



## Frugality sets the tone for congress

By **LUO WANGSHU**  
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The frugality campaign launched by the central leadership about five years ago has brought fresh changes to the Party congress, which delegates said could be an example for future meetings.

Inside the Great Hall of the People, where the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was convened, no ornamental displays of flowers or plants were installed. No celebration banners were placed at hotels where delegates are staying. No souvenirs have been given to delegates. Some stationery supplies like pencils and paper are made from recycled materials.

**“I can feel the simple and frugal style ... which makes me feel more comfortable and relaxed.”**

**Li Dawei**, a delegate from Sinopec's Baling branch in Yueyang, Hunan province

“I can feel the simple and frugal style at the congress, which makes me feel more comfortable and relaxed, and delegates can concentrate on the meeting itself,” said Li Dawei, a delegate from Sinopec's Baling branch in Yueyang, Hunan province.

“No flowers or other unnecessary decorations are placed at the meeting venues,” he said, adding that even bottled water is not provided to help protect the environment. “We take a shuttle bus to commute between the hotel and the Great Hall of the People. No other special cars have been arranged,” Li said.

Ten percent fewer vehicles than expected were ordered, according to Shouqi Group, a State-owned automobile enterprise in charge of ground transport for the meeting.

In accord with the eight-point frugality code issued by the central leadership in late 2012, the group running conference services for the 19th CPC National Congress is following the principle of “simple, economical, safe and efficient”, according to the People's Daily, the Party's official newspaper.

Jia Fengshan, a delegate from Tianjin, said banquets and gatherings of small groups have almost disappeared.

“Delegates are taking the lead in self-discipline,” he was quoted as saying by People's Daily. “The national congress is the top-level meeting of the Party. The frugal style sets a good example for Party and government meetings across the country.”

## A show of pride



A group of tourists, their children waving national flags, walk through Tian'anmen Square in Beijing over the weekend. Behind them is the Great Hall of the People, where the 19th CPC National Congress has been meeting since last week to set the course for the country's future. EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

## Observers share 3 words about China

By **ANDREW MOODY**  
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China is “committed”, “ambitious” and “vital”, according to Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

The billionaire philanthropist was among leading business figures, academics and opinion leaders from around the world who were asked by China Daily to sum up China in just three words.

Apart from the somewhat obvious “big”, words which regularly came up from respondents were “innovative”, “dynamic” and “transforming”, reflecting some of the spirit of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era outlined in the general secretary's report to the 19th CPC National Congress.

Gates said he wanted his selection of words to reflect the fact that China was now “very important to the future of the entire world”.

“Committed, because as much as any other country over the past few years, China has shown a commitment to health and development both at home and abroad. Ambitious, because of the targets it has set for itself, including wiping out extreme poverty by 2020. And vital, because we need an engaged and responsible China if we are to rid the world of what we call ‘solvable human misery,’” he responded.

Gary Locke, the former US ambassador to China, said it was important to reflect that China was building a new modernity while also not forgetting the foundation of its ancient culture.

“I would say ‘modern,’ ‘ancient’ and ‘energetic.’ China is on the move,” he responded.

This combination of old and new was reflected in the choices of Marine Jibladze, the Georgian Sinologist and author.

“It is both ‘modern’ and ‘traditional’ as well as ‘safe,’” she said.

Leading China expert Kerry Brown, director of the Lau Institute at King's College London and author of the new book *China's World* about China's increasing global role, described China as “dynamic”, “complex” and “aspirational”.

He said he wanted the words to reflect just how important China is to the rest of the world. “China has a new role. Domestic issues are global because of their size and scale,” he replied.

Scott Kennedy, deputy

director of the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, was one of those who said it was difficult to avoid the word “big” when it came to China, although he also went for “competitive” and “offering variety”, the last choice taking into account the diversity of the country.

“China is big. It's not just big geographically and in terms of its number of people but also on its effect on the global economy, markets and security issues. Anything you study about China has to start with its size,” he responded.

David Lampton, former president of the National Committee on United States-China Relations and now a Sinologist at Johns Hopkins

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## Peaceful mission

Representatives of the People's Liberation Army meet reporters in the press center of the 19th CPC National Congress on Sunday. The varied topics discussed included peacekeeping missions, personal experiences and modernization of China's forces.

FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY



## Minister: Academic excellence within reach

By **ZHAO XINYING**  
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China is expected to take the lead in education globally and become one of the most popular overseas study destinations for foreign students by 2049, the centennial of the People's Republic of China, a top education official said on Sunday.

“I hope that China will play a leading role in education worldwide, which means the standards of education in China will become the standards of the world,” Education Minister Chen Baosheng said at a news conference on the sidelines of the 19th CPC National Congress in answering a ques-

tion about his wishes for China's education by 2049.

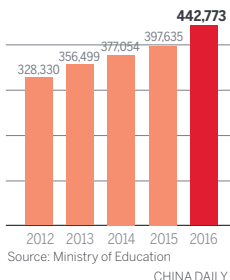
“I hope that China will have a bigger say in educational affairs globally and make contributions to the development of the world's education using China's own experiences and wisdom,” he said.

Chen also expressed the hope that China will become the overseas study destination where students from around the world most aspire to go.

“We will be happy to see more teachers and students from other countries come to visit China and make progress together with their Chinese counterparts,” he said.

With more than 440,000 students from 205 countries and

### Number of international students in China



regions studying in China last year — up nearly 35 percent from 2012 — China has become the largest overseas study desti-

nation in Asia and the third largest in the world. At least 47 countries and regions have signed agreements on mutual recognition of academic degrees, according to the Ministry of Education.

According to Chen, education in China has made great leaps during the past five years and has been making increasingly bigger impacts internationally.

He said the quality of education in China has generally reached a medium-high level. Some disciplines of higher education have met world-class standards and some universities' places in global rankings have climbed quickly in recent years.

# Xi instructs Party to put people first

General secretary's feelings are reflected in new Thought guidance

By **AN BAIJIE**  
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Rural official Pan Kegang said what General Secretary Xi Jinping said at his village two years ago has been a motto to remind him to work for the people.

Whether the Party's policy is good or not depends on whether it makes the people smile or cry, Xi said during an inspection tour of the impoverished village of Huamao in Guizhou province in June 2015.

Pan, a delegate to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, recalled the words when Xi attended a panel discussion with Guizhou delegates on Thursday as part of the congress.

Pan, presenting Xi with a photo showing the enormous changes taking place in the once-poor village, said, “We will work harder to give people more smiles.”

This people-centered philosophy is an important part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era unveiled at the congress.

In the report delivered at the opening session on Wednesday, Xi urged all Party members to “always breathe the same breath as the people, share the same future and stay truly connected to them”.

Xi reiterated the pledge that he made five years ago when he assumed the post of general secretary of the 18th CPC Central Committee in November 2012. “The aspirations of the people to live a better life must always be the focus of our efforts,” Xi said.

Yu Liufen, Party secretary of the village of Yanbo in Liupanshui, Guizhou, said that she had noticed that Xi mentioned the word “people” 203 times in his three-and-a-half-hour report.

“It reflects the deep feelings and tight bond that General Secretary Xi has with the people,” she said, adding that poverty-reduction measures have

### Today's agenda

**3 pm:** Leading officials from the Office of the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Environmental Protection meet reporters.

**7 pm:** Group interview on environmental protection

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greatly improved the people's livelihoods in remote mountainous villages.

When she traveled to Beijing to attend the Party's 17th National Congress 10 years ago, it took her four days to get from her village to Beijing via the provincial capital Guiyang. But now, it takes her only 45 minutes from her home to reach the nearest high-speed railway station. Then, she can get to Beijing in only eight hours on the fast train, she said.

Xi has attached great importance to poverty reduction and made a solemn promise to eliminate the country's poverty in 2020 to achieve the Party's goal of building a moderately prosperous society. The ongoing congress has reaffirmed the target.

At the end of last year, China had 43 million impoverished people living in rural areas, after 55 million people were lifted above the poverty line between 2012 and 2016.

“What I care most about is the people living in difficulties,” Xi said in his 2017 New Year's address.

During a panel discussion with lawmakers from Sichuan province in March, Xi said his heart was broken when he heard several years ago that some students in Liangshan prefecture had to climb cliffs without any safety equipment

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However, further efforts are needed to meet people's growing demands for a better quality education, Chen said.

In the report to the 19th CPC National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping said that priority should be given to education to speed up its modernization and to develop education that satisfies people's needs.

To realize that goal, Chen said the ministry will make efforts to improve in at least five aspects: preschool education, compulsory education, high school education, higher education and the training of teachers.

The gross enrollment rate of preschool education, for example, is expected to reach 85 percent by 2020. The current rate is 77.4 percent.

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