

19th CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

Media highlights

The ongoing 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has been actively covered by foreign media outlets around the world. The reports speak highly of the CPC's leadership as well as China's socioeconomic development and global contributions. Following are summaries from some of the reports:

German magazine International Politics and Society

Germany and the European Union's politics must adapt to competition from other political systems and learn from the successes of the China model.

Swiss daily newspaper the Neue Zuercher Zeitung

Banking on its national strength and international influence, China should have taken a global leadership role by 2050.

British daily newspaper The Guardian

The ambition on display and the confidence of Xi were striking. (Referring to General Secretary Xi Jinping's opening address.)

Iranian official Islamic Republic News Agency

The further success in China's reform policies will encourage the world states to follow the steps of China.

Cuban official newspaper Granma

President Xi Jinping has great prestige, thanks to the success of the reforms he undertook with his colleagues over the last five years.

Russian newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta

It is hard to imagine that China could have made such unprecedented achievements without the leadership of the CPC. With its rapid economic growth, China's experience could help developing countries prosper.

Pakistan Observer

Thanks to the five-year policy, China's economic and technological strength has increased significantly and a modern social governance system has arisen.

Malaysia's Sin Chew Daily

China has unveiled a blueprint to make it a great modern socialist country, and to fulfill the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. The goal will be realized through China's connection and interaction with the world.

XINHUA

Giddyap!



A foreign journalist rides a fake horse on Sunday at a film studio park in Hebei province's Dachang county. The press center of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China invited a number of Chinese and foreign journalists to cover the integrated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei. They also visited Xianghe county and Sanhe in Hebei. WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY

As doctor gains trust, her practice grows

By **YANG JUN** in Guizhou and **LI LEI** in Beijing

When Zhong Jing, 35, moved to Longhe nine years ago, there was no clinic and no road. Sick villagers had to get up at 5 am and walk more than four hours to see a doctor. That's the only way they could return while the sun was still up.

Since she arrived, Zhong has been running the only clinic in the village, in Guizhou province's Qianxi'an Bouyei and Miao autonomous prefecture. She sees more than 100 patients on a busy day, some coming from neighboring communities. On those days, eating just one meal is commonplace.

"Even though a road has been built now and transportation is more convenient, traveling outside the village for treatment has become the last choice, because residents now have doctors they know personally who will take care of them on their doorstep," said Zhong, a delegate to the ongoing 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Zhong formerly worked at a private hospital in Guiyang, the provincial capital. In 2006,

she made her first visit to Longhe, more than 200 kilometers distant, because her husband worked for the local government.

When she learned that many elderly Longhe villagers had arthritis or other age-related conditions, and that some women were infertile because of gynecological problems, leading to divorce, her heart was moved.

In 2008, she resigned from the hospital in Guiyang and set up the small clinic in Longhe using 20,000 yuan (\$3,000) of her own money — her entire savings at the time.

To make medicines more affordable, she turned bulk medicines into pills. To encourage sick patients to get timely treatment, she pledged she would not charge them until after they had fully recovered.

As her skills began to be recognized by the residents, increasing numbers of patients with arthritis, gynecological problems and skin diseases came for help. Residents would also ask her for advice when their livestock became ill.

"I told myself I must learn, because they trust me," said Zhong. "For unfamiliar diseases, I would



“No matter how bad the weather is, Zhong comes to visit us whenever we need treatment.”

Li Guofang, resident of remote Longhe village in Guizhou province

consult medical books in the evening. For diseases whose treatment I could not find in the book, I would ask for advice from doctors I know."

Everything went well until three months later, when Zhong's husband was transferred to another post in Xingyi, the seat of the prefecture 80 kilometers away.

Zhong wavered, but finally chose to stay.

To make sure homebound and empty-nest elderly patients get timely treatment, Zhong began to make weekly house calls, providing check-ups and advice. To reach some households, Zhong had to walk more than four hours on a bumpy, sometimes muddy mountain road.

"No matter how bad the weather is, Zhong comes to visit us whenever we need treatment," said resident Li Guofang.

"Zhong had been very kind to the villagers, elders and children alike. She had been so busy that sometimes she has had no time for meals," said Zhong Shiyong, 66, who often went to Zhong for arthritis treatments.

Now Zhong has become more ambitious. She wants to motivate residents to supplement their incomes by planting traditional Chinese herbs. She offered to help sell them to drug companies.

"The idea is not yet mature," she said. "I have to make sure it will benefit the people before I start."

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FROM THE FRONT LINE | FUYUAN

Border police praise level of commitment

Officers who viewed CPC National Congress on cellphone were inspired

By **TIAN XUEFEI** and **ZHOU HUIYING** in Fuyuan, Heilongjiang

In the early hours of Wednesday, the opening day of the ongoing 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, police officer Xu Xu and five colleagues on the Russian border in Heilongjiang province performed a flag-raising ceremony as the sun climbed over the Chinese mainland.

Then, after patrolling in a motorboat along the Heilong River, which forms part of the dividing line, they watched a live broadcast of the congress on a cellphone.

To get a good signal, they had to continually move their patrol boat up and down the river in a place where low temperatures are already below 0 C.

"I was encouraged to hear the achievements mentioned by General Secretary Xi Jinping," said Xu, 36, an officer of the Heixiazi Island border police at the country's easternmost station.

"I've been stationed on the border for 13 years, since my second year in the Army," Xu said. "I have seen the changes at different border stations in the past decade, and I'm honored to be a Chinese soldier."

"When we heard Xi talk about staying committed" to a strong military and fully advancing the modernization of national defense, he and his colleagues were inspired,

Xu said. "We believe we will get more support for our work in the future."

He said border officers once had motorboats whose engines were started by pulling a rope by hand. They were difficult to use and often broke down.

"Now, all the motorboats have electric engine starters, which is more convenient," Xu said.

About 20 km away, another border team was steering its ship along the Wusuli River. The vessel, with a displacement of 150 metric tons, has been in use since 2015 to patrol the 130-km waterway.

"Conditions have improved greatly," said Wang He, 45, a border soldier for 27 years. "Twelve border officers and soldiers live on the ship from April to November. We now have stable power and a heating supply on the ship, which we couldn't have imagined before."

Fuyuan, about 40 km from Heixiazi Island, also has seen big changes. At the end of 2012, it was linked to China's passenger rail network.

The new railway meant residents could reach Harbin, the provincial capital, in about 13 hours. In May 2014, the completion of Fuyuan Dongji Airport meant that the journey could be shortened to one hour and 20 minutes, with Beijing just a four-hour flight away.

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Officers of the Heixiazi Island border police watch the opening ceremony of the 19th CPC National Congress on a cellphone during a patrol on Wednesday. LI JUNXIU / FOR CHINA DAILY

There's light on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

While the children of Yege township are the first generation that could read, just a few years ago they couldn't after dark. That's because there was no electricity — hence, no light — in the seven tents that 78 of the primary school's 137 nomadic children called their "dorms" in Qumarleb county on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

That changed in 2011, with a project I led to install solar power. Later, the government, under the direction of the Communist Party of China, created new infrastructure, bringing a full power grid to isolated communities where elevations hover around 4,200 meters.

I've witnessed the changes firsthand since founding the volunteer initiative in this remote swath of the plateau. Over the past half-decade, the government has delivered continuous electrical power to the township and county. That's 100 percent, 24/7. That seemed unthinkable when I first arrived.

It has also built new dorms for students and teachers, a



Erik Nilsson
Perspective

new canteen, classrooms, bathroom facilities, a clinic, an activity center, computer labs and much more.

In addition, the government, led by the Party, has provided Qumarleb's nomads with modern homes near urbanized downtown areas. It has also paved roads to the county seat.

Indeed, China has proved that connectivity reduces poverty. It has enhanced transportation infrastructure at a dizzying rate, with broad scope and reeling efficiency.

The approach goes beyond infrastructure in places like Qumarleb, where illiteracy and language barriers have made it difficult for older generations to migrate, and natural conditions are severe and afford few resources.

Geography and geology connive against livelihoods in this plateau settlement that sires little more than snow and grass.

But the government has recently responded to the challenges with career training — part of Party General Secretary Xi Jinping's targeted poverty-alleviation strategy.

Nomads can get free, certified, on-the-job instruction to become automobile mechanics, hairdressers or painters of traditional Tibetan *thangka*.

Qumarleb is but one of many underdeveloped areas where such Party-led approaches are swiftly improving life through both "hardware" and "software".

Over the past decade, I've regularly traveled to remote, underdeveloped communities throughout the country, journeying through nearly every province not only to cover poverty but also its solutions.

China has many remedies. Experiments I've covered range from ethnic Mongolian nomads raising emu instead of sheep to prevent desertification and boost incomes, to harnessing solar power to alleviate the devastation of droughts in rural Zhangjiakou.

These are authoritative

testaments to the effectiveness of the Chinese model.

Poverty alleviation, especially during the past half-decade, is a highlight of China's triumphs.

The country has hoisted more than 700 million people out of extreme poverty over three decades. About 56 million have escaped poverty since 2013, including more than 12 million last year alone. Indeed, the nation is lifting people out of poverty faster than at any other time or place in history.

Xi announced that the country will entirely eliminate extreme poverty by 2020, a decade before the United Nations' goal of eliminating "all forms" of poverty.

The 19th CPC National Congress provides an opportunity to enhance the effort's global profile, restate the Party's dedication to the 2020 goals and gaze beyond in terms of tackling relative poverty. The Party is offering underdeveloped areas a brighter future.

My realization in Qumarleb six years ago was that the light at the end of the dark tunnel of poverty may be children reading after sundown.

Red carpet means openness

A long red carpet in a side corridor of the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing always arouses media attention during the annual parliamentary sessions in March. It's where high-level officials meet with reporters and answer questions.

The carpet was nicknamed the "ministers' passage".

But at the ongoing 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the leading characters are Party delegates, and so the corridor has been renamed the "delegates' passage".

It is the first time the Party congress has included such an avenue to provide opportunities for reporters to interview delegates.

As a journalist covering the congress, I was fortunate to have been able to ask a question in the corridor on Wednesday about China's latest developments in high-end computer servers.

The interview was scheduled for one hour and set to begin at 7:30 am. At around 6 am a large number of journalists from home and



Cao Yin
Reporter's log

abroad arrived at the hall. I was among them.

The delegates who gave interviews on the red carpet came from different walks of life, including universities, technology companies, judicial authorities and military departments. About 2,280 delegates are attending the congress, representing more than 89 million Party members across the country.

So far, about 40 delegates have been interviewed in the corridor, and more delegates are expected to appear and respond to journalists' questions on Tuesday, when the congress ends.

Different from the ministers' passage, on which most questions related to government policy, journalists this time are asking more questions about Party building and the delegates' personal stories — including changes in their careers over the past five years.

Most topics broached in the corridor were serious, but I was glad to see that some delegates, such as Lu Li-an, could respond in an easygoing way.

When the Taiwan native, who teaches English literature at Fudan University in Shanghai, was questioned about how she views Taiwan after working on the Chinese mainland for 20 years, she not only spoke highly of the progress of the mainland's soft power but also showed deep love for her hometown by telling a personal story.

"We love Taiwan and also love the motherland," she said in Mandarin before repeating it in the Minnan dialect used in Taiwan and Fujian province.

The integrated development of the mainland and Taiwan is feasible, she added.

Although the interviewees on the red carpet have changed, the purpose of the path remains the same: to make the Party and the government more transparent. Although change has come gradually, I can feel it, and I've benefited from it.

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