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## Toward greater transparency

### New CPC regulations promote the disclosure of Party affairs

On November 28, 2017, a set of regulations to promote transparency in Party affairs was reviewed and adopted at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. It was published on December 25 of the same year.

The Regulations of the Communist Party of China on Transparency in Party Affairs (Trial) was the first official document released since the 19th CPC National Congress in October 2017. They lay the groundwork for future rules for the disclosure of Party affairs and specify the definition, principles, content, procedures and approaches of the work.

#### Why is it necessary to promote transparency in Party affairs?

According to a statement issued after the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee last November, transparency is "an important step" for the implementation of the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress and a must for the development of intraparty democracy and socialist democracy.

In recent years, the CPC has gone to great lengths exploring the path to transparency in Party affairs, having unveiled a number of documents such as the Regulations on Establishing a Spokesperson System for CPC Committees, the Regulations on Promoting Transparency in Party Affairs in Primary Organizations of the CPC and the Regulations on Establishing and Improving Mechanisms for Information Disclosure and Policy Interpretation.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC has expedited its anti-corruption campaign. The disclosure of information about the fall of corrupt high-ranking officials and cases of violations of the CPC Central Committee's eight-point frugality code has drawn people's attention to the website of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), a clear demonstration of the efforts in promoting transparency in Party affairs.

In addition, an annual report released by the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee contains the numbers of Party members and Party organizations, as well as the makeup of Party organizations at every level.

Besides promoting transparency in some affairs within the scope of their duties, some Party departments, including the CCDI as well as the organization and the international departments of the CPC Central Committee, have also held Open Day events for foreign diplomats, foreign media agencies and the public. During the 19th CPC National Congress, some delegates also met reporters from home and abroad.

However, a gap remains between the current level of transparency in Party affairs and the requirements of the new era. The scope of information to be disclosed is not broad enough, the procedures are not fully institutionalized, and the delivery to the public often comes across as rigid and constrained. Some Party organizations and departments have failed to disclose the information which concerns the people the most, but instead make public inappropriate information such as Party secrets.

Xu Yaotong, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance, spoke highly of the new regulations on transparency in Party affairs. He said the move is of great significance in exercising full and strict governance over the Party, strengthening intraparty oversight, and harnessing the enthusiasm, initiative and creativity of the whole Party.

#### What is the transparency in Party affairs?

For a long time there have been divergences in both theories and practices over the connotation of transparency in Party affairs. The new CPC regulations for the first time give a clear and authoritative definition in this regard.

The regulations require Party organizations to disclose affairs concerning the Party leadership and Party building among the CPC members or outside the Party in accordance with rules. According to Xu, the Party leadership and Party building constitute all Party affairs.

"Party affairs, primarily refer to the internal workings of the Party, are what Party organizations and Party members have the right to know about," Xu explained. "Meanwhile, the CPC is the ruling party of China and its affairs and policies will undoubtedly influence national development."

Promoting transparency is not limited within the CPC, Xu said. For example, the Party's proposals for a five-year plan for national social and economic development will become government policy after due process.

Moreover, the disclosure of Party affairs can be either among the CPC members or outside the Party.

"Promoting transparency in Party affairs is different from making the work of government and judicial departments public. It has its own characteristics," Xu said.

"The scope and the sequence of disclosure will be different," he said, "Some information will first be made public within the CPC, some will only be publicized within the Party, and some will only be informed to certain groups of Party members."

#### What Party affairs should be made public and who will do it?

The regulations outline four key areas regarding what content is to be made public. Party organizations' implementation of the Party's basic theory, line and policy, their leadership over economic and social development, and efforts to strictly govern the Party and strengthen Party building shall be generally made public, along with information about the organizations' functions and structure, said the regulations.

However, promoting transparency in Party affairs should not pose a threat to political, economic, military, cultural, social, homeland security and the safety of the people, the regulations added.

Zhen Xiaoying, a professor at the Central Institute of Socialism, said the four types of content offer a detailed description of all aspects of the Party leadership and Party building.

"It is significant to disclose information about the Party leadership over economic and social development," Zhen said. "Listening to Party members will pool the wisdom of the whole Party and the whole nation to help the Party improve its ability to govern and lead."

The regulations state that three categories of organizations are responsible for disclosing Party affairs, including CPC organizations at central, local and primary levels, commissions for discipline inspection, and the CPC's functional departments, representative agencies of Party committees, public institutions directly affiliated to Party committees and leading Party members' groups.

The regulations also stipulate the specific content every organization should make public.

Central Party organizations should make public Party theory, line and policy, decisions and plans of Party and state governance, speeches and instructions by Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and important meetings, activities and appointment and

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removal of officials by the CPC Central Committee, among others.

Local CPC organizations should disclose their major plans for social and economic development and their implementation, as well as their performance in fulfilling their responsibilities in full and strict governance over the Party.

Primary Party organizations should make public information about their implementation of the "Three Meetings, One Class" system for political education, general election, recruitment of Party members, results of democratic appraisal and management of regular membership dues.

CPC commissions for discipline inspection should publicize cases involving violations of the CPC Central Committee's eight-point frugality code and punishments of officials who severely breach rules and neglect their duties.

The Party's functional departments, representative agencies of Party committees, public institutions directly affiliated to Party committees and leading Party members' groups should decide what to be disclosed according to the actualities of their respective situations.

According to Zhen, the three categories cover Party organizations at all levels. "The CPC Central Committee is ready to take the lead and fulfill its responsibilities, as its departments are included in the regulations."

#### To whom should Party affairs be open?

The regulations clarify the four scopes of recipients for the disclosure of Party affairs, namely the whole society, the whole Party, the concerned region, department or organization, and certain Party organizations, Party members and non-Party persons.

Zhen said each scope corresponds to certain conditions and the specifics are based on the responsibilities and powers of the Party organizations involved and the relevance of the Party affairs to be disclosed to the people in each context.

The regulations also require Party organizations to compile a catalogue of affairs to be made public, report the catalogue to a higher CPC committee, and disclose the related information accordingly.

"This relevant and workable rule is proceeding from the actual conditions while complying with the requirements of the regulations," Zhen said.

#### How will Party affairs be made public?

To maintain the seriousness, standardization and timeliness of the work of promoting transparency in Party affairs, the regulations stipulate its procedures and approaches.

The regulations require Party organizations go through the four procedures of proposal, review, approval and implementation, as well as designate the responsible parties for each of them and list their duties.

In putting forward a proposal of disclosing Party affairs, a Party organization should conduct research on the content, scope of recipients, time and approach. In the approval procedure, the responsible Party organization is required to examine the work plan in accordance with its responsibilities and powers, and submit it to a higher authority for approval where necessary.

"This means the necessity and accuracy will all be strictly examined to not violate confidentiality, but fulfill Party members' rights to know, to participate and to supervise", said Zhang Zhiming, Director of the Department of Party Building at the School of the CPC Central Committee.

The regulations stipulate that the approaches for disclosure of Party affairs should be appropriate which suit the content to be disclosed and the scope of recipients. For information to be made public within the Party, the approaches include meetings, documents, reports and publication on local area networks. For major disclosures involving the release of information to the whole society, they can be made by way of communiqués, news briefings and interviews. They can also be publicized on newspapers, magazines, television and radio stations, news websites, social media platforms and billboards, with priority given to the Party's newspapers and periodicals, television and radio stations and major news websites.

"Diversified ways of disclosure cater to the different needs of transparency among the CPC members or outside the Party, and they combine traditional and modern media," said Ma Huaide, Vice President of China University of Political Science and Law.

To improve the authenticity and influence of the work of disclosing Party affairs, the CPC needs authoritative channels to disseminate authoritative voices.

The latest list of spokespersons for central and local leading organs has recently been released, including 20 spokespersons for 13 departments of the CPC Central Committee. Included among them for the first time is a ministerial-level official, who comes from the CCDI.

The regulations focus special attention on establishing a system of spokespersons. Commissions for discipline inspection and functional departments of the Party should deploy and improve such a system and hold news conferences on a regular basis. In localities where conditions allow, a unified platform could be built for disclosing Party affairs.

In order to avoid formalism, Party organizations are authorized by the regulations to assess the performance of their subordinates and the leading officials of these institutions. They should also annually report their work of promoting transparency in Party affairs to Party members and non-Party persons. The regulations also stipulate mechanisms to evaluate and inspect the implementation of the work.

Ma said these stipulations will help ensure departments involved thoroughly fulfill their responsibilities for promoting transparency in Party affairs and maintain consistency in the content, scope of recipients, procedures and approaches of the work.

**Editor's Note:**

Over 600 delegates from nearly 300 political parties across the world gathered in Beijing from November 30 to December 3 to attend The CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, during which world political parties showed their willingness to join hands with the Communist Party of China (CPC) in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

**A beautiful world****Political parties should unite to champion peace and prosperity**

By Ma Xiaowen



Political party leaders pose for a group photo at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1 (XINHUA)

The task of governing the world's most populous nation is anything but simple.

The challenges China has faced during its transition toward economic development can serve as a reference for ruling parties elsewhere, especially amongst developing countries themselves. China's success comes at a time when many countries are looking for new paradigms on which to base their development, and as power gradually shifts away from traditional strongholds in the West.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said the CPC is willing to work with other political parties around the world to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and to create a better world.

Xi made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1.

Focusing on the responsibilities of political parties toward the aforementioned objective, the meeting, which took place from November 30 to December 3, was attended by the leaders and representatives of over 200 political parties and organizations from over 120 countries.



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1 (XINHUA)

"Facing increasingly complex threats, we shall not fight alone, nor shall we worship military force," Xi said, "All nations should pursue a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and should join hands to create fair, just and shared security to jointly eliminate the root cause of war."

Furthermore, nations should also strive to eliminate poverty and promote common prosperity, as the world is facing challenges such as the North-South development gap, poverty, hunger and the digital gap, Xi said, criticizing the winner-takes-all mentality and beggar-thy-neighbor approach. "They would erode a country's own roots for growth, and impair the future of the whole of humanity," he said.

He noted that the world should work toward an economic globalization that is more open and inclusive, more balanced, equitable and beneficial to all, a globalization that brings common prosperity and creates comfortable living conditions for future generations.

While emphasizing the significance of an open and inclusive world, Xi urged the world to break cultural barriers and let all kinds of civilizations exist and grow. He also called for efforts to ensure harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

**New party-to-party relations**

The meeting is the first multilateral diplomatic event hosted by China after the 19th CPC National Congress in October and the first high-level dialogue between the CPC and world political parties.

Such a high-level meeting reflects the CPC's commitment to building a community with a shared future, which was listed as one of the fundamental principles of the new guiding theory in Xi's report to the 19th CPC National Congress. The report said the CPC promised to "strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the political parties and organizations of other countries," and it is the abiding mission of the CPC to make new and greater contributions for mankind.

Xi suggested in his speech that such inter-party conference be institutionalized and developed into a high-level political dialogue platform of broad representation and international influence.

A new model of party-to-party relations was proposed at the meeting, in which political parties seek common grounds while shelving differences, and respect and learn from one another.

Political parties of different nations should work together toward an international network of cooperation and exchanges in various forms and at multiple levels, he said.

In the next five years, the CPC plans to invite 15,000 members of political parties from across the world to China for exchanges.

The Beijing Initiative, released

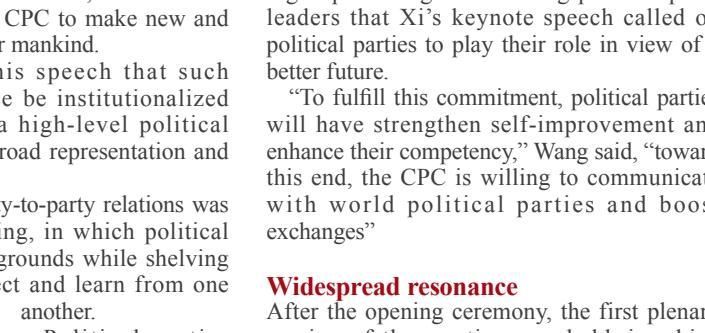
at the closing ceremony in the morning of December 3, called on political parties around the world to join hands with the CPC in building world peace, contributing to global development and safeguarding the international order.

"We will not ask other countries to copy China's practices," said Xi. He reiterated that the CPC strives for both the well-being of the Chinese people and human progress. Therefore, besides taking care of China's internal matters, the CPC will create opportunities for the world through China's development.

The CPC, the biggest political party in the world, will explore the law of social development and share it with other nations.

Noting that one of the founding missions of the CPC, established in 1921, was to end the plight of China, which had suffered a long period of war, and to ensure the people's survival, Xi stressed that the CPC knows deeply the value of peace and is firmly resolved to maintaining world peace.

Therefore, the CPC will, as always, contribute to world peace. He also pledged that China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansionism, no matter what stage of development it reaches, but it will keep on working for common development and contributing to exchanges and mutual learning between different peoples.



Delegates attending the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing visit School of CPC Central Committee on December 1, 2017 (XINHUA)

Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said on December 2 on a group meeting with visiting political party leaders that Xi's keynote speech called on political parties to play their role in view of a better future.

"To fulfill this commitment, political parties will have strengthen self-improvement and enhance their competency," Wang said, "toward this end, the CPC is willing to communicate with world political parties and boost exchanges."

**Widespread resonance**

After the opening ceremony, the first plenary session of the meeting was held, in which foreign delegates had a discussion on Xi's speech, expressing their willingness to work with the CPC to build a better world.

Earlier the same day, members of foreign political parties paid a visit to the the School of the CPC Central Committee and viewed an exhibition on China's achievements over the past five years.

Hundreds of delegates from international political parties were invited to tour the School of the CPC Central Committee, whose slogan is to "seek truth from the facts", one of the key theories of the CPC. The school located in the northwest of Beijing. It is the highest level of institution concerning education in the Party and it teaches Marxist theories.

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Song Tao, Minister of IDCPC, presides over the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting on December 1 2017 (Courtesy of IDCPC)

During the meeting, the CPC held routine discussions with political parties from Africa, Central Asia and the United States. The organizer, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), said the event was held right after the 19th CPC National Congress so that the Party could have a platform to exchange ideas with political parties around the world on the new guiding theory adopted by the CPC.

**Common pursuit**

Xi called on all political parties from across the world to unite in the pursuit of peace, prosperity, cultural exchanges and environmental protection in his keynote speech.

Xi said China is willing to join hands with political parties from across the world to create a better world and promote humanity's common development, and that the CPC would continue to make contributions toward world peace, development and cultural exchanges.

In his speech, Xi noted China transformed the initiative of building a community with a shared future for mankind from a concept into action with the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

"I'm delighted to see that the friendly cooperation between China and other countries is expanding and the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind is gaining support and endorsement from an increasing number of people," Xi said.

In his speech, Xi said building a community with a shared future for mankind means closely connecting the prospects and destinies of every nation, sharing weal and woe, and turning planet Earth into a harmonious family.

Efforts should be made to build a safe world free of fear, Xi said. And he added that the security of a nation cannot be achieved at the expense of other countries. Threats facing other countries may be threats to all.



Opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting (Courtesy of IDCPC)

Delegates also went to an exhibition of China's achievements in the last five years. The exhibition has 10 zones, focusing from everything from cultural policies to environment protection, to national defense.

Besides the plenary session, delegates also attended four panel discussions on December 2 on the role of political parties in building a community with a shared future and promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

"We believe if a country wishes to live in a peaceful, stable and better world, it should regard development as its top priority and supreme goal—just as it is proposed in the UN Charter," said Samdech Hun Sen, Chairperson of the Cambodian People's Party and Cambodian Prime Minister, at the first plenary session of the meeting in Beijing.

During the meeting, "a better world"

and "a community with a shared future for mankind" have become stock phrases between representatives.

Zutingta Palinkas, Chairperson of the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania, told reporters, "One of our important purposes here is to study the new ideas and achievements announced after the CPC's 19th National Congress and learn about the international order China has proposed."

"President Xi Jinping has provided the world with a new way of cooperation, not only among governments, but also among the political parties in various countries. And his thinking gives us a better understanding of what is happening in China, where China is going, and what impact it will have on the world," said Christina Viena, Vice Chairperson of the French Socialist Party.



Delegates attending the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing visit Beijing Exhibition Center to look at an exhibition featuring China's achievements over the past five years on December 1 2017 (XINHUA)

## Striving for quality

### As China's economy shifts gear, more value is being attached to quality when it comes to growth

By Deng Yaqing



Technicians work in the plant of a nuclear power equipment manufacturing company in Xuanhua, north China's Hebei Province on May 2 (XINHUA)

**T**wo months after the conclusion of the Communist Party of China's twice-a-decade national congress in October 2017, the country has again come under the global spotlight by convening its most important annual economic meeting, which from December 18 to 20 announced that the world's second largest economy is entering a new phase of development, its focus moving from high-speed growth to high-quality development.

Attended by President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the annual Central Economic Work Conference reviewed the nation's economic performance over the past five years, outlined current economic realities and made plans for 2018, which marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up policy.

By setting forth that the country's economy will be characterized by more innovative manufacturing, a securer financial system, a more open and green economy, more affordable housing and improved standards of living for the people, the conference in fact mapped out a blueprint for China's development over the next 30 years and beyond.

#### Development philosophy

During the past five years, Xi Jinping Thought on a Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has taken shape, said a statement released after the conference. The thought is primarily based on the new development philosophy put forward by Xi in 2015 which features innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

The statement described the thought as the "theoretical crystallization" of the past five years of practice in pushing forward China's economic development, the "latest fruit" borne of a socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics, and the "extremely precious spiritual wealth" of the CPC and the country.

"Xi's concepts provide solutions for the deep-seated, structural problems that China is facing and will face in the future over the course of economic and social development," said Wu Qi, a senior research fellow with Pangoal Institution, a Chinese public policy research body.

More specifically, it provides answers on what to do, encompassing the continuation of supply-side structural reform and the pursuit of high-quality development, while clarifying how to do this, through measures such as deepening reform in economic institutions and administrative management systems, and expanding market access, said Wu.

#### A shift in focus

At present, as well as in the period to come, high-quality development is the fundamental requirement for determining China's future economic path, defining policy and conducting macroeconomic regulation, said the statement.

"When a person grows from a child into an adult, the standards used to assess his or her personal development are adjusted to add indicators such as knowledge and work experience to the list including weight, height and health. In the same way, when a country reaches a certain development level, the mechanisms dominating its future growth should also be changed," said Jia Jingjing, Director of the Macro Research Department at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China, in an interview with *Beijing Review*.

At the micro level, it means that people will be put at ease over the quality of the products and services they can access, Xu Hongcui, Deputy Chief Economist of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, told *Beijing Review*.

"People are no longer satisfied with just having the basics of food and clothing; they have higher requirements for the products and services they are exposed to in daily life. Given this, supply-side structural reform is inevitable," said Xu.

Xu continued to say that inclusive growth and green development are the predominant features of the macro level. The gap between the rich and poor has been widening, and the campaign to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of the low-income population is still an uphill struggle. In addition, China used to favor a development strategy of "get rich first, clean up the environment later," which doesn't reflect people's ever-growing needs for a better life in the new era.

**Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy With Chinese Characteristics For a New Era**

A new economic vision which incorporates innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development

#### KEY PRINCIPLES

- Intensification of the CPC's centralized economic leadership to guide the direction of the country's economic development

Promotion of people-oriented development in the overall planning of economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement, as well as in the coordination of efforts to build a moderately prosperous society, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and strengthen Party self-governance

Adaptation, management and guidance of China's new phase of economic development

Decision that the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation while the government plays its own part better

Implementation of supply-side structural reform as the main line of economic work

Adoption of a problem-based approach in the formulation of new economic development strategies

Application of appropriate strategies and methods to pursue progress while ensuring stability

#### Key Points of the Central Economic Work Conference

● Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the guideline of China's economic development

● High-quality development is the fundamental requirement for determining future development, policymaking and macroeconomic regulation

#### Five major policy decisions:

- Fiscal policy stance to remain proactive
- Prudent monetary policy to remain neutral
- Structural policy to be better implemented
- Social policies to focus more on people's well-being
- Reform and opening up to be reinforced

● Efforts to be made to win the "three tough battles" of financial risk, poverty and pollution

#### Eight tasks to be carried out:

- Further implementing the ongoing supply-side structural reform
- Motivating various kinds of market players
- Enacting the strategy of revitalizing rural areas
- Coordinating the development of different regions
- Promoting comprehensive opening up
- Improving social security and people's livelihoods
- Establishing a housing system which includes multiple suppliers, multi-channel guarantee and equal emphasis on purchasing and rental
- Accelerating the construction of an ecological civilization

(Source: Compiled by Beijing Review; designed by Pamela Tobe)

(Source: Compiled by Beijing Review; designed by Pamela Tobe)

and expected to exceed 60 percent in 2020," said Jia.

#### Challenges ahead

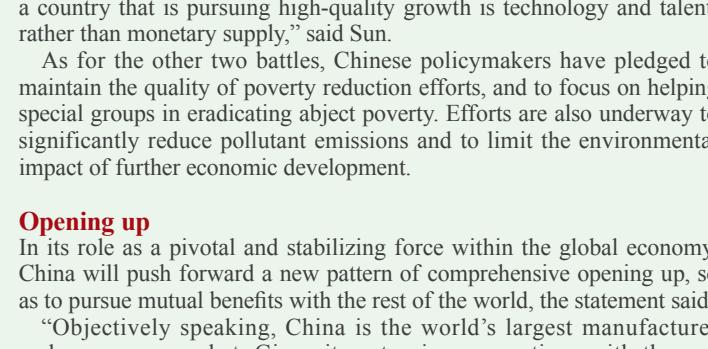
The conference also saw China's central authorities outline the "three tough battles", three issues of critical importance that must be balanced while striving to achieve high-quality development, namely the defusing of major risks, targeted poverty alleviation and the tackling of pollution. As part of the first issue to guard against internal risks, China's rapidly expanding financial industry is being placed under greater regulatory scrutiny as authorities step up efforts to curb widespread malfeasance in the sector.

"It's difficult to prevent and control financial risks. On the one hand, compared with the real economy, the financial industry is immaterial and intangible, while forces of leverage endow it with amplifying effects. On the other hand, as the lifeblood of the economy, it has a bearing on almost every link and aspect of economic work, and the eruption of financial risks may affect the entire economic situation," said Zhu Ning, Deputy Director of Shanghai Advanced Institute of Finance, Shanghai Jiaotong University, in an interview with *Beijing Review*.

As to how to effectively control financial risks and curb related illegal activities, Zhu noted that a consciousness of risk should be nurtured in the market. "In China's economic and financial systems, there has been a psychology of rigid payment. That's to say, people tend to believe they don't have to bear investment losses because the government would pay for the failure of a project, which has encouraged hordes of investors to add leverage or speculate," said Zhu.

"People need to know they have to pay for taking risk, but the formation of such a consciousness will take a long time," said Zhu.

The statement also said prudent monetary policy should be kept neutral, the floodgates of monetary supply should be controlled and credit and social financing should see reasonable growth.



An operation and maintenance worker arranges shared bikes on a sidewalk in Tianjin on August 21 (XINHUA)

"During the period of extensive economic expansion, simple expanded reproduction and market expansion were thirsty for money, and gushing investment into plants and equipment could drive growth. But China has bidden farewell to this way of working, and now what matters most to a country that is pursuing high-quality growth is technology and talent, rather than monetary supply," said Sun.

As for the other two battles, Chinese policymakers have pledged to maintain the quality of poverty reduction efforts, and to focus on helping special groups in eradicating abject poverty. Efforts are also underway to significantly reduce pollutant emissions and to limit the environmental impact of further economic development.

#### Opening up

In its role as a pivotal and stabilizing force within the global economy, China will push forward a new pattern of comprehensive opening up, so as to pursue mutual benefits with the rest of the world, the statement said.

"Objectively speaking, China is the world's largest manufacturer and consumer market. Given its extensive connections with the rest of the world, it should play a leading role in promoting global growth, which will in turn drive the country to intensify its opening-up strategy, initiating another age of globalization," said Jia.

Since China has established itself as a frontrunner in some industries, it now needs to mold global value chains, nudge Chinese standards into the global market and influence global economic values. To realize these goals, it's imperative for the country to open wider to the outside world and admit more players into its market system, said Jia.

According to the statement, China will increase imports and cut import tariffs on some products to promote balanced trade, whilst free trade zone pilot areas will be expanded and effective guidance and support will be given to outbound direct investment. The country will also push for nationwide implementation of a pre-establishment national treatment system, as well as a negative list that determines where foreign participation is prohibited or limited.

"As a leader and promoter of globalization, China has stuck to an open attitude toward both foreign investors who seek opportunities here, and Chinese enterprises that hope to go abroad," said Zhu.

"However, it is a long and continuous process. Over the course of the coming years, China should integrate its own opening-up arrangements with risk control and the demands of its partner countries," said Zhu.

## Major events in December

### December 3: Global delegates laud Xi's messages to World Internet Conference

#### **Keywords: Xi Jinping; Internet**

Xi Jinping said the development of the Internet has posed many new challenges for the sovereignty, security, and development interests of the world's countries in a congratulatory letter to the Fourth World Internet Conference on December 3.

### December 3: China willing to share, but not to export Chinese model

#### **Keywords: CPC; dialogue; world political parties**

A high-level political party conference concluded on December 3 in Beijing drew representatives of nearly 300 political parties and organizations from more than 120 countries, opening a window for the world to learn about the Communist Party of China (CPC).

### December 4: China and Canada agreed to issue joint statement on climate change

#### **Keywords: China; Canada; climate change**

China and Canada on December 4 agreed to issue a joint statement on climate change and clean growth during the second meeting of the annual dialogue between the Chinese premier and the Canadian prime Minister.

### December 6: Xi promises wider opening up as Fortune Forum opens

#### **Keywords: Xi Jinping; business climate**

Chinese President Xi Jinping told world business leaders gathering in China on December 6 that the country would continue to open up and improve its business climate to create more opportunities and make a greater contribution to the world.

### December 7: Xi calls for respect to developing countries' will in human rights development

#### **Keywords: South-South Human Rights Forum; human rights**

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the international community to respect and reflect the will of the people in developing countries in human rights development in a congratulatory message to the South-South Human Rights Forum, which opened in Beijing on December 7.

### December 13: National Memorial Day for Nanjing Massacre victims

#### **Keywords: National Memorial Day; Nanjing Massacre**

China held an annual memorial for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre in the eastern city of Nanjing on December 13. Leaders of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the central government attended the ceremony at a square in front of the Memorial Hall for the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

### December 17: China to expand pilot reform in ecological damage compensation

#### **Keywords: ecological damage compensation; Communist Party of China Central Committee; the State Council**

China will expand a pilot reform to nationwide starting next year, obliging polluters to repair the environment or pay compensation. The decision was contained in a document issued on December 17 by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

## Getting to Know CHINA through KEYWORDS

### **"Four Matters of Confidence"**

In his speech on July 1, 2016, at the celebration of the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping added "confidence in its culture" to the existing "three matters of confidence" (the socialist path, theory and system), thus coining the term "four matters of confidence". The scope of this term is an augmentation of and innovation in the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. [More>>](#)

### **Remain True to Our Original Aspiration**

During a study and inspection tour in early February 2016, Xi Jinping emphasized that "no matter how long the journey, we should remain true to our original aspiration".

In his speech on July 1, 2016 at the celebration of the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, he called upon all the members of the entire Party to "remain true to our original aspiration and keep moving forward as we face the future and face our challenges." [More>>](#)

### December 26: China launches first ever green development index

#### **Keywords: green development index; high-quality development**

China released its first green development index on December 26, which ranks local government performances on ecological development and helps promote high-quality development.

### December 28: China unveils tax exemption to attract foreign investment

#### **Keywords: Ministry of Finance; tax**

China's Ministry of Finance said on December 28 it will exempt foreign companies from paying provisional withholding income tax on profits they re-invest in the country.