



The 1st session of the 14th Shanxi Provincial People's Congress concludes in Taiyuan, the provincial capital, on Monday. LI LIANJUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The past five years marks a milestone in the development of Shanxi province with an extraordinary performance in many aspects, Jin Xiangjun, then acting governor of the province, told delegates to the recent session of the Shanxi Provincial People's Congress.

The annual conference of Shanxi's legislative body ran from Jan 12 to 16. Jin made the remarks in the government work report addressed at the opening day of this year's session. He was elected as the governor of Shanxi on Jan 16.

In his government work report, Jin summarized the achievements that Shanxi had made over the past five years and released the government's plan for the next five years and especially for this year.

Highlighting high-quality development and sticking to the principle of achieving growth in a proactive and cautious manner, Jin said Shanxi had implemented a new development model, deepened supply-side reform and carried out effective measures to drive domestic demands during the past five years.

As a result, Shanxi has seen sustained economic growth both in quantity and quality. Its GDP maintained an average annual increase of about 6 percent and its 2022 GDP ranked 20th among all the provincial-level regions in China, with per capita GDP surpassing 70,000 yuan (\$10,353) in 2022.

The work report said that Shanxi had accelerated its pace in industrial transformation over the past five years, which highlights the upgrading of traditional industries and the cultivation of emerging sectors as new growth areas.

The report said that the strategic emerging industries and high-tech industries had maintained an average annual increase of 11.6 percent and 11.7 percent respectively over the past five years. The service industry reported a combined added value of more than 1 trillion yuan last year, while the digital economy surpassed 500 billion yuan.

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The government work report, which was delivered by Jin Xiangjun, newly elected governor of Shanxi, at the annual session of the Shanxi Provincial People's Congress held from Jan 12 to 16, is both inspiring and encouraging, said delegates to the congress.

After hearing the work report on Jan 12, congress delegate Zhao Yajing, who is also the Party secretary of Dingxiang county, made a phone call to Wang Jianyong, board chairman of Dingsheng Casting Industry based in the county, to inform him of the latest information conveyed in the report.

Dingsheng is one of the leading manufacturers of flange, a product that has helped Dingxiang win nationwide fame.

Zhao told Wang that the government work report proposed developing characteristic towns and cities specializing in famed products that include flange, noting that it "should be an opportunity for local enterprises like Dingsheng to grow".

According to Zhao, Dingxiang county is now home to 189 manufacturers of flange, including 26 large-scale companies, which are capable

Five years of achievements for Shanxi highlighted in congress

Future plans set to build on the successes and reform measures implemented



From left: Members of the Shanxi Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference leave the meeting venue after their annual gathering ends in Taiyuan on Jan 15. WANG RUIRUI / FOR CHINA DAILY Delegates to the Shanxi Provincial People's Congress discuss the provincial government work report. LI ZHAOMIN / FOR CHINA DAILY



As a result of developing three landmark tourist routes along the Yellow River, the Great Wall and the Taihang Mountains, the tourism industry has been a rapidly growing sector for Shanxi. The province is now home to 10 5A — the nation's highest-ranking — tourist destinations.

The report said the province's 93 development zones are major contributors to Shanxi's growth. The zones, accounting for 1.86 percent of Shanxi's land area, generated 31 percent of the province's GDP over the past five years.

Shanxi has also been promoting an energy revolution campaign to upgrade its coal mining industries and step up the development of clean and renewable energy resources.

By the end of 2022, 80 percent of

Shanxi's coal output was produced at coal mines with advanced, more efficient and cleaner production facilities. Shanxi produced 1.3 billion metric tons of coal last year, ranking first in China and playing a vital role in ensuring national energy security.

With a focus on balanced development between the urban and rural areas and increasing investments in agricultural and rural infrastructure, Shanxi has seen breakthroughs in both poverty alleviation and rural vitalization over the past five years.

Shanxi announced the elimination



of absolute poverty in 2021, which encompassed 58 counties and 3.29 million residents.

In 2022, Shanxi's total grain output and per-unit grain output both set records.

The work report said that Shanxi's sustained development also featured continuous improvement in the ecological environment over the past five years. As a result of unremitting efforts in combating pollution, Shanxi saw 74.5 percent of the days in 2022 achieving good or excellent air quality. There has been steady improvement in water quality in its major rivers and lakes.

The government work report also set the goals for Shanxi's development in the following years. It said Shanxi will basically fulfill its mission in industrial transformation in 2030, freeing itself from the reliance on traditional energy development like coal mining. It is expected to realize Socialist modernization in 2035, together with the rest of the country.

To fulfill these goals, Shanxi will have a raft of tasks on its agenda for the next five years.

In the area of agricultural development, Shanxi will focus on the improvement of farmland and adding irrigation facilities. It plans to transform 800,000 hectares of land into high-standard farmland in the next five years. This initiative is

expected to push Shanxi's annual grain output to 15 million tons in five years.

In the field of transport, Shanxi will build two major high-speed railways to link Xinzhou with Xiong'an in Hebei province and connect Taiyuan with Suide in Shaanxi province. The construction of expressways will continue in the province, making it possible for every county in Shanxi to gain access to expressways.

Other major transport facilities for the next five years will include the third phase of Taiyuan Airport, the No 1 Subway Line in Taiyuan and the completion of three major sightseeing roads along the Yellow River, the Great Wall and the Taihang Mountains.

In the education sector, Shanxi hopes to have two or three first-class higher-learning institutions and three to five first-class disciplines in the next five years. The government work report said there should be at least one high-quality senior high school in each county, county-level city or district.

To drive development with innovation, the province expects to have 15 national-level laboratories or innovation platforms in the next five years.

The government report said that efforts will continue to improve Shanxi's ecological environment by curbing the pollution of air and water. It expects all the sections of the Fenhe River, the second-largest river in Shanxi, will have good or excellent water quality within the five years.

The work report said there will also be plans to bolster the public health service and build more cultural facilities for residents.

The work report also set the targets for this year, which include a year-on-year GDP increase of 6 percent, and similar growth rates for the per capita disposable income of urban residents and a relatively higher increase for the per capita income of rural residents. It expects to control urban residents' unemployment rate at about 5.5 percent and inflation rate at roughly 3 percent.

Wu Jia contributed to this story.

Work report heralds new age of development

of producing more than 2,000 varieties of flange used in a range of fields like petrochemicals, power generation, and aerospace and astronautics. The local industry has a total annual output of 1 million metric tons and has offered jobs to more than 40,000 people.

The official said Shanxi's plan to foster characteristic industrial towns will help to increase the influence of Dingxiang's flanges in both domestic and international markets.

Delegate Hu Dawei, who was the board chairman of Shanxi Tianbao Group, a wind power generation component producer based in the city of Xinzhou, said he is encouraged by the emphasis on the digital economy in the government work report.

"We at Tianbao are using digital technologies to build a 5G-based cloud platform for the smart production of wind power components," Hu said. "We hope we can help more local manufacturers upgrade with digitalization by sharing our experience."

As the government work report has proposed a variety of targeted



Members of the Shanxi Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference share views on the government work report. LIU TONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

measures for the recovery of cultural tourism and other service industries, delegate Zhao Xuejun, who is the mayor of Taiyuan's Yingze district, said he is now more optimistic about the development of the district.

Yingze is a hub of the service industry in Taiyuan, with the sector

accounting for nearly 90 percent of local GDP, according to the official.

He said the district's Bell Tower Street, Zhongzheng Tianjie, Shangma Street and Nanhai Street are renowned commercial blocks in Taiyuan, attracting a great number of diners, shoppers and tourists. While

protecting and renovating its historical streets and blocks, Yingze is also developing itself into a modern financial hub by attracting a great number of financial institutions.

Chen Guanghua, board chairman of Great Wall Electrics based in Taiyuan, is a member of the Shanxi Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, who listened to the government work report on-site on Jan 12.

He said the targeted measures proposed by the report for supporting private businesses is the most encouraging news for entrepreneurs like himself.

"Private businesses are yet to recover from the pressure and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past three years," Chen said. "And now we feel exhilarated after listening to the government work report."

He said the report deems boosting market confidence as one of the priorities on the government's agenda for this year. It promises to forge a better, predictable business environment for market entities, whether

they are State-owned or privately run.

The promises include a stable policy framework, easier market access, streamlined administrative service procedures and whole-process assistance for businesses.

For agricultural and rural development, the government work report proposed modernization, developing specialty produce with local characteristics, fostering leading enterprises for agricultural products processing and integrating farming with tourism and commerce.

Congress delegate Wu Zhuqin is the board chairwoman of Xinda Agricultural Development based in Beitian township in Jinzhong city. She said Beitian is now a famed farming base of high-quality apples.

The delegate said that Xinda is now helping the town increase its fame by developing various processed apple products and increasing the industry's recognition through branding and marketing efforts, including developing online and offline sales channels.

Zheng Na, Yang Wenjun, Zhang Jufeng, Li Lian, Gao Jianhua and Yan Jie contributed to this story.