

Premier Li Qiang Meets the Press: Full Transcript of Questions and Answers

李强总理出席记者会并回答中外记者提问

The First Session of the 14th National People's Congress held a press conference at the Great Hall of the People on the morning of March 13, 2023. Premier of the State Council Li Qiang met with Chinese and foreign reporters and answered their questions at the invitation of Spokesperson Mr. Wang Chao. Vice Premiers of the State Council Ding Xuexiang, He Lifeng, Zhang Guoqing and Liu Guozhong were present at the press conference.

In his opening remarks, Premier Li Qiang said that he was delighted to meet friends from the media and thanked the journalists for their hard work in covering China's NPC and CPPCC sessions. On behalf of himself and the Vice Premiers, he thanked the Party and the people for their trust and noted that they are deeply aware of the important responsibilities and glorious mission upon their shoulders. He underscored that they will follow the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, rely closely on the people, and faithfully perform the duties entrusted by the Constitution and laws with an enterprising spirit and a strong sense of responsibility. He said they will press ahead with grit, stay honest and upright, exert their utmost and live up to their mission.

China Central Television: First of all, congratulations to you, Mr. Premier, and the four Vice Premiers. The coming five years will be crucial for getting the efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects off to a good start. People both at home and abroad are following closely the work of the new government. My question is, what are the goals and priorities of the new government? How will the government carry out its work?

Premier Li: Thank you for your congratulations, and I also want to thank you for your interest in the work of the government.

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China held last October laid out a comprehensive and strategic plan for the country's development in the next five years and beyond. Regarding the important issues that are of interest to the people, the 20th Party Congress report has provided clear answers.

The task of the new government is to implement and deliver on the important decisions and plans laid out by the Party Central Committee, turn the inspiring blueprint drawn up at the 20th Party Congress into an implementation scheme, and work with our people to step by step turn this blueprint into a beautiful reality.

In carrying out our work, we will focus on the following priorities:

First, we will firmly follow a people-centered development approach. The ultimate aim of the work of the Party and the government is to improve the well-being of the people. As General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, people's aspiration for a better life is our goal. We will always bear in mind that ours is a people's government, and we will make solid efforts on every piece of work concerning people's livelihood.

Honestly speaking, most people do not keep their eyes on GDP growth all the time. What they care more about are the things that happen in their everyday life, like housing, employment, income, educa-

2023年3月13日上午，十四届全国人大一次会议在人民大会堂举行记者会，国务院总理李强应大会发言人王超的邀请出席记者会，并回答中外记者提问。国务院副总理丁薛祥、何立峰、张国清、刘国中参加。

记者会开始时，李强说，很高兴今天能够与各位媒体朋友在这里见面交流，首先要感谢大家为报道这次中国两会付出的辛劳。李强表示，我们衷心感谢党和人民的信任，也深知肩负的责任重大、使命光荣。我们一定在以习近平同志为核心的党中央坚强领导下，紧紧依靠广大人民群众，以奋发有为的精神状态和“时时放心不下”的责任意识，忠实履行宪法和法律赋予的职责，勇毅前行、廉洁奉公、鞠躬尽瘁、不辱使命。

中央广播电视总台记者：首先向您和四位副总理履新表示祝贺。新一届政府任期的未来五年对于全面建设社会主义现代化国家来说是开局起步的关键时期，国内外非常关注新一届政府的工作。新一届政府的施政目标是什么？有哪些工作重点？将会怎样开展工作？

李强：谢谢你的祝贺，谢谢大家对新一届政府工作的关心。

去年十月份召开的党的二十大，对我们国家今后五年和更长时间的发展作了全面的战略部署，大家比较关心的重大问题都能从党的二十大报告中找到清晰的答案。

新一届政府的工作，就是要把党中央的决策部署贯彻好、落实好，把党的二十大擘画的宏伟蓝图变成施工图，与全国人民一道，一步一个脚印把宏伟蓝图变成美好现实。

今后工作中，有这么几个方面是我们重点把握的：

第一是牢固树立以人民为中心的发展思想。说到底，党和政府一切工作的宗旨就是为民造福。习近平总书记讲：“人民对美好生活的向往，就是我们的奋斗目标。”我们任何时候都必须始终牢记人民政

tion, medical services and the environment. Therefore, the government must always plan and carry out its work according to the people's wish.

Second, we will focus our efforts on promoting high-quality development. You may have noticed that when attending the deliberations by the NPC deputies from Jiangsu Province during the two sessions, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed the importance of focusing on the top priority of high-quality development. Indeed, China has made great progress in economic and social development. We are now the second largest economy in the world. This said, China's development is still unbalanced and inadequate. Any aggregate volume, when divided by the 1.4 billion population, will become a small per capita figure.

Currently, our development is focused on providing for people's basic needs. Going forward, the focus will be shifted toward delivering a life of better quality for the people. In particular, we will enhance our capacity for scientific and technological innovation, build a modern industrial system, and transition toward green development.

All in all, we will make greater efforts to fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts, move faster to create a new development paradigm and concentrate on promoting high-quality development.

Third, we will remain steadfast in deepening reform and opening-up. As we often say, reform and opening-up is a crucial move that has made China what it is today. In the historical process of advancing Chinese modernization and realizing the second centenary goal, we must continue to firmly pursue the path of reform and opening-up. We will keep to the direction of socialist market economy reform, promote high-level opening-up, and inject stronger vitality into China's development by deepening reform.

CNBC: Premier Li, this year marks the first since the peak of COVID in China, and many expect the economy to rebound in the near term. What policies will China enact to achieve its full-year growth target? What drivers of growth and drags on the economy does China expect in the year ahead and in the next five years? What kind of policies does China plan to pursue in the next five years to support sustainable, high-quality growth? Finally, how effective have policies been in the last few years in reducing debt, disorderly expansion of capital and other systemic risks in China?

Premier Li: You have really made the most of this opportunity. I counted four questions on six subjects. Due to time limit, let me answer your questions briefly.

The prospect of the global economy this year is indeed not optimistic. We see many factors of uncertainty and instability, and unpredictable factors. Stabilizing economic growth is a challenging task for all countries in the world. This year, we have set the GDP growth target at around five percent, which is based on consideration of various factors. Currently, China's total economic output has already exceeded 120 trillion RMB yuan, a very high base figure. We also face quite a number of new challenges this year. To achieve around five percent growth on such a high base figure is not an easy task, and it would require redoubled efforts.

As for the specific economic policies, the Central Economic Work Conference last year already laid out a comprehensive plan. Basically, we will keep to the general principles of prioritizing stability and seeking progress while maintaining stability, and push for a turnaround in overall economic performance. On stability, the emphasis will be placed on ensuring stable growth, stable jobs and stable prices. On progress, the key will be making new progress on high-quality development.

As for our specific work going forward, we will introduce a number of policy combinations as follows: a combination of macro policies, a combination of policies for expanding demand, a combination of poli-

府前面的“人民”这两个字，扎扎实实办好每一件民生实事。客观地讲，绝大部分老百姓不会天天盯着看GDP增长了多少，大家更在乎的是住房、就业、收入、教育、就医、生态环境等身边具体事。政府工作就是要贴近老百姓的实际感受去谋划、推进，真正做到民有所盼、政有所为。

第二是集中力量推动高质量发展。这次两会期间，习近平总书记在参加江苏代表团审议时特别强调，要牢牢把握高质量发展这个首要任务。我国经济社会发展已经取得了巨大成就，经济总量稳居世界第二，但发展还不平衡、不充分。任何一个总量指标，分摊到14亿多的人口基数上，人均水平都比较有限。现在，我们的发展更多地只是解决“有没有”的问题，下一步需要更加重视解决“好不好”的问题，特别是提高科技创新能力、建设现代化产业体系、推动发展方式绿色转型等。总的来说，我们要完整、准确、全面贯彻新发展理念，加快构建新发展格局，着力推动高质量发展。

第三是坚定不移深化改革开放。改革开放是决定当代中国命运的关键一招，我们在推进中国式现代化、实现第二个百年奋斗目标的历史进程中，还是要“吃改革饭、走开放路”。要坚持社会主义市场经济改革方向，坚持高水平对外开放，在深化改革开放中不断增强发展的动力和活力。

美国消费者新闻与商业频道记者：今年是中国疫情过峰后的第一年，很多人预期经济将在短期内反弹，中国准备采取怎样的措施实现全年经济增长目标？中国经济在今年及接下来的五年将面临哪些有利和不利的因素？未来五年中国计划采取什么样的政策来支持可持续、高质量增长？近几年中国在应对债务、资本无序扩张等系统性风险方面的政策取得了哪些成效？

李强：这位记者朋友很会抓机会，我记了一下，你一口气提了4个问题、涉及6方面内容。时间关系，我只能择要作些回答。

今年世界经济形势总体不容乐观，不稳定、不确定、难预料因素比较多，如何稳增长对世界各国都是一个考验。今年，中国经济预期增长目标定为5%左右，这是我们综合考虑各方面因素后确定的。当然，中国的经济总量已经突破120万亿元，基数很高，加上今年的新挑战不少，要实现5%左右的增长，并不轻松，需要倍加努力。

有关具体政策措施，去年中央经济工作会议已

cies for advancing reform and innovation, and a combination of policies for preventing and defusing risks. These policy combinations will all be supported by concrete implementing steps. We will enrich, adjust and improve these policy combinations in the course of implementation.

The journalist also asked about the drivers of and drags on the Chinese economy. Indeed, China's economic development has quite a number of advantages. For example, we have a super-sized market, a well-functioning industrial system, rich supply of human resources and a strong development foundation. More importantly, we have notable institutional strength.

Talking about difficulties, I think all countries are confronted with some difficulties, and we see no less difficulty for China this year. But think about it. Is there any single period or any single year where we had no difficulty at all? The Chinese people have always pulled through difficult times and achieved new progress. People of my generation are familiar with such Chinese fabled stories, like Da Yu taming the floods, Yu Gong moving the mountains, Jing Wei filling the ocean with pebbles, and Kua Fu chasing after the sun. These inspiring stories are testament to the spirit of resilience, tenacity and perseverance that has defined the Chinese nation. We, the Chinese people, have never been crushed by any difficulty.

As the economic performance in the first two months of this year demonstrates, the Chinese economy is stabilizing and picking up. Some international organizations have revised upward their projections for China's economic growth this year. To sum up, I believe the Chinese economy will break winds and waves, and sail toward a brighter future. I have full confidence in that.

Phoenix TV: In recent years, Hong Kong has restored order and stability, marking a major turnaround in the situation. Now development in Hong Kong has captured the attention of many. But due to changes in international political and economic landscapes, some believe that the international competitiveness of Hong Kong and Macao is weakening. What is your assessment of the future prospects of Hong Kong and Macao, and how will the central government support Hong Kong and Macao in leveraging their strengths and unique features, and achieve better development?

Premier Li: The central government has all along attached high importance to helping Hong Kong and Macao leverage their unique strengths and features. Since the return of Hong Kong and Macao to the motherland, with the support of the country, Hong Kong's position as a global financial, trading and shipping center has been consolidated and elevated. Macao has also built itself into a world-renowned tourism and leisure center.

In recent years, due to various factors, both Hong Kong and Macao have experienced some difficulties in their economic development. But I believe these are temporary difficulties that have arisen in the course of development. The central government will fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems. We will give full support to Hong Kong and Macao in integrating into the country's overall development. We will give full support to the two regions in growing their economy and improving people's livelihood. We will give full support to the two regions in further building their global competitiveness. I am confident that with the strong backing of the motherland and the institutional safeguards of the One Country, Two Systems policy, the standing and role of Hong Kong and Macao will only strengthen, not weaken. Hong Kong and Macao will enjoy an even brighter future.

Lianhe Zaobao: Mr. Premier, you worked as the Party Secretary of Wenzhou in your earlier career. Both Wenzhou and other

经作了全面部署，基本取向是坚持稳字当头、稳中求进，推动经济运行整体好转。稳，重点是稳增长、稳就业、稳物价；进，关键是在高质量发展上取得新进步。具体来讲，我想要特别做好几件事，或者说要打好这么几套组合拳：一是宏观政策的组合拳，二是扩大需求的组合拳，三是改革创新的组合拳，四是防范化解风险的组合拳。这些组合拳，都是有其具体内涵的，有的还会根据实践的需要不断充实、调整和完善。

刚才，这位记者朋友问到了有利和不利因素问题。中国发展确实有很多优势条件，比如，市场规模巨大，产业体系完备，人力资源丰富，发展基础厚实等，更重要的是制度优势显著。说到困难，大家都有困难，今年我们的困难也不会少，但是，大家想一想，哪个时候、哪一年没有困难呢？我们从来都是在克服困难中不断实现新发展的。我们这一代中国人从小听得最多的故事就是大禹治水、愚公移山、精卫填海、夸父逐日等等，都很励志，讲的都是不怕困难、不畏艰险、勇于斗争、自强不息的精神，我们中国人不会被任何困难所压倒。

从最近两个多月情况看，我国经济运行出现了企稳回升态势，一些国际组织也调高了今年中国经济增速的预期。对中国经济的前景，我想用8个字来概括，就是“长风破浪，未来可期”。对此，我充满信心。

香港凤凰卫视、凤凰网记者：这几年，香港实现了由乱到治的根本性转折。香港稳定下来了，发展问题又摆在了眼前。随着世界政经局势和环境的变化，有评论认为现在港澳的竞争力弱化了。请问，您如何看待港澳未来的发展前景？中央政府下一步还会有哪些措施支持港澳发挥自己的优势和特点，实现更好的发展？

李强：中央政府始终高度重视发挥香港、澳门的优势和特点。回归以来，在国家的支持下，香港国际金融、航运、贸易三大中心地位得到了巩固和提高，澳门作为旅游休闲中心享誉世界。

近年来，受各种因素影响，香港、澳门经济发展遇到一些困难，但这是暂时的困难、发展中的困难。中央政府将全面准确、坚定不移贯彻“一国两制”方针，全力支持香港、澳门融入国家发展大局，全力支持香港、澳门发展经济、改善民生，全力支持香港、澳门提高国际竞争力。有祖国作坚强后盾、有“一国两制”的制度保障，香港、澳门的地位和作用