Setting the Course

By Lan Xinzhen

China once again came under the global spotlight on October 18, when the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) opened in Beijing.

In a report delivered at the opening session, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC, Central Committee, painted a glowing outlook for the future of the world’s second largest economy. He spelled out a two-stage development plan for the country in front of more than 2,300 delegates.

According to Xi, the CPC will basically realize modernization in the first stage from 2020 to 2035 before developing China into a great socialist modern country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.

“Now is the world’s second largest economy with increasing influence on the world stage. Its future development affects not only China itself, but also the world at large, as China is always committed to advancing the Party’s theory on development. At this year’s congress, the party leaders redefined the guiding thought of the CPC’s guiding ideologies of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development. ‘New era thought’ was adopted as the party’s guiding thought, and the plan of developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. More importantly, it specified that the leadership of the CPC is the defining aspects. During the process, the strong leadership of the CPC is especially important.”

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The main reason for the CPC to redefine the principal social contradiction is that science and technology progress is transforming China from a large manufacturing country into a manufacturing power. Slowly perhaps it is no longer “backward,” and Zhan Tongjun, Deputy Director of the Institute for International Strategy at the Party School of the CPC, pointed out that people’s needs have become more diverse and complex. In his report, Xi explained the change. He said China has seen the basic needs of more than a billion people met, has basically made it possible for people to live a decent life, and will soon bring the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects to the finish line. This means that the main contradiction facing Chinese society today is no longer the conflict between the rising productive forces and the inadequate and imbalanced productive relations in Industry, but has developed into the conflict between the people’s increasing and diversified expectations for a better life and unbalanced, inadequate development. The needs of the people to lead a better life are increasingly diverse and complex. The needs are no longer for basic clothing, food, shelter and other basic needs, but also for a high quality life. This means that people’s material needs have been basically met, and their spiritual needs are becoming increasingly important.

On the basis of the main contradiction, China’s development has entered a new stage. President Xi Jinping said, “Today’s China is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful. The country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful is a country where everyone is sure to have a good life.”

The Party is aware of this changing social contradiction, and is trying to address it. That is why it has made the report’s major tasks defined at the Party Congress. As a party of people, the CPC is the vanguard of the Chinese people and is a great political party with its roots in the country and the people. The Party must also devote its energies to the Party building, and a great country’s development is unbalanced and inadequate. This has become the principal contradiction facing Chinese society today. The Party must do more to protect Party leadership and the CPC’s system, and modernize Party governance. The Party must more firmly safeguard the CPC’s leadership. For the Party and the people, this is the principal contradiction that the Party must resolve. The Party must firmly defend the Party’s leadership and the CPC’s system, and it is an unbreakable line.

The report also stressed that the People’s Republic of China will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2021. The CPC’s historical mission is to lead the Chinese people to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

New plans—China now considers the moderately prosperous society to be the foundation for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period. In the report, Xi noted the new stage of China’s development.

The report stated that the first stage from 2020 to 2035, China will build on the foundation created by the moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the CPC celebrates its 100th anniversary. The country’s new modernized socialist country will have comprehensive and balanced development, and people will live a life of dignity and confidence.

The report also proposed the people’s “Shared future” concept. The world is undergoing profound development, transformation and adjustment. The world is undergoing profound development, transformation and adjustment. The world is undergoing profound development, transformation and adjustment.

For the first time in history, China uses the concept of “Shared future” in the report. This is China’s way of looking at the world in the new era. The world is undergoing profound development, transformation and adjustment.

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Highlights of Xi Jinping’s report to the 19th CPC National Congress

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), delivered a report to the 19th CPC National Congress at the opening session in Beijing on October 18, 2017.

Full Text of Xi Jinping’s Report at 19th CPC National Congress

Title of the report

- Strongly promoting the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics
- Opening a new chapter in the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects
- Achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation

Theme of the report

- Holistically promoting the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics
- Deepening the reform and opening up further
- Strengthening the sense of mission and confidence
- Focusing on the guiding role of the CPC

Historic changes have been made over the past five years:

- Economic development
- Ecological civilization
- Diplomacy
- Improvement of living standards

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era

This new era will be an era...
- of fulfilling a new historical mission to strive for the success of socialism with Chinese characteristics
- of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects
- of realizing national rejuvenation

Principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved

The contradiction is between the people’s growing material and cultural needs and unbalanced and inadequate development.

New thought rolled out as guideline

Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era defines it as a “guiding action” that must be adhered to and steadily developed on a long-term basis for all Party members and all Chinese people to strive to achieve national rejuvenation.

Two important periods

Two-stage development plan to build China into a great modern socialist country

Between 19th National Congress and 20th National Congress

- Outline of the strategy for a new development
- Socialism with Chinese characteristics is fundamentally realized

14-point basic policy

- Ensuring Party leadership over all work
- Pursuing a comprehensive, people-centered approach
- Adapting a new vision for development
- Strengthening the leading role of the CPC

Stage 1: 2020-2035

- Socialism with Chinese characteristics is fundamentally realized
- Modernization is basically realized

Stage 2: 2035-21st century

- China will be developed into a great modern socialist country
- China will be a politically prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful country

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China's GDP grew at 6.9 percent year on year in the first three quarters, the fastest growth rate in the second quarter, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

In the third quarter, the GDP saw a year-on-year growth of 6.8 percent, marking the sixth consecutive quarterly growth that has exceeded 6.7 percent. It is the fastest growth rate since the second quarter and brought the GDP growth target for the whole year of 6.5 percent closer. For the whole year, GDP growth is expected to reach 6.5 percent, according to the NBS.

The employment market continued a good momentum. Steady annual growth rates in the service sector and the manufacturing sector are sustaining the national economy's strong growth momentum in the first three quarters. The overall situation of the financial sector is stable. Thanks to falling food prices, consumer prices also remained stable. Thanks to falling food prices, consumer prices also remained stable. The digital economy and the sharing economy are penetrating into traditional industries, and new services are emerging, he added.

In the first three quarters, China created 10.97 million new jobs, 0.5 percentage points higher than in the same period last year. The fiscal policy will prop up economic growth in the fourth quarter.

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National Congress.
Keywords: Xi Jinping; CPC; non-Communist political parties

Xi Jinping on October 19 called on CPC members and people of all ethnic groups in the country to advance socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era during a panel discussion with delegates from Guizhou Province who are here to attend the CPC’s 19th National Congress.

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has continued to put forward a series of new concepts, thoughts and strategies, enriching the CPC’s theories.

The CPC has unveiled the “Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.” The newly-published volume is also expected to help the international community better understand the path, concept and model of China’s development, it added.

The second volume depicts the practices of the CPC Central Committee, with Xi at the core, in the past three years since the CPC’s 18th National Congress. An amendment to the CPC Constitution, approved at the Party’s 19th national congress last October, has made Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era a new component of the Party’s guide for action.

National Congress opened on October 18.
Keywords: 19th CPC National Congress; Xi Jinping

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