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Salman seeks Asian help to diversify nation's economy

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CPPCC advances 'social, economic' progress

Session concludes, having produced many proposals on issues like alleviating poverty and reducing smog

By XIN ZHIMING
and WANG YANFEI

China's top political advisory body concluded its annual session on Monday, with more than 2,000 members participating in the 11-day session having provided 5,210 proposals for policymakers.

Members have done a good job carrying out their responsibilities, making valuable suggestions to "promote China's social and economic development", according to Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Yu spoke at the closure of the 12th National Committee of the CPPCC at the Great Hall of the People.

Proposals made by the members covered a wide range of topics, including economics, politics, culture, social development, and ecological and environmental protection.

Economic issues were the focus of 34.7 percent, down from 42 percent in 2016.

Proposals on politics, culture, social development and the environment rose by different proportions compared with a year ago.

Last year, CPPCC National Committee members submitted 5,375 proposals. Although the number fell this year, "the quality of proposals has risen significantly", according to a CPPCC document.

Proposals addressed such important issues as energy consumption, poverty reduction and the production of



Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the 12th CPPCC National Committee, addresses members at the closing session in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday. PHOTOS BY RAO AIMIN / XINHUA



safe, quality goods, according to the document.

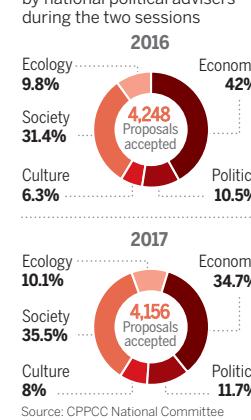
"It does not mean that we do not care about the economy," said Zhang Lianqi, a member of the National Committee of the CPPCC. "But our proposals have become more diversified and more of our focus has been put on areas that can raise people's 'sense of gain', such as poverty alleviation and air pollution, which are closely related to people's lives." Zhang is a senior consultant with the Center for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based think tank.

It is natural for China to pay more attention to such topics as environmental protection and social development after

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Key topics

Focus of proposals submitted by national political advisers during the two sessions



Public interest lawsuits to grow over pollution, food and drugs

By ZHANG YAN
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A pilot program that allows prosecutors to file public interest lawsuits has been a great help in protecting the public's rights in environmental and food and drug safety issues, and the top procuratorate is moving to make the practice into law, the country's procurator-general said.

Between July 2015 and the end of February, prosecutors handled 5,109 such cases and

filed 547 public interest lawsuits. That helped restore 128,000 hectares of polluted farmland, forests and grassland, and forced 443 companies operating illegally to pay compensation of about 200 million yuan (\$28.9 million), according to the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

"Such a pilot program has effectively prevented State and social public interests



from being harmed," Cao Jianming, procurator-general of the SPP, told China Daily in an exclusive interview.

"Prosecuting departments will further streamline the process, clarify standards and mull legislative proposals to give legal backing to the practice."

Public interest litigation is fairly new and rare in China.

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Tuesday

10 am: Zhi Shuping, minister of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, holds a news conference.

All day: Final group discussions by national legislators on all draft reports, the general provisions of civil law, the decision on deputy elections for the 13th NPC, and draft methods for the election of deputies to the 13th NPC from Hong Kong and Macao.

Senior diplomat to attend Asia-Pacific meeting in Chile

By WANG QINGYUN
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China is sending a senior Foreign Ministry official to a high-level dialogue on Asia-Pacific economic integration to be held in Chile starting Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in Beijing on Monday that the gathering is "not a meeting of the Trans-Pacific Partnership as some media have said".

China's Special Representative on Latin American Affairs Yin Hengmin will lead a delegation to the meeting, which will see an "extensive exchange of views over the

next step in Asia-Pacific regional cooperation", Hua said.

"China hopes the meeting will contribute to pushing forward the process of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, the construction of an open economy in the Asia-Pacific and promoting economic integration of the region," said the spokeswoman.

Representatives from 15 countries, covering all signatories of the TPP, all members of the Pacific Alliance — a Latin American trade bloc — as well as China and the Republic of Korea, were invited to the two-day meeting to be held in the Chilean city of Vina del Mar, according to the

website of the Chilean General Directorate of International Economic Relations.

Hua said China's position on the TPP has not changed, which is to work with all parties to push forward Asia-Pacific economic integration for the benefit of all countries and all peoples in the region.

In an earlier news conference, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang was asked whether China would play a bigger role and benefit from United States' withdrawal from the TPP, rather than the TPP itself, Chen said.

A major issue of the meeting will be how to promote integration of the Asia-Pacific to further enhance globalization

country," Geng said. He said China is open to all trade arrangements "that are conducive to economic integration in the Asia-Pacific, liberalization and facilitation of regional trade and investment, and common development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific".

Chen Fengying, a researcher in global economy at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said China sending a delegation to attend the meeting shows it is taking "a more active attitude" and shouldering more responsibility in global trade.

The meeting will focus on Asia-Pacific cooperation after the US withdrawal from the TPP, rather than the TPP itself, Chen said.

A major issue of the meeting will be how to promote integration of the Asia-Pacific to further enhance globalization

UK looking toward China as Brexit process set to launch

By LI WENSHA in London
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Relations between China and the United Kingdom are gaining momentum as British Prime Minister Theresa May is poised this week to begin the process of taking the UK out of the European Union.

"The China-UK relationship at age 45 is entering a new phase of increased maturity," said Chinese Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, as the two countries marked the 45th anniversary of ambassadorial relations on Monday.

Liu said the two countries must be "more innovative in our cooperation in broader areas and at greater depth to ensure that China-UK relations bear more golden fruit in this golden era".

In the past 45 years, bilateral trade between China and the UK has increased 200-fold, said Alok Sharma, UK Minister for Asia and the Pacific. The UK is now one of the top destinations for Chinese investment and China is the UK's second largest export market outside Europe.

"The global partnership established during President Xi Jinping's successful visit to the UK in 2015 is delivering real benefits for both nations," Sharma wrote in an article for China Daily.



China is such an important part of the world now. When China grows, the whole world grows.

George Osborne, former UK Chancellor of the Exchequer

London is looking for sources of growth as it prepares for the uncertainty that will follow its departure from the EU, analysts said.

"As we prepare to leave the European Union, the UK will build a truly global Britain that is open for business, and brings with it new and exciting opportunities for our partnership with China," Sharma said.

George Osborne, 45, former UK chancellor of the exchequer, said: "China is such an important part of the world now. When China grows, the whole world grows."

Osborne said the creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was a great opportunity for British com-

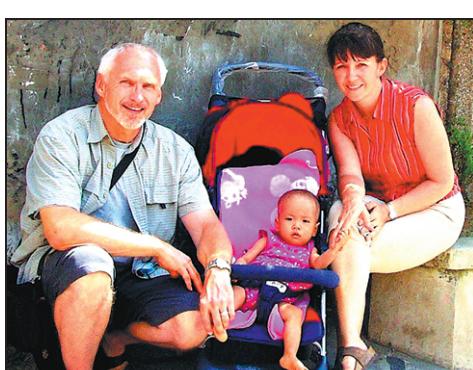
panies to work on projects in China and Central Asia. "Many British companies that are brilliant at infrastructure, design and architecture have already been involved in some of China's airports and urban regeneration projects," he said.

The UK was the first major Western country to ratify its membership in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

China and Britain have worked closely to strengthen financial and economic links, including issuing the first renminbi sovereign bond outside China and enhancing London's position as the largest renminbi center outside China. Britain was also the first Western country to welcome investment from Chinese nuclear companies.

Sino-British links have flourished in a variety of sectors. Chinese investors now have major interests in several English soccer clubs, including Manchester City, Aston Villa and Birmingham, and Chinese visitors to Britain have doubled in five years, with around 150,000 Chinese students now studying across the UK and 7,000 British students studying in China.

Wang Mingjie contributed to this story.



Hoping for help in girl's homeland

Greg and Cathy Crowell of Canada are shown with Hosanna, an abandoned child they adopted from a welfare house in Guizhou province in 2007. The girl, now 11, has the hereditary blood disorder thalassemia. The couple is appealing to the public to help in their search for a bone marrow donor, most likely a sibling, who could give Hosanna a chance for a cure.

PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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