

# 19<sup>th</sup> CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

## China's growing confidence is clear



**Matt Prichard**  
Perspective

It's easy to be impressed with the material progress China has made in recent years. Having lived in Shanghai and Beijing over five years has meant living in the de facto developed world. These megacities are more advanced than some of their Western counterparts. But looking only at the surface is to miss important parts of contemporary China's story. One of the missing angles is the attitude of the Chinese people.

No one would accuse people here of having failed to love their country in the past. One need only look at how millions of Chinese fought against a powerful military machine during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45).

But since I've lived in China, I have noticed the growing confidence and optimism among Chinese people of different ages and social strata. It's a sense that after decades of playing second fiddle in the affairs of great nations, China has resumed its place as a world leader.

Some may compare this with the ascendancy of China at the height of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), during the reign of the Emperor Qianlong in the 18th century. Qianlong was a capable and cultured emperor who inherited a rich and powerful country. Yet a key difference is that the leaders of China had developed a shortsightedness that can be ascribed, in part, to the severely limited communication technology of the time.

When Qianlong came into contact with scientific and technological progress made in other countries, his inward-looking worldview made him incapable of seeing what it meant. As a result, a country that was one of the most advanced and innova-

tive in the ancient world suffered grievously.

Fast-forwarding to the 21st century, you again see an ascendant China. But one of the crucial differences is that China's leaders have worked hard to quickly catch up to world leaders in science and technology, and in many cases have equaled or surpassed them.

Internationally, China's leaders are reaching out to the world just as some Western countries are turning inward — displaying the type of attitude that once hurt China so much. The Chinese people can point with pride to President Xi Jinping going before the United Nations and pledging 8,000 troops for a permanent standby peacekeeping force, \$1 billion for a UN "peace and development fund" and \$100 million for an African Union quick-response unit.

Support for world efforts to fight climate change and improve infrastructure in other countries boosts China's stature, as well.

That type of support is possible thanks to increased prosperity that is the fruit of the hard work and smarts of the Chinese people.

China also is working to better the lives of its people, both economically and by tackling the negative side effects — notably pollution — resulting from its meteoric economic rise.

As do all emerging powers, China undoubtedly is feeling its way, learning as it goes about the best ways to project its economic power and culture beyond its borders. But it is making enormous efforts, and it can be a great force for progress.

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which opened on Wednesday, is a good time for the country to review the progress of the past five years and set its course for the next five. It is clear that not only the Chinese people but the whole world will be watching.

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**Tian Xuemei**, a delegate to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, salutes journalists after a group interview session on Thursday. Tian serves as a forensic expert in the Ministry of Public Security. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

## Law experts pleased with country's legal reforms

### Creation of leading group expected to promote progress in court system

By **CAO YIN**  
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Delegates to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China who represent the legal sector said on Thursday that construction of a judicial system and related reforms will be accelerated and improved.

General Secretary Xi Jinping said on Wednesday while delivering a report at the congress's opening session that the Party will establish a central leading group for advancing law-based governance in all areas.

The move, with the aim of building the rule of law in the country, is a profound revolution in the country's governance, Xi said.

The plan was applauded by

law-related delegates.

"Building legal structures, I believe, will be further accelerated and pushed forward after the congress," said Zhang Sujun, vice-president of the China Law Society.

The group will contribute to establishing a law-based government and also to enhancing legal awareness in public, he said.

"The rule of law will play a bigger and more basic role in the governance of the country and the Party after the congress," he added.

Jiang Bixin, a delegate and vice-president of the Supreme People's Court, considered the group as the most important step for the central leadership to further implement the rule of law.

"If the group is established, it will help us reach more agreements on the rule of law and then integrate more legal efforts across the country," Jiang said. "Meanwhile, the nation can also make policies in line with our judicial building and solve related problems in a timely manner."

Song Yushui, a Beijing judge, said she was happy to see that increasing protection of human rights was in the report. "It is a big demand of people and also a key to fulfill the rule of law."

In the past five years, more than 3,800 criminal defendants were found innocent because of insufficient evidence or unclear facts, which Song considered the best proof of the country's determination to protect human rights.

Xue Jimin, a lawyer from Jiangsu province, said, "Filing a case has not been difficult for people since Chinese

courts banned unnecessary barriers to the process through judicial reforms. That also protects human rights in litigation."

He said the country built a national system to protect lawyers' rights at the beginning of this year, and so far 321 attorney associations in 31 regions have pushed forward the system.

In recent years, the country has also issued several rules to regulate the behavior of lawyers, hoping the industry can effectively enforce the rules, according to Xue.

But he added the protection for more than 340,000 attorneys nationwide still needs to be improved, "since the better the environment for lawyers to help people file lawsuits, the more legal services will be given to litigants." He said he is looking forward to seeing more measures to protect lawyers' rights.

## Quite the sight to behold

Not even the damp and cold of an unseasonably drizzly October morning in Beijing could diminish the stirring sight of the Great Hall of the People.

This imposing building, constructed more than 58 years ago, has been the venue for the Communist Party of China's National Congress for decades. It's also a popular tourist attraction when not hosting official State functions, though I had never been there before.

Until Wednesday, that is, when I approached the striking edifice from across the Tian'anmen Square, joined along the way by a host of other slightly sodden journalists who had been disgorged from their vehicles on the far side.

The hall's impressive

bulk loomed over us as we scurried like ants beneath its tall marble columns, forming an orderly line where we would be shielded from the rain.

We were soon granted entrance to a foyer where we could properly wonder at the building's cavernous interior.

Delegates, ambassadors and members of the media milled around, awaiting the opening of the 19th CPC National Congress, until a high-pitched bell rang to signal that it was time to enter the hall's main amphitheater.

As attendees took their seats, I marveled at the immense gallery stretched out before me and had time to wonder at how this huge structure had been built in only matter of months.

Then the band struck up a note to bring me out my reverie, and I saw President Xi Jinping enter as the whole room stood and delegates clapped in unison with the music.

After the national anthem and a moment of silence, it was time for Xi to deliver a report on behalf of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC.

As he spoke, there was a palpable sense of confidence and momentum.

Because here, over the coming days, the future of China will be discussed, and the country's course plotted for the next five years — if not longer.

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### What they say



With the implementation of the eight-point code, we all feel that the

working methods and attitude of the Party and governmental organs have improved over the past five years, and staff members of these organs have stayed closer to the people.

**Huang Yibing**, researcher at the Party History Research Center of the CPC Central Committee



The vocation of special-needs education has developed for more than 30 years. It is urgent to further develop it and continue to reform and innovate, exploring ways to train children with special needs to better serve society. In July, the government released the second round of a three-year plan to promote special education. I believe the development of education for special-needs people will prosper in the future.

**Yang Xiaoling**, deputy head of a special-needs school in Wuhan, Hubei province



Beijing Thermal Power Plant, a major heating service supplier for residents in the southeast-

ern area of the city, has been ready to further lower emissions to help blue skies stay longer in winter. If the coal-fired unit does start in some emergency cases, we still can guarantee low emissions, without worrying about pollution from it.

**Liu Zongfu**, deputy manager of Beijing Thermal Power Plant



China is building Tianhe-3, the world's first exascale supercomputer capable of making a quintillion (1 followed by 18 zeros) calculations per second. It will be 10 times faster than the current world leader, China's Sunway TaihuLight, and will become an important platform for national scientific development and industrial reforms.

**Meng Xiangfei**, head of the applications department of the National Supercomputer Center



I think it is necessary for China to assimilate traditional cultures into ordinary people's daily life. The report of the 19th National Congress specifically pointed out the need to pursue a better life. I think the better life is meeting material and psychological needs. As a publisher, we will accomplish our duty in the new era to contribute to people's beautiful ideals.

**Xu Jun**, general manager of China Book Company in Beijing



In the last two years, the State Council and the National Health and Family Planning Com-

mission of China have released many initiatives regarding pediatric medicine, including raising pediatricians' salaries and giving them promotions. These measures have played a definitive role in promoting pediatricians.

**Jia Liqun**, pediatrician in Beijing

## Words from the president



Readers browse through books by President Xi Jinping and other Party-related publications in Wangfujing Bookstore in Beijing on Thursday. Some books have been piled in the shape of the Chinese characters *shijiu*, meaning 19, a reference to the ongoing 19th CPC National Congress. EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

## Delegate overcomes setbacks in remote Guizhou

By **YANG JUN**  
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For the past 16 years, Yu Liufen has helped residents in Yanbo, a village in Guizhou province, eradicate poverty and develop the local economy.

Her hard work received a lot of attention and she was elected a delegate to the National Congress of the Communist Party of China for the third time in 15 years.

In 2001, Yu served as Party secretary of Yanbo. At that time, the village was mired in extreme poverty. It had no road connecting it with the outside world, and there was no electricity or running water. According to Yu, one-third of the residents lived below the national poverty

line, with annual per capita income of no more than 800 yuan (\$123).

The first project Yu took on was building roads. "At that time we had doubts about being able to build roads because of the scarcity of money and material," said Xiao Bengao, a resident.

Showing her determination, Yu used 40,000 yuan of her own money to purchase the materials for a three-kilometer road and persuaded all the residents of the village to devote themselves to the project. Every day she got up early to help carry materials from the local government office to the construction site.

After three months, the road was completed and Yu enjoyed the residents' admi-



built in the village, reducing pollution and providing jobs.

After investigating and studying how other areas successfully developed, Yu encouraged residents to begin poultry production and set up a livestock farm.

In 2010, more than 10,000 chickens raised by Yuan Huiying, a poultry breeder in Yanbo, died of disease.

"Yu told me that the experience was important and that failure bred success," Yuan said. "She comforted me and gave me assistance."

Regaining confidence, Yuan continued the breeding project and made a profit of more than 400,000 yuan two years later.

With Yu's help, a distillery

using the traditional methods of the local Yi ethnic group was built. In 2013, the distillery made a successful transition to a limited liability company — Guizhou Yanbo Liquor Industry Co — and villagers became shareholders.

So far the company has earned revenues of more than 40 million yuan.

Such diverse development has brought prosperity to Yanbo. Last year, the annual per capita income increased to 15,457 yuan.

"Helping villagers get out of poverty and become better off is the best gift for the 19th National Congress," Yu said.

*Zhao Yandi contributed to this story.*