

China After the 17th CPC National Congress

The 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China is one of great significance to China's future. In over 29 years since the reform and opening up, China has kept on stable and rapid development with annual growth rate of 9% on average. In the last 5 years since 2003, the speed has gone up to over 10% each year. China now is the fourth largest economy and third largest trading partner in the world. At the same time, China has much more integrated with the world and its involvement with the international community has been deeper and wider. China faces both new opportunities and challenges. At such a crucial stage of China's reform and development, it is of vital importance for China to sum up experiences and work out strategies and policies to cope with the changing domestic and international situation. In the Congress, quite a few ideas and concepts have been confirmed, stressed and adopted. Some notable ones are: persisting in reform and opening up; attaching greater and all-round importance to the element of people; emphasizing the through application of the Scientific Outlook on Development and declaring to the world that China will

unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development.

1. Reform and opening up is the key to all China's successes in the past 29 years and more and constitute the most salient feature of China's development. This great undertaking carried on in China, never seen before in history, has greatly stimulated the enthusiasm of millions of Chinese people and brought about China's historic transformation from a highly centralized economy to a robust socialist market economy and from a closed or semi-closed state to all-round opening up. It is very clear that without reform and opening up, China would not enjoy stability and prosperity as today and the living standards of Chinese people would be hardly improved in such a big way.

There are still various problems and difficulties in China's economic and social development today. The core reason lay on the fact that China's economic and political structure is far from perfect and the level of opening not sufficient enough. Deepening reform and expanding opening up is indispensable for China to keep on the momentum of development and meet all challenges in its way of advance.

2. People are the main driving force of China's development and the fundamental purpose of development is for the well being the people. The policy of people first has been

strongly stressed all over China. Expanding socialist democracy and better safeguarding the people's rights and interests, and carrying on more thoroughly the rule of law were an outstanding theme of the Congress.

Some important steps have been listed in improving democracy and carrying out the rule of law. They include:

--Improving institutions for democracy, diversifying its forms and expanding its channels.

--Carrying out democratic election, decision-making, administration and oversight in accordance with the law to guarantee the people's right to be informed, to participate, to be heard and to oversee.

--Accelerating the reform of the administration system and building a service-oriental government.

--People's livelihood has been put at the top of all consideration and substantial measures have been taken to improving people's education, med-care, social well-fare, housing, cultural life and so on. It is the departure of all policy to ensure that the development if for the people, by the people and with the people sharing in its fruits.

3. The Scientific Outlook on Development was first raised in 2003. It has been enriched and developed over the year

and become a systematic and comprehensive guiding principal in China's development. To put it simple, the Scientific Outlook on Development takes development as its essence, putting people first as its core, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development as its basic requirement and overall consideration as its fundamental approach.

Comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development is a fundamental change of the old thinking in national development, overstressing the importance of economic development one-sidedly. It is an enlightened approach to the promotion of all-round economic, political, cultural and social development with results in expanded production, a better life and sound ecological and environmental conditions. It requires the building of a resource-conserving and environment-friendly society that coordinates growth rate with the economic structure, quality and efficiency, and harmonizes economic growth with the population resources and the environment.

Overall considerations means a correct understanding and handling all kinds of relations in China and its relations with the rest of the world. In development, it requests the proper handling the following five aspects: urban and rural development, development among regions, economic and social development, relations between

man and nature, domestic development and opening to the outside world.

4. Following unswervingly the path of peaceful development is a strategic choice of the Chinese government and people made in light of the developing trend of the times and their own fundamental interests. China believes that it shares common interests with the all countries in the world and does best to combine the interests of the Chinese people with common interests of peoples of other land. The main points of peaceful development include:

--The whole purpose of China's development is for the benefits of its own people, but neither for pursuit of the states of superpower, nor for seeking world domination.

--China mainly relies on its own people, resources and market for development and will not make its own development at the cost of interests of other countries.

--China will always carry on opening up to the outside world and will steadily follow win-win strategy and stands for mutual benefits in international cooperation.

--China strongly advocates for common development and calls strong and rich countries to give necessary help and assistance to the development of weak and poor countries.

--Chinese people are peace-loving people. China needs a

long-term peaceful international environment in its development. China has worked steadfastly for world peace and stability and strengthens its capability for peace with its development.

--China holds that all countries in the world are equals, no matter big or small, rich and poor, strong or weak. All countries have the right to choose their own system and patterns of development. China will never pose its own ideas, system and pattern of development on others.

--China stands for the building of a harmonies world with lasting peace and common prosperity, and calls for the joint efforts of all countries in ensuring human security.

Strictly speaking, those are not completely new viewpoints, but rather ideas raised and experimented in the last a few years along with China's development. By thoroughly applying those strategic principles, China will be certainly ushered into a new stage of sound and fast development. That will be demonstrated at least in three major aspects:

First, China's development will be put on a more healthy and rational foundation. The tendency of paying main attention to quantity while neglecting quality in economic development will be definitely altered; the practice of overstressing production but

ignoring energy consumption and environment protection will be firmly stopped; the awkward situation that large numbers of products are made in China but not by China will be gradually changed. In short, there will be new thought, new manner and new ways guiding China's development.

Second, facts have demonstrated that taking the principle of "people first" as the core in the consideration of all policies and practices, giving more attention to social development and people's concerns, and carrying out political, economic and cultural construction simultaneously, are of vital importance in the building of a harmonious society in China. They will help guarantee that China enjoys continuously stability, unity and vitality.

Third, China's development has not only enabled its people to move steadily towards prosperity and happiness, but also contributed substantially to the growth of the world economy and progress of human civilization. China's fate and future has become more closely linked with the fate and future of the whole world. As a justice-holding and peace-loving country, an ever-developing and prosperous China will certainly be able to make greater contribution to world peace, cooperation and development.