voting attendees. They recommended enhancing the community hospital information system to accommodate foreign names and medical records, aiming to support a higher-quality international business and residential environment in the Tiandi area. Deputies endorsed the proposal, and in August 2024 Yuzhong District launched a comprehensive upgrade of the community health service center’s information system.

According to an official from the Chongqing Municipal People’s Congress Standing Committee, 2024 saw the city’s first outreach program tailored for foreign nationals in Chongqing. Thirty participants from more than 20 countries—including consular officers, leaders of foreign chambers of commerce and foreign-funded enterprises, and foreign journalists based in the city—visited the Standing Committee’s conference hall, grassroots legislative outreach offices, and deputy liaison stations. The program served as a window into China’s people’s congress system and its whole-process people’s democracy and was well received.

Looking ahead, the Standing Committee plans to regularly invite consular officials to observe sessions of the municipal people’s congress and to expand international exchanges that share Chongqing’s democratic story with the world. ■



Staff of the grassroots legislative outreach office in Shapingba solicit public opinion at Chongqing Polytechnic University of Electronic Technology on May 23, 2025. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Chongqing Municipal People’s Congress)



“A system that truly ensures every voice is heard”

— Foreign visitors gain insight into China’s people’s congress system

On March 12, 2024, the Caixi grassroots legislative outreach office in Fujian Province held a symposium to solicit opinions and suggestions on the revision to the Law on Deputies to the National People’s Congress and to the Local People’s Congresses at Various Levels. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Fujian Provincial People’s Congress)

Since 2023, nearly 20 parliamentary leaders and members from countries including the United States, Russia, Fiji, Seychelles, Namibia, Somalia, Nauru, and Malaysia have visited Guangdong province in southern China. Their itineraries took them from community meeting centers and public service projects to high-tech enterprises and legislative institutions, offering a comprehensive look at how democratic practices are incorporated into Chinese modernization.

As part of the interview series China’s Modernization, Global Inspiration, organized by the Guangdong Provincial People’s Congress Standing Committee, these visitors

shared their impressions with global audiences. A member of Namibia’s National Assembly described China’s governance as a system where government and the public move in tandem, balancing diverse demands. He saw this as a foundation for sustained economic growth and China’s ascent to the world’s second-largest economy.

After visiting Shenzhen, a parliamentarian from Seychelles highlighted China’s transformation over recent decades—from traditional manufacturing to a modern economic powerhouse—and noted how Shenzhen has evolved from a small fishing village into a hub for the digital economy. In his view, these changes reflect substantial progress



Wu Tengxin(right), a local villager who relies on a scooter for daily mobility after contracting polio in Weidong Village, Jiangmen City of Guangdong, has attended a legislative consultation meeting regarding the draft law on building accessible environments as a representative of people with disabilities. He talks to a director-general of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Jiangmen Municipal People's Congress)

toward a modernized economic system.

In October 2024, parliamentarians from nine Pacific Island countries, including Fiji and Kiribati, visited Guangdong and observed the decision-making process for community-level livelihood projects in Xiangzhou District, Zhuhai. Rick Houenipwela, former prime minister of the Solomon Islands, emphasized how China's system enables broad participation, including candidates with disabilities, ensuring that more voices are heard. He contrasted this approach with top-down models elsewhere and pointed to mechanisms—such as proposals grounded in surveys—that allow representatives from ordinary backgrounds to chan-

nel public opinion into policy. He felt many of these practices could inform other countries.

A parliamentarian from Nauru praised Guangdong's beauty and high level of modernization, saying his experience in China differed markedly from common portrayals in some Western media. He stressed that each country should be free to pursue a democratic path suited to its national conditions and viewed China's whole-process people's democracy as rooted in the grassroots and supportive of broader national aspirations.

Lester Chang, a member of the New York State Assembly, after visiting a deputy liaison station of the Tianhe District people's congress, pointed to a case where local deputies helped residents in older housing complexes install elevators, using duty-performance records to drive accountability. He said the work exemplified what legislators should do: represent their communities, solve problems, and improve residents' quality of life.

Following tours of new-energy vehicle companies, high-tech industrial parks, and grassroots deputy liaison stations, the chairwoman of the Legislative Duma of Khabarovsk Krai in Russia repeatedly underscored the importance of social responsibility—by individuals, enterprises, and legislative bodies alike—in serving the public and planning for the future.

To date, videos from the China's Modernization, Global Inspiration series have garnered more than 10 million views, providing an important window for international audiences to understand China's whole-process people's democracy. ■

The pulse of democracy in every alleyway: stories of whole-process people's democracy from the grassroots

As dawn breaks over a wet market in Wenling in Zhejiang Province, vendors stack fresh greens and haggle over stall renovation plans with the same gusto they use to sell peaches. In a Hunan village, elders and young people sit beneath an ancient tree, casting votes in their local dialect on how to share tourism income. In a timeworn Shanghai lilong, residents grip sketch pads and debate where a pocket garden should bloom. These everyday moments are vivid scenes of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics—democracy not on a pedestal, but in the alley, the courtyard and the queue.

In China, democracy is not a distant abstraction but a daily practice embedded in the soil of community life. Whole-process people's democracy stretches from consultation to decision-making, from management to oversight. It lives in farm-field meetings and neighborhood roundtables, in factory ballots and online feedback portals. It is not limited to a single election day; it is present at every link—policy formulation, public affairs, supervision and feedback—so that the people's voice is continuously heard and their collective wisdom becomes a force that improves lives.

Speaking up at the threshing ground

"When will the village road be widened to six meters and paved?" "The irrigation pond in the Datang area is leaking and we hope the people's congress deputies can help solve it." "The streetlights are out on a section of the road."

In Foling village, Feng'an town, Zijin county in Guangdong province, a lively "speaking-up session" was underway right at the villagers' doorstep. One by one, villagers raise concerns while people's congress deputies and village officials listen, take notes and reply point by point. This is the innovative Speaking Up at the Threshing Ground activity initiated by the Feng'an People's Congress.

Since September 2021, Feng'an has actively explored new models of grassroots governance. Through these sessions, held on the open threshing grounds or cultural activity squares outside villagers' homes, residents, Communist Party of China members and deputies meet face-to-face. The gatherings serve to publicize policies and laws, broadly collect public opinion and focus on solving problems for the public.

Every appeal is logged, followed up and closed with a clear response. For instance, a persistent issue in several villages in Feng'an are overgrown bamboo groves blocking rivers and obscuring farmland. This was addressed after deputies and officials conducted field research and jointly developed a river management plan. Now, 28 km of waterways have been dredged and cleared. And in response to widespread calls for reviving abandoned farmland, the village revitalized its land resources by developing integrated rice-crayfish and rice-fish farming systems, where rice paddies are used to simultaneously cultivate rice and aquatic animals. The model has boosted farmers' income through diversified high-value produce and reduced the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, while improving soil health and water conservation.

Heart-to-heart under the banyan tree

In July 2025, a legislative draft opinion solicitation meeting organized by the Waihai subdistrict in Jianghai district, Jiangmen, Guangdong, was in full swing. Listening to local voices under the shade of trees, people's congress deputies gathered the freshest grassroots perspectives on the draft revision of the Organic Law of the Villagers' Committees of China, carrying the expectations of the people and lessons from practice.

The villagers' committee is the basic self-governance organization in rural China. It is neither a formal government agency nor a state administrative organ, but rather



an autonomous people's organization that manages local public affairs and services.

Under the giant banyan tree, which spread like a huge umbrella against the summer heat, over 20 deputies and village representatives sat in a circle in the discussion square. They clutched notebooks, while some brought copies of their own village regulations.

Zhao Jingkang, deputy director of the Waihai Sub-district People's Congress Working Committee, held an explanatory document on the draft revision of the law. He broke it down for everyone—why the changes were needed, what the main points were and how the process would work—so that every participant could engage with confidence.

As soon as he finished, Chen Songgen, a deputy from Shiheli Community, raised his hand. "The requirements for archive management in the draft are unclear. If these records aren't properly managed, it will cause trouble later. I suggest adding relevant provisions."

"I have an idea, too," said Chen Jiahao, a deputy from Mayi. "Most young people in our village work outside now, making it hard to gather a full villagers' meeting. Switching to household representative meetings would better suit our reality."

Listening to these suggestions, Xing Yusheng, director of the Legal Affairs Commission of the Jianghai District People's Congress Standing Committee, replied, scribbling as he spoke, "The issues you've raised are all very practical, precisely the details legislation should consider," he responded to each point. "We will record and organize every bit of this earthy wisdom, compile it into a special report and follow procedures to submit it upward to ensure our genuine grassroots voices are heard."

A hub of democracy, tangible action

The Whole-Process People's Democracy Practice Station in the civil service hall in Fengle town, Feixi county in Anhui province is a frontline lab for grassroots governance.

Conveniently located in the town center, the station has shifted from being a traditional people's congress deputy liaison station to a hands-on "practice station." As one staff member put it, "It's not just a sign change, it's a shift in how we work. Democracy shouldn't just happen during elections. It should be part of daily life, where peo-

ple have a real say in matters that affect them."

To make it easier for residents to be heard, Fengle has built a network bridging both online and offline channels. All 97 local deputies have personalized QR codes and the station itself has one too, allowing people to scan and submit feedback anytime. Every suggestion goes into a digital platform that tracks it from submission to resolution, making sure no voice gets lost.

For resident Wu Yichun, the difference is tangible. "My biggest headache used to be charging my new energy vehicle at night," he said, pointing to a new charging shed below his building. "People used to use unsafe extension cords all over the place. Now I just go downstairs and charge at these new facilities—a full charge costs just over one yuan (\$0.14). It's safe, cheap and reliable."

This change grew out of what the station calls "in-house consultations"—monthly meetings at the station focused on one pressing issue. In September 2025, the topic was new energy vehicles. Property managers, officials, deputies and residents gathered, walked the site, weighed options and agreed on a plan to build more facilities, guided by safety, convenience and smart planning.

But the station doesn't only tackle development issues, it also helps resolve conflicts. A mediation studio launched in August 2025 brings together deputies, mediators and legal advisors to settle disputes over land, compensation and more. So far, 15 cases have been resolved locally.

All of this is powered by Fengle's Digital People's Congress platform. Think of it as a smart hub that keeps things running smoothly. It tracks what deputies are working on, rates how involved they are, sifts through public feedback to spot common concerns and lets higher-up officials monitor progress in real time.

From threshing grounds to banyan shade to digital dashboards, whole-process people's democracy is not abstract in Fengle—or in countless other communities. It is a working process: scan a code, speak up at a meeting, sit down together to solve a neighborhood headache, follow the outcome through to the end. By turning dialogue into action and tracking progress every step of the way, this small-town initiative is proving that when people have a real voice in the decisions that affect them, everyone benefits. ■



“A system worthy of great admiration”:

International leaders on China's people's congresses

The system of people's congresses is China's fundamental political system. The Communist Party of China led the Chinese people, through arduous struggle and long-term exploration in establishing, consolidating, and continuously improving this system, which has provided an important institutional guarantee

for creating the “two major miracles” of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability.

During their visits to China, a number of foreign parliamentary speakers gained first-hand insights into the evolution and strengths of the system of people's congresses through lectures, field visits and other activities.

Helder Ernesto Injojo

Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique



During this visit, I met with leaders of China's NPC Standing Committee and standing committees of local people's congresses in Shandong province and the city of Qingdao. I observed that the people's congress system plays an indispensable role in China's political life. I have always believed that democracy should accommodate each country's national conditions and the needs of its people, and that the people have the right to determine how they participate in national governance. China's development achievements powerfully demonstrate the correctness and effectiveness of its system, and I highly appreciate the democratic model with Chinese characteristics. The legislative bodies of Mozambique and China share the same philosophy and goals: prioritizing the happiness of the people as the highest aspiration, placing people's interests first and remaining committed to following the will of the people.

Armindo

Former First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Cabo Verde



During my visit, I learned about the practice of the people's congress system at both the national and local levels. This is a scientifically designed and comprehensive system that plays an important role in governance of all levels in China. Whether it is the leapfrog development of villages, the high-quality development in various regions, or outstanding achievements of the country, they all reflect the Chinese people's aspirations and are inseparable from the role of the people's congress system. As President Xi said, democracy is not an ornament to be put on display, but an instrument for addressing the issues that concern the people. During this visit, I witnessed firsthand how whole-process people's democracy is making life better for the Chinese people.

Karol Cariola Oliva

Former speaker of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies

We are deeply impressed by China's system of the peo-



ple's congresses. For any country in the world, establishing a system that represents such a large population and such diverse social groups is incredibly difficult, but China has made it. China's political system, although different from that of the West, has achieved significant results and has been remarkably successful in benefiting the people. President Xi's commitment to winning the battle against poverty focused on addressing the people's most pressing difficulties and concerns and improving their quality of life. The achievement lies not only in lifting nearly 100 million rural residents out of poverty but also in creating opportunities for all Chinese people to improve their lives and achieve long-term development. Throughout this process, China's system of people's congresses has played a vital and effective role. There is no doubt that China's system is capable of achieving success. China's people's congress system is a political system that can represent more than 1.4 billion Chinese people.

Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

China's system model is inclusive. We see that Chi-



na's NPC simultaneously listens to public opinions and grassroots voices through local people's congresses at various levels and local communities, establishing a link between the national and local levels. This is worth learning from for many countries. The model of China's NPC shares similarities with the design of the IPU — both are built on robust democratic structures. China's NPC is representative. It is a legislative body that fully represents the Chinese people. When we talk about strong and robust democratic structures, we also discuss "accountability," that is, how parliaments and their members are accountable to the people. In this regard, I believe that the system of China's NPC hearing reports is something that other parliaments in the Global South can learn from: ensuring accountability to the people from the grassroots up to the top level.

Khuon Sudary

President of the Cambodian National Assembly



According to the Constitution of China, the NPC is the highest organ of state power. I have observed that the NPC deputies are broadly representative, with every ethnic group in China electing its own deputies, which demonstrates China's commitment to ethnic unity. Through institutional design, China's administrative and supervisory organs are established by and responsible to the NPC and the powers of state organs and their personnel are all subject to constraints and supervision by the NPC. China's annual two sessions serve as a window for the world to understand China's governance approach and practices, directly embodying China's major concept of whole-process people's democracy. ■

A close-up look at China's people's congress system

In October, 2024, 39 parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from nine countries, namely Fiji, Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu, participated in a seminar organized by the National People's Congress (NPC) of China.

The delegation visited Hebei and Guangdong provinces. On these visits, they discovered firsthand how people's congress deputies fulfilled their duties, and experienced China's whole-process people's democracy.



This photo shows the meeting hall of the Provisional Central Government of the Chinese Soviet Republic in Ruijin, Jiangxi Province. VCG

In Hebei province

At the Exhibition on the First People's Congress of Shijiazhuang, a gilded inscription reading A Model of People's Democracy immediately catches the eye. From July 21 to August 9, 1949, Shijiazhuang convened its first people's congress, pioneering the system of universal suffrage for deputies. As they walked through the exhibition, the parliamentarians were impressed. "What I saw firsthand shattered my previous perceptions and gave me a deeper understanding of China's democratic system. The people's congress system has continuously evolved over 70 years of practice and remains full of vitality today," reflected a parliamentarian from FSM.

On October 27, at a symposium held in Shijiazhuang, Hebei, NPC deputies Wu Xiangjun, Wei Lihua, and Cui Xueqin met with parliamentarians from Pacific Island countries, each speaking in turn to share how they fulfill their duties.

"All for the people, all from the people, and all starting from the standpoint of the people—these principles run through the entire practice of China's democratic politics and social development." The accounts from the deputies deeply moved one parliamentarian from Vanuatu, who remarked, "China's whole-process people's democracy is rooted at the grassroots, supporting the realization of the Chinese dream and national rejuvenation."

"China's people's congress system responds to the people's needs and ensures the exercise of their political rights as masters of the country. The establishment of local legislation outreach offices helps deputies to people's congresses maintain closer ties with the people," remarked a parliamentarian from Solomon Islands after the visit. A parliamentarian from Fiji noted, "China has blazed a distinctive path to democracy, and there is much valuable experience to learn from."

In Guangdong province

In Guangzhou, the exhibition on The Practice of the People's Congress System in Guangdong featured ten voter certificates spanning from 1954 to 2016, a display wall showcasing local regulations reflecting Guangdong's pioneering spirit, a framed painting presented by the public inscribed with The People's Good Deputies, and a video compilation of the provincial people's congress's external engagements. "From Hebei to Guangdong, I have felt the vibrant vitality of China's people's congress system," said a parliamentarian from Niue, pointing to one of the historical photographs.

"During a fact-finding mission, I noted that the road conditions in some remote villages were so poor that they hindered villagers' travel and agricultural product transportation. After follow-ups and feedback from other deputies and me, relevant authorities took swift action, greatly improving local transportation conditions and the lives of the villagers." At the Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the story of Zhou Canfang, a deputy to the Guangzhou municipal people's congress from Tianhe District, won applause from the visitors. A parliamentarian from PNG noted, "China's deputies to people's congresses come



Parliamentarians attending the Seminar for Parliamentarians from Pacific Island Countries organized by the National People's Congress of China visit the Historical Exhibition Hall of the first session of the Shijiazhuang Municipal People's Congress in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, in October 2024. Zhang Weiqi



Parliamentarians attending the Seminar for Parliamentarians from ASEAN Countries organized by the National People's Congress of China attend the consultation meeting on the revised draft of the Maritime Law at the grassroots legislative outreach office in Nansha, Guangdong Province, in November 2024. Zhang Weiqi

from the people, are rooted at the grassroots, and maintain close ties with the masses. They can more authentically reflect the voices of the people and better serve them."

"Partnership with China can bring a brighter and more sustainable future to Pacific island nations and the wider Asia-Pacific region," the delegation agreed. They thanked the NPC for providing a platform for exchange and learning among lawmakers from the participating countries, and expressed their upbeat outlook on gaining further insights from China's advanced experiences. ■

Two cities, one river



Meiju River in Zunyi, Guizhou Province. In 2021, under the guidance of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the standing committees of the Yunnan, Guizhou, and Sichuan provincial people's congresses simultaneously deliberated and adopted the Decision on Strengthening the Joint Protection of the Chishui River Basin, along with their respective provincial regulations on Chishui River Basin protection. These took effect on July 1 of the same year, setting a precedent for collaborative local legislation. VCG

Walking along the banks of the Anfu Stream in Tanzhou town of Zhongshan, Guangdong province, the water runs clear, shimmering under the sun, as golden trumpet trees sway gently on the shore. This idyllic scene along a key tributary of the Qianshan River Basin marks a quiet victory in a long-standing challenge: managing a waterway that belongs to two cities.

The Qianshan River, which flows in the cities of Zhongshan and Zhuhai in Guangdong, presented a textbook case of trans-boundary governance headaches.

In January 2025, Zhongshan and Zhuhai implemented mirroring regulations: the Zhongshan City Qianshan River Basin Collaborative Protection Provisions and its counterpart in Zhuhai. This synchronized legal framework aims to transform what was once a knotty dilemma into a model of routine, detailed and law-based joint management.

Facing shared challenges

The Qianshan River is a vital flood channel for Zhongshan and a symbolic “mother river” for Zhuhai, and its health was a shared concern, but responsibility was split. Efforts were often hampered by differing local regulations, uncoordinated enforcement and fragmented data.

The river's water quality remained frustratingly inconsistent. The core issue, identified by Cheng Yubin, a Zhongshan

legislator, was systemic. “The key lay in the differences in the two cities’ mechanisms for law enforcement, evidence collection and data sharing,” he said, after conducting field research with riverside residents and officials from both cities before drafting new legislation. He found their management regulations for cross-border governance were misaligned.

The two provisions represent the province’s first joint legislative initiative for shared river governance. Even before drafting began, representatives and local officials from both cities had embarked on a cautious, exploratory journey, learning through practice step by step.

A study team traveled to other parts of China, like Hunan and Hubei provinces, to see how other areas manage rivers that flow across different jurisdictions.

The biggest problem in managing the Qianshan River was that the two cities had different rules and ways of doing things. To fix this, legislators needed their new laws to match perfectly. Zhuhai updated its 2016 river management rules by adding a new chapter on cooperation. At the same time, Zhongshan created its own brand new river management law. In this way, the two sets of rules fit together like puzzle pieces. To make sure the laws were adequate, the two cities worked together on drafting them from the very beginning.

The new regulations signal a move from ad-hoc pilot projects toward institutionalized collaboration. For residents, the change has become more visible not just in legal texts, but in



the clearer waters beside their homes.

Seeing results

Following the formal implementation of the province's first watershed collaborative legislation, concrete actions got underway. Tanzhou town in Zhongshan promptly organized a task force for a field meeting with Fengshan subdistrict in Zhuhai. Officials gathered to tackle practical questions head-on like: "What are the specific difficulties in managing the tributaries along the Zhongshan-Zhuhai border?" and "How should pipeline networks for pollution control projects in these border waterways be divided?" The two sides developed a shared task list and launched joint efforts to clean up the banks of trans-boundary tributaries, addressing issues like unauthorized occupation and debris dumping.

Moreover, the two cities have deepened their cooperation on flood control. The water affairs departments from the two cities have strengthened the coordinated operation of sluice gates in the Qianshan River Basin. By sharing flood dispatch information, they have achieved interconnected monitoring of water conditions and disasters, enabling a coordinated emergency response. In law enforcement, the two cities now conduct joint water-related inspections.

"Our next step is to achieve information sharing on fundamental hydrological data like water levels, flow volumes and



The legislative working group of Zhongshan conducts field survey at the Qianshan River Basin in Tanzhou town. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Zhongshan Municipal People's Congress)

saltwater intrusion monitoring," an official from the Zhongshan Water Affairs Bureau explained. "This will allow for more precise, coordinated control of river sluices and other water conservancy projects. By combining our strengths, we can minimize the adverse impacts of saltwater tide to the greatest extent possible."

From local exploration to laws and regulations

As regional integration has accelerated, various areas including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta, the Youshui River Basin, the Chengdu-Chongqing economic zone and the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan city cluster have been exploring collaborative regional legislation since 2014, producing a number of representative legislative achievements. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has attached great importance to collaborative regional legislation. The newly amended Organic Law of the Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments in 2022 and the newly amended Legislation Law in 2023 explicitly authorize the people's congresses and their standing committees of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government, cities divided into districts and autonomous prefectures, to engage in collaborative regional legislation based on the needs of coordinated regional development. This marks the elevation of collaborative regional legislation from local experimentation to the level of national law. Coordinated regional development is a process of achieving relative balance, dynamic coordination and full development among regions through orderly division of labor and collaboration based on regional comparative advantages. It is an urgent necessity for addressing the problem of unbalanced and inadequate development in China. Coordinated regional development cannot be achieved without legislative support. Collaborative regional legislation helps improve the coordination of regional legal systems, promotes resource sharing and cooperation within regions, enables joint efforts to address common regional problems, and advances coordinated regional development to a higher level. ■

Scan, send, solved:

A QR code revolutionizing city service

“See a problem, scan a code, watch it get fixed.” This is the new mantra for residents across Guangzhou, a metropolis in Guangdong province in south China. The innovative civic-tech program was launched by the municipal people’s congress standing committee.

A digital bridge

In March 2023, the city became the first in the province to launch a numbered QR code system for its 604 people’s congress deputy liaison stations. These stations represent an extension of grassroots people’s congress work into residential compounds, industrial parks, office buildings, enterprises, and colleges and universities, among others. They serve as key platforms for deputies to conduct research and hold discussions and exchanges. Deputies regularly work there and wait for people to communicate their concerns and suggestions.

Each of the 604 stations in Guangzhou now has a unique code. By scanning it, residents can directly find their local deputy online and voice their concerns. Once received, the deputies and other staff will work to ensure that every issue is addressed and followed up on.

This digital upgrade has given the liaison stations a powerful new reach. In 2025, over 7,000 deputies at all levels engaged with the community through these stations, which received some 42,000 residents. Together, online and offline channels gathered more than 72,000 public suggestions, up 67.8 percent year-on-year, leading to swift action on issues like traffic safety and e-bike management.

Last year, municipal people’s congress standing committees



The Standing Committee of the Guangzhou Municipal People’s Congress took the lead to number and assign QR codes to all 604 deputies’ liaison stations across the city. More than 7,000 deputies to people’s congresses at all five levels have been organized into groups and assigned to these stations. The photo shows staff members pasting QR codes onto a community bulletin board, making it more convenient for the public to contact the deputies. (Photo provided by Guangzhou Municipal People’s Congress)

took the QR code system to the next level. By expanding the codes’ presence in neighborhoods, apartment complexes, business parks, schools, shopping malls and subway stations, they aim to make “scan-to-contact-your-deputy” an instant option available anywhere, anytime.

Making a difference

For Lu Ermin, a deputy to the municipal people’s congress and head of a residents’ committee in Baiyun district, the QR code system is more than a policy—it’s a tool that delivers real results.

He remembers clearly that after the system was launched, a notification popped up on his phone. A resident had used the liaison station’s code to report a large charging cabinet blocking an alley. Attached was a photo of the obstruction. Lu immediately contacted station staff, coordinated with relevant department and had the cabinet removed by the end of the same day.

“I didn’t expect it to be fixed so fast,” the resident said, astonished.

“The people speak, and we must act...not just act, but act swiftly,” Lu said. “We have to answer their needs with our full attention. That’s how you build trust.”

When dengue fever season arrived in August 2023, a resident surnamed Chen scanned a code to send a message directly to Yu Na, a deputy to the municipal people’s congress, who also serves as president of the Guangzhou Eighth People’s Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University. Chen’s request was straightforward: He urged authorities to step up public education on dengue prevention.

The message was routed to a liaison station in Jiahe subdistrict. Acting on Yu’s reporting, the station forwarded it to local health authorities. What followed was a coordinated campaign. City workers and service teams stepped up their inspections. They focused on key sites, such as schools, daycare centers and construction sites, pushing for intensive clean-up campaigns. The goal was to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds in those densely populated places by regularly clearing out stagnant sewage and trash, paying special attention to hidden corners and strictly enforcing pest control measures like mosquito eradication.

Yu has become one of the QR code system’s most active users, having addressed several public concerns through the platform. “As a deputy, it’s crucial to leverage this platform effectively to maintain close ties with the community,” she said.

Such pleasant surprises are becoming commonplace: a barren patch of land transformed into a bustling soccer field, a frustrating commute to and from an industrial park resolved, a muddy village road paved smooth.

What started as a digital experiment is reimagining the civic feedback loop. For Guangzhou’s residents, a simple QR code has become the most direct line to responsive lawmakers, proving that in the digital age, effective governance can be just a scan away. ■

Dialogue in Beijing:

Understanding the deputy system



A delegation from the Bahamian Parliament visits the courtyard meeting hall at Caochang Sitiao Hutong on April 12, 2024. (Photo provided by the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress)



Caochang Sitiao Hutong in Beijing. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Dongcheng District)

From April 7 to 13, 2024, a seven-member Bahamian delegation led by Patricia Deveaux, Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Julie Lashell Adderley, President of the Senate, paid a visit to China upon invitation.

Traveling to Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin, the delegation gained insight into the history of the Communist Party of China (CPC), experienced Chinese culture, and engaged in face-to-face exchanges with deputies to people's congresses, getting pleasant and lasting impressions.

Following a stone-paved path into Caochang Sitiao Hutong and pushing open a red wooden door reveals the Courtyard Meeting Hall.

It was within this small courtyard that the principle was established that community affairs are proposed, discussed, decided, managed, and evaluated by residents themselves.

On the eve of the Spring Festival in 2019, President Xi Jinping visited Caochang Sitiao Hutong in Beijing's Dongcheng District. He joined a meeting where representatives from the subdistrict office, neighborhood committee, and residents were discussing the renovation and improvement of the hutong courtyards. Xi noted, "residents' matters are discussed and decided by residents. This helps enhance locals' sense of belonging and the sense of their status as masters of the country, and makes community governance and services more targeted and effective."

This modest meeting space has since become widely recognized as a site for practicing grassroots governance and democracy.

On April 12, the delegation visited the Courtyard Meeting Hall, listening to an introduction on the principle that community affairs are proposed, discussed, decided, managed, and evaluated by residents themselves, viewing a display cabinet of old objects, and pausing before the dozen or so photographs hanging on the wall.

They then compared notes with local legislators on "the people's congress system and the practice of whole-process people's democracy at community level."

"I have personally participated in the community-level practice of whole-process people's democracy, which involves extensively soliciting and thoroughly considering public opinion at every stage of decision-making," said Shi Xinyue, a lawyer and deputy to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress.

He shared his experience in conducting research and offering suggestions during the formulation of the Beijing Regulations on Building an International Science and Technology Innovation Center, and elaborated on the continuous improvement and development of the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics.

The dialogue reflected the strong sense of responsibility Chinese lawmakers have toward the people and showcased China's open-mindedness, confidence, and commitment to mutual learning.

"Listening to the stories of how deputies to the people's congress fulfill their duties for the people, and seeing the urban renewal work in the Qianmen area, we truly felt that 'the people are put first.'" Speaker Deveaux and Senate President Adderley spoke highly of the "people-centered development philosophy" and expressed the hope to "continue advancing together along this people-centered path." ■

From tea plant to lawbook:

Conversations with deputies to the people's congresses

After years living in China, British national Jerry Grey's curiosity settled on a pivotal question: How does the world's most populous nation make its democracy work? He had learned that the people's congress system, practiced for seven decades, is the principal engine of China's political life, with its deputies serving as key actors.

To understand their role, Grey embarked on a journey to meet these deputies where they serve from remote villages to provincial legislative halls.

An innovative tool keeps deputies ears to the ground

Grey visited a people's congress deputy liaison station at Donghui Community in Tianyuan subdistrict, Tianhe district in Guangzhou. He observed a community meeting in session—a dynamic forum where Wang Jinhong, a district-level people's congress deputy and senior vice president of information technology service provider Beiming Software, convened with fellow deputies, resident representatives and local traffic police. The agenda was specific and practical: finalizing plans for new crosswalks on surrounding roads.

Wang demonstrated an innovative tool: a mini-program enabling deputies to instantly report community issues via mobile phone, track their progress through appropriate administrative offices, and provide timely feedback to residents. “This allows frontline deputies to identify problems faster, facilitate solutions more efficiently and close the loop with the community,” Wang explained.

First put forward by President Xi Jinping in 2019, the concept of whole-process people's democracy ensures public participation throughout the entire process of governance, covering all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society. Unlike election-centric Western democratic models, China's system weaves together law-based democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management and oversight within a structured institutional framework. This approach fosters broad and continuous participation, ensuring that governance decisions reflect the collective will and evolving needs of society.

Grey noted that from proposal to implementation, the crosswalk project—a critical safety issue—was resolved in under two months. “The efficiency impressed me greatly,” he said.

Service as a deputy is a concurrent post. This role lets me view my primary job from a broader, more diverse perspective.

Many deputies from scientific fields who blend expertise with practical insight to advise policymaking.

As a deputy, my constant thought is how to lead villagers toward common prosperity.

Through these procedures, citizens actively engage in discussions on public affairs, working toward the greatest common ground based on the aspirations and interests of the entire population. Their rights are safeguarded, their voices are heard and their wellbeing is prioritized in the decision-making process.

A concurrent post with full-time commitment

Seeking to understand how deputies stay connected to those they serve, Grey traveled to Dongguan. At the city's Agarwood Culture Museum, he met Huang Meifen, a municipal-level deputy and the museum's deputy director. When Grey asked how she balanced her professional duties with her role as a deputy, Huang was candid, “Service as a deputy is a concurrent post. As a cultural worker, this role lets me view my primary job from a broader, more diverse perspective.” She emphasized that her position as a deputy enables her to gather public opinion and feed it into the legislative and policy-making process, turning insight into service.

Grey joined Huang on a day of field research. En route to research sites, Huang shared that this was her fourth



The deputies liaison station at Fengyuan subdistrict in Liwan district in Guangzhou organizes deputies to meet with the public under a kapok tree. (Photo provided by the Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress)

visit to prepare a proposal for the upcoming annual legislative session. “At least four or five rounds of research are typical,” she said, “but new issues often emerge, so the actual number is usually higher.”

Through these interactions Grey observed a common thread: whether addressing neighborhood safety or regional development, deputies consistently prioritized people’s needs and voices. In China’s system, democracy begins not on a pedestal, but in the neighborhoods, workplaces and daily conversations of its people.

Leading my village toward common prosperity

Grey’s quest led him first to Dongnan village in Lianshan Zhuang and Yao autonomous county in south China’s Guangdong province, a mountainous region home to the Zhuang and Yao ethnic groups. There, he met Huang Ji-ying, a county-level people’s congress deputy and the vil-

lagers’ committee director, standing in a field of hanging melons.

“We consolidated these scattered plots for cooperative melon farming,” Huang explained, gesturing to the vines. “After harvest, we dry and sell the seeds to boost villagers’ income.” The project was her answer to local development needs.

Grey then witnessed a “pavilion meeting,” an open-air forum where Huang mediated between villagers and outside experts to address doubts about the melon cooperative. Seeing villagers, the deputy and technicians sitting together to hash out solutions, it was transparent and effective, Grey observed.

When asked what “serving the people” meant to her, Huang, a three-term deputy, reflected, “My constant thought is how to lead villagers toward common prosperity. Rural work is complex. Initially, some didn’t fully understand our plans for village revitalization, but through persistent dialogue, they came around. In building a



The central deputies liaison station of Huangshi street, Baiyun district, Guangzhou. (Photo provided by the Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress)

Beautiful Countryside, villagers are the protagonists—both builders and beneficiaries who share in the gains.”

Expert insights informing policy-making

Next, Grey traveled to the Baixi Provincial Nature Reserve in Zijin county of Heyuan city, hoping to see how deputies contribute to environmental protection.

Deep in the forest, he met Ye Qinliang, a Guangdong provincial deputy and director of the reserve, meticulously measuring a rare *Camellia granthamiana* plant. “This one’s diameter is 2.5 centimeters,” Ye noted. “Fewer than 300 mature individuals exist in the wild globally. It’s rarer than the panda—the ‘panda of the plant world.’”

Ye represents many deputies from scientific fields who blend expertise with practical insight to advise policymaking. To Grey’s question about the impact of his work, Ye responded, “Protecting and studying nature is my job. As a people’s congress deputy, promoting biodiversity and a healthier environment is my duty. I am both an advocate and a participant in building a green, beautiful China. My hope is for bluer skies, greener lands and clearer waters.”

Firsthand experience of “open-door legislation”

Grey’s final stop was an immersion in “open-door legislation.” He followed Liu Tao, a provincial deputy and director and veteran lawyer with the Lianyue Law Firm, through the revision process of the regulations that honor and protect the brave and righteous volunteer personnel of

Guangdong. Enacted on January 1, 2013, the regulations are designed to encourage, honor and safeguard individuals who perform acts of righteousness and bravery, aiming to uphold social morality by ensuring heroes are supported and encouraging civic courage across society.

At a grassroots legislative outreach office in Nansha, a heated discussion unfolded. Xu Dapeng, a local resident, who was also a representative of the brave and righteous volunteer personnel, voiced public concern: “What if the rescue attempt fails?” A local police officer, Zhu Shunchao, acknowledged the risks, “Stepping forward involves tremendous courage. The law’s purpose is to encourage more people to act bravely.”

Later, at his law firm, Liu leveraged his 30 years of experience to debate technical details with colleagues. “Where will the funding come from and how will it be managed? Should the regulations specify the foundation’s operations more precisely?” Liu asked. Grey was struck by the deputy’s professional rigor.

The process culminated in a session of the Standing Committee of the Guangdong Provincial People’s Congress. After meticulous review, the revised draft was put to a vote. The presiding officer announced the result: 62 votes in favor. The revised law came into force on March 1, 2025.

Through melon fields, forest trails and legislative chambers, Grey saw a common thread: China’s people’s congress deputies operate as vital connectors, translating local needs into policy, specialized knowledge into public good and popular will into law. ■

Deputies in action, democracy at work

— A retrospective on the performance of grassroots deputies

The people's congress system has vitality and distinctive institutional strengths because it is deeply rooted among the people. Deputies to people's congresses come from the people and remain firmly grounded among them. Their research reaches into every facet of society, their voices align with the pulse of the times, and their performance of duties responds directly to people's needs and expectations.

A great institution calls for compelling storytelling. The People's Congresses Journal has studied and implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's important thoughts on upholding and improving the people's congress system, fully leveraged its role as the principal platform of people's congresses for publicity and documenting public opinion, and actively carried out the themed campaign Frontline Deputies in Action. Over nearly two years, the journal tracked and reported on the performance of 495 grassroots deputies across 31 provincial-level regions. The coverage demonstrates deputies' people-centered commitment, exemplifies "the people are the masters of the country" and conveys the essence of Chinese democracy.



Over the past two years, from the forests and snowy plains of Northeast China to the shores of the South China Sea, from the snowy plateau to the ancient canals of Jiangnan water towns, these heartfelt voices have echoed across a country alive with development and progress. Through the journal, stories of deputies' performance have been widely shared, enabling more people to hear, see and feel their sense of responsibility as they speak for the people and contribute to the country's development.

Publicity and reporting on deputies' duty performance is a core task for news divisions of people's congresses and a statutory responsibility stipulated in the revised Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels. General Secretary Xi has emphasized that "People's congresses should give full play to the role of their deputies and see to it that they respond to the calls of the people", and that "deputies to people's congresses shoulder the honorable duties entrusted to them by the people, they should stand firm politically, fulfill their political responsibilities, keep close ties with the people, and conduct themselves in ways that befit people's

congress work.

Sensing the original aspiration and mission: Writing moving duty performance stories with faith and perseverance

After the 30th anniversary symposium, journalists quickly packed their bags and set off for fields, factories and streets, focusing their reporting on grassroots deputies.

On the loess land of Hongsibu in Ningxia Hui autonomous region, rural deputy Ma Huijuan once said, "It is the times that have given me a new life." Once forced by poverty to drop out of school in Xihaigu, she later benefited from the Fujian-Ningxia paired assistance program and relocation policies. With land irrigated by water diverted from the Yellow River, her fellow villagers were no longer "trapped by water scarcity or impoverished by mountains".

Just as wheat takes root and sprouts in the fields, vivid stories come from those deeply rooted in the soil. For more than a decade, Ma has written over one million words on her mobile phone, publishing eight books and telling the story of 230,000 relocated residents transform-



Grassroots deputies Shen Jilan, Tan Xinping, Lu Man.

congress deputies in the new era." These important instructions provide fundamental guidance for advancing publicity on deputies' work.

On July 26, 2024, at a symposium marking the 30th anniversary of the People's Congresses Journal, Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, noted that deputies performing their duties in accordance with the law is an important manifestation of the people being the masters of the country, and that publicity on deputies, especially grassroots deputies, should be strengthened through vivid storytelling.

To carry out the themed publicity campaign, journalists of the People's Congresses Journal traveled across the country, moving between fields and city streets, factories, hospitals and schools. Their writing on deputies' duty performance offered vivid examples showcasing that "the people are the masters of the country," and provided strong momentum to the high-quality development of people's

ing their world together.

"My story is not a legend; it's a reflection of the advantages of the socialist system under the leadership of the Communist Party of China." Standing beneath a water conservancy hub pumping Yellow River water 300 meters upward, journalists understood that such warmth could only be felt on the ground.

In Wuxing village of Beichuan Qiang autonomous county, Sichuan province, NPC deputy Yu Shaorong, also the village Party branch secretary, talked about her livelihood-related suggestions. The Wenchuan earthquake in 2008 destroyed the roads and bridges connecting the village to the outside world and Yu led her fellow villagers over the mountains to safety. Since then, she has paid particular attention to rural infrastructure and has submitted many related suggestions. Today, Wuxing village has smooth roads and a renewed appearance. A newly built bridge stands higher and wider than before. Villager Wei Yuanding recalled that transporting 40

pigs once required four trips because the old bridge was too narrow. Now, with improved infrastructure, transportation costs have dropped significantly.

On the snowy plateau of Nagqu in Xizang autonomous region, journalists endured altitude sickness to record the story of deputy Chide, Party branch secretary of Porongtang village. Each year she travels over 3,000 kilometers to attend the NPC annual session in Beijing. Rooted in rural vitalization work, she consolidates herders' concerns—livestock rates, improved breeds, cooperative funding—into concrete suggestions brought to Beijing.

The deeper we went into the field, the more vitality our words gained. We have come to understand that the people's congress system remains vibrant because millions of deputies are rooted in the grassroots, enabling whole-process people's democracy to flourish across the nation.

Grasping the essence of endeavor: Performing deputies' duties in the grand context of national development

For grassroots deputies, the road of endeavor lies in

turned into open roads, and letter communication has given way to 5G connectivity, her bond with this land and its people remains unchanged. Now, she brings their voices to the Great Hall of the People.

Wang Yongcheng, president of the China Massage Association of Blind Practitioners, lost his sight in an accident but mastered blind massage techniques and trained more than 6,000 visually impaired practitioners. He has submitted suggestions on publishing large-print textbooks for low-vision students, improving elderly care systems with attention to people with disabilities, and promoting integrated development of disability affairs across the Taiwan Strait. "If you can't see, then listen and feel. If there is an obstacle, step over it," he said.

In Shenshan village of Jinggangshan, Jiangxi province, NPC deputy Zuo Xiangyun, also deputy Party branch secretary of the village, recalled General Secretary Xi Jinping's visit in 2016 and his instructions on poverty alleviation. Over the past decade, Zuo led his fellow villagers to develop bamboo wine, rural tourism and red culture education programs, boosting annual per capita income nearly tenfold. He also put forward suggestions on supporting



Grassroots deputies Chide, Dujun, Lin Hao.



industrial heartlands, revolutionary base areas and reform frontiers. Their footsteps sketch the vast landscape of the country, resounding with the pledge of serving the people.

In Qiqihar, Northeast China's Heilongjiang province, Ma Bing, an NPC deputy and Party branch secretary of the Ma Hengchang Team at Genertec Qiqihar No 2 Machine Tool Co Ltd, works amid the rumble of machinery. "The machining precision requirements are very high, and there's absolutely no room for carelessness in this work," he said. Leading technical breakthroughs and digital upgrading, he has advocated respect for work, vocational education and innovation, giving a voice to industrial workers.

Along winding roads in the Qinba Mountains of Shaanxi province, Zhao Mingcui, an NPC deputy and postal worker, has traveled her delivery route for more than 30 years. "What I deliver is not just mail, but care and connection," she said. Though the winding mountain paths have since

free access to revolutionary sites and increasing fiscal transfer payments, which received attention from relevant authorities.

Experiencing the warmth of democracy: Only by serving the people well can we truly represent them

Wherever NPC deputies go, their deep concern for the public brings warmth and reassurance to the people they serve.

In Barkam in Aba Tibetan and Qiang autonomous prefecture, Sichuan province, Geshe Wangmo, an NPC deputy and director of a nursing home, carefully dyes elderly residents' white hair on New Year's Day. Having lost her parents in childhood and been raised by her aunt under the care of the Party and the government, she has devoted 16 years to eldercare. "Guarding happiness" is how she

defines her role as a deputy.

NPC deputy Guo Wenbiao, a maritime rescuer in Wenling, Zhejiang province, has braved the sea for 43 years, saving thousands of lives. NPC deputy Yang Jinjun, a village doctor in Hunan province, rides winding mountain roads to treat patients year after year.

Through continuous service, they reflect how deputies' duty performance is rooted in long-term commitment to the people.

In Zunyi, Guizhou province, NPC deputy Li Ying promotes building-based "micro-governance," establishing elderly care services after surveying more than 500 seniors.

Tan Xiping, an NPC deputy and secretary of the general Party branch of Maodian village in Jiangxi province, paves a "path to the city" for agricultural products right to farmers' doorsteps.

NPC deputy Fu Guotao, a senior technician in Chongqing surveys thousands of workers to advocate skills train-

Inspiring the strength to move forward: Speaking for the people on their homeland

Looking back is for moving forward. As a new year dawns, deputies embark on a new journey, bringing grassroots voices to the NPC sessions.

In Yucun village of Anji, Zhejiang province, Party secretary Wang Yucheng noted that more than 1,200 young talents now live and work there. He will continue proposing suggestions on green industries and rural vitalization.

In Chibi, Hubei province, Tian Shuxian returned home after graduate studies to establish an ecological base using the "rice-crayfish-duck" model. She submitted suggestions on crop straw utilization and digital agriculture. "I come from the countryside and I hope to do something for my fellow villagers," she said.

Song Zhaopu, a grassroots traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, has provided free rehabilitation therapy



Grassroots deputies Fu Guotao, Yang Jinjun, Pei Hongxia.

ing. He submitted suggestions on accelerating the training of young skilled personnel and implementing the "Skills in China" Initiative, speaking out for frontline workers.

Xia Yongxiang, an NPC deputy and head of a fishery specialized cooperative in Zhoushan, Zhejiang province, proposes displaying deputies' QR codes on fishing boats to better serve fishermen.

The deputies are turning the "list of livelihood issues" into a "bill of happiness" for the people, making them feel that "the people's congress is close by and deputies are right beside them."

Ren Shuyuan, an NPC deputy in Heilongjiang province sells agricultural products via livestreaming, blazing a trail to prosperity for her fellow villagers.

Lu Man, an NPC deputy and secretary of the general Party branch of Chenjia village in Jiangsu province, listens to villagers' voices with heartfelt dedication and solves their problems with heart and soul.

These touching moments are profound interpretations of responsibility and commitment. The warmth of democracy lies in every detail of deputies' performance of duties.

to more than 3,200 children with cerebral palsy. Now an NPC deputy, he maintains close ties with the people and explores AI-empowered TCM services to better serve the public. He said he will submit related suggestions for the 2026 NPC session.

Stories of grassroots deputies reflect selfless dedication and unremitting pursuit. Through practical efforts, they demonstrate what it means to serve the people and illustrate the principle that "the people are the masters of the country."

The horn of a new journey has sounded. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, deputies will continue to mobilize the people to strive for excellence, consolidate development through solid achievements and march steadfastly toward the grand goals of building China into a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation, contributing their strength as deputies to writing a new chapter in advancing toward the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–30). ■

Striving to strengthen the development of grassroots legislative outreach offices

Since the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee established the first four grassroots legislative outreach offices in July 2015, the number of these national-level offices has increased steadily over the past decade. Currently, there are 60 such offices, covering 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government.

In July 2015, in order to implement the guiding principles of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and upon approval from the leadership of the NPC Standing Committee, the Legislative Affairs Commission established the first four grassroots legislative outreach offices. On November 2, 2019, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered important instructions at the grassroots legislative outreach office in the Hongqiao subdistrict of Shanghai and put forward the major concept of whole-process people's democracy, which provided essential guidance and charted the course for the development of grassroots legislative outreach offices. Over the past decade, the development of these offices has achieved remarkable results, serving as important platforms and vehicles for promoting scientific and democratic legislation, comprehensively advancing the rule of law and practicing whole-process people's democracy.

What efforts has the NPC made to promote the high-quality development of grassroots legislative outreach offices?

Continuously expanding numbers and coverage. Adhering to the principles of "foundation, uniqueness and willingness," the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee has prioritized grassroots orientation, enriched forms of engagement and implemented a scientific and rational layout. The Legislative Affairs Commission has established 54 national-level grassroots legislative outreach offices across 31 provincial-level regions in the country, covering a population of approximately 186 million. The commission has also promoted the establishment of more than 7,800 grassroots legislative outreach offices by the people's congresses at provincial- and prefecture-level.

Improving working mechanisms. In recent years, the NPC Standing Committee has amended laws such as the Organic Law of the National People's Congress and the Legislation Law, incorporating the development of whole-process people's democracy and grassroots legislative outreach offices into basic national laws. Whole-process people's democracy has been elevated from a major concept to a national will and action. The Legislative Affairs Commission has formulated seven institutional regulations, including the Working Rules for Grassroots Legislative Outreach Offices, setting an example for all offices to formulate more than 380 institutional norms and providing institutional and mechanism guarantees for orderly grassroots participation in national legislation. The grassroots legislative outreach offices have collected public opinion from multiple aspects and through multiple channels, adopting forms that are popular with the people, such as courtyard discussion meetings, bench meetings and tea talks to listen to public opinion face-to-face and around the clock.

Strengthening connections and guidance. The Legislative Affairs Commission organized exchange meetings and regional meetings for the grassroots legislative outreach offices to strengthen communication and mutual learning. It also held multiple local legislation training sessions to improve the working capacity of the offices. At the beginning of each year, it contacts various offices for their intentions to hold legislative consultation meetings on the draft laws to be submitted for deliberation, to ensure effective work results. The Legislative Affairs Commission resolutely implements the CPC Central Committee's requirements to combat formalism and reduce burdens

at the grassroots level. It also advocates close alignment with reality, seeking truth from facts, adapting to local conditions, and acting within its capabilities and avoids any assessments and rankings to save those working at the grassroots level from unnecessary burdens.

What achievements have been made in the development of grassroots legislative outreach offices?

Serving as a direct line to national legislation. Since July 2015, the Legislative Affairs Commission has solicited over 58,000 opinions from grassroots legislative outreach offices on 207 draft laws, draft legislative plans and documents under recording and review. Many of these insightful suggestions have been incorporated and adopted into the legislation. Among the currently effective laws in China, 177 were formulated or amended after the establishment of the grassroots legislative outreach offices. Opinions from the grassroots legislative outreach offices were solicited for 163 of these laws, accounting for approximately 92 percent of the total.

Serving as a bridge of hearts between the Party and the people. More than 300 constitutional and legal publicity activities were carried out at important occasions, such as National Constitution Day. By carrying out democratic practices like the vote-based decision-making system for public welfare projects, the grassroots legislative outreach offices have helped address pressing concerns of the people and contributed to local socioeconomic development and social governance. Eleven grassroots legislative outreach offices have been established in autonomous regions including Xinjiang and Xizang. Opinion solicitation activities have promoted regular and in-depth exchanges among people of all ethnic groups, helping consolidate the sense of community for the Chinese nation.

Serving as a showcase for Chinese democracy in international exchanges. Parliamentary speakers from Hungary, Vietnam and the Republic of Korea, parliamentarians from the Inter-Parliamentary Union and diplomatic envoys from 36 countries to China have visited the outreach offices on more than 130 occasions. They have had first-hand experience of the significant advantages and operating effectiveness of China's whole-process people's democracy and people's congress system. Many foreign visitors have said that it is unimaginable in their country for grassroots opinions to directly reach and be adopted by the highest state organ of power.

In conclusion, grassroots legislative outreach offices can efficiently and authentically reflect grassroots opinion and suggestions directly to the national legislative body, ensuring that national legislation stays grounded and understands public concerns, fully embodying the will of the people and enabling the people's congresses to hear the voice of the people at all stages of legislative work. Strengthening the development of grassroots legislative outreach offices is conducive to comprehensively advancing the rule of law and enhancing scientific and democratic legislation. Comprehensively advancing the rule of law is the basic strategy of the Party in leading the people to govern the country. It is conducive to upholding and developing whole-process people's democracy and ensuring orderly public participation in national legislation. It is conducive to upholding, improving and operating the people's congress system and ensuring that the people are the masters of the country. Strengthening the development of grassroots legislative outreach offices is an important task in improving the platform and vehicles of people's congresses for democratic expression of public opinion. To uphold and improve the people's congress system and enhance the work of people's congresses in the new era, it is necessary to guarantee the people's rights to information, participation, expression and supervision and to keep open channels for expressing and reflecting social conditions and public opinion. ■

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