

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

## Concern from Xi touches delegates

By CAO YIN  
caoyin@chinadaily.com.cn

Pan Kegang, the head of the village of Huamao in Guizhou province, was thrilled to share changes in his hometown with General Secretary Xi Jinping face to face on Thursday.

"When I presented him a photo in which our village is filled with beautiful scenery thanks to poverty relief efforts and shook hands with him, I felt so excited," said Pan, a delegate to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Xi is general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Xi applauded poverty alleviation through tourism in the village after seeing the photo and asked Pan to continue with measures to make sure the development is sustainable.

Other delegates from Guizhou showed their excitement from meeting and talking with Xi, who attended a panel discussion with them on Thursday.

Xi was elected in April as a delegate to the 19th National Congress from Guizhou. The mountainous province is a main battlefield in poverty alleviation because of its large number of poor people.

Huang Junqiong, a primary schoolteacher in the Guizhou township of Jianggu, told Xi during the discussion that children in her school have been provided dormitories and nutritious food.

"It means they don't need to get up early and spend a long time getting to school," she said.

"I was so moved hearing Xi say students in villages should enjoy the same high-quality education as those in cities," she said. "I'm encouraged, because I know he cares about us and pays a lot of attention to rural education."

Zhong Jing, a doctor in the village of Longhe, said this week was her fourth time interacting with Xi.

"Still, I was excited because I could talk to him about new developments in medical care in rural areas, such as how Chinese traditional medicine has been adopted as a part of treatment," Zhong said.

"Xi specifically asked me how much villagers pay in medical insurance a year, and whether the villagers' living environment has changed. The questions made me realize that there is still much work for me to do in rural medical care," she said.

Zhong shared her plans on youth cultivation with Xi, "because grassroots work in all areas, including medical care, needs support from young talent", she added.

Yu Liufen, a Party chief in the village of Yanbo, said Xi asked her a lot of questions after she spoke about how she helped villagers escape poverty by developing the ham and liquor industries.

"The general secretary asked me whether transportation in my hometown had changed, which struck me. In the past, it took me four or five days to reach Beijing because of poor transportation, but this time I only spent five hours on high-speed rail and flying," she said.

All the delegates expressed their approval of the report delivered by Xi at the congress's opening session on Wednesday, saying they will make greater efforts in poverty reduction.



Delegates attend a news briefing on innovation-driven growth at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on Friday. Attendees who answered reporters' questions include Jiang Fengyi (second from left), deputy head of Nanchang University; Wang Endong (third from left), chief scientist at Inspur Group; Wang Zhigang (third from right), vice-minister of science and technology; Wang Xiujie (second from right), a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and Lu Jianjun (right), head of science and technology in Shaanxi province.

FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

# China boosts plans to motivate its scientists

### Technological innovation seen as key to socioeconomic progress

By ZHANG ZHIHAO and HE WEI

China is stepping up efforts to build a "fair and just" ecosystem to better motivate science talent and facilitate technological innovation, a senior official said on Friday.

Since 2012, China's science and technology has "generally, and in some cases fundamentally, affected China's socioeconomic development", Wang Zhigang, vice-minister of science and technology, told reporters at a briefing at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

China's gross expenditure for research and development grew from 1.03 trillion yuan (\$156 billion) in 2012 to 1.57 trillion yuan in 2016, with 77.5 percent being spent by enterprises. China also has topped the world for the six consecutive years in patent applications, including 1.34 million in

2016, more than double that in 2012, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Those achievements are fueled by a total of 3.81 million science workers, the largest group in the world. "Innovation cannot be achieved solely by scientists in ivory towers. It has to be integrated closely with the economy, society, people's livelihood and national security," Wang said.

As a result, the bulk of the reforms need to focus on motivating science workers, and "creating a more fair and just ecosystem to support technological innovation", he said.

Such an environment will include supportive legal, political, cultural and social elements, Wang said. At the same time, governments should strengthen basic research, improve science literacy and let the market economy play its role. "We try to let everyone

find their value in their innovation, and make scientists happy," he said.

To achieve these goals, Wang said China needs three ingredients. The first is a top-down blueprint to "organically bind innovation to China's socioeconomic development and modernization process".

The second is clarifying "who should do what". The main drivers of Chinese innovation are research institutes, universities and companies, and they have helped China take the lead in several important fields ranging from artificial intelligence to quantum communication, he said.

Chinese science enterprises had total operating revenue of 26.1 trillion yuan in 2016, up by 17.5 percent annually. Technology contracts' value passed 1 trillion yuan in 2016, up 77.2 percent from 2012, according to the science and technology ministry.

Still, companies and universities may not be able to do massive basic scientific research, such as China's recent contribution to the dis-

covery of a new gravitational wave, because it requires national support, so government should play the leading role, he said.

As a result, the third part is stepping up efforts in basic and application research, technology innovation and commercialization, to "greatly improve our industries' competitiveness and the general strength of our economic development", Wang said.

Wang Xiujie, a biologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and also a delegate, said China has simplified procedures in areas like project applications and budget requests, "giving front-line scientists a lot of flexibility".

Wang Endong, chief scientist of Inspur Group, China's largest server maker, said companies are treating science workers better. The government also approved policies on housing and schooling support for science workers.

Contact the writers at zhangzhihao@chinadaily.com.cn

### What they say



**Rana Mitter**, director of the University of Oxford China Centre

The most significant part of General Secretary Xi Jinping's speech was his firm pledge to make China a major actor in the world. At a time of major flux in the world order, it will be increasingly important for China to play a stabilizing, responsible role when it comes to questions of trade, security and international order. As China takes a greater role in the world, it will also have to shoulder many of the responsibilities of a great power, encouraging freer markets and a more transparent international environment. It will also have to tackle issues such as climate change and provide leadership there.



**Rebecca Nadin**, head of the Risk and Resilience program at the Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom

It is encouraging to see that General Secretary Xi Jinping's speech points to regulation of the environmental regulation system. This demonstrates that the Party recognizes China's already significant pollution of water and soil resources, soil erosion, land degradation and ecosystems, and habitat loss. In recent years, China has been investing scientific, financial and human resources to tackle environmental problems and demonstrating strong global leadership on climate change. The decision to establish regulatory agencies to manage State-owned natural resource assets and monitor natural ecosystems will ensure that China's ongoing rapid urbanization and industrial development do not accelerate the rates of ecological degradation.



**Peter Kagwanja**, president and chief executive of the Africa Policy Institute, a think tank based in Kenya

In his speech, General Secretary Xi Jinping reiterated the Party's commitment to serving the people and ensuring prosperity for all. And this we have seen by the number of people who have been lifted out of poverty over the last decade. We have also seen China increasing its trading presence globally. No other country in the world can boast of such feats.



**John Holden**, CEO of US-China Strong Foundation, a Washington-based nonprofit

The Chinese government and its people are very down-to-earth when it comes to national development and growth. They abandon empty talk and concentrate only on concrete work. As one of the world's strongest economies, China has more say in many global issues and now exercises immense influence in many regions. A strong and responsible China will benefit its Asian neighbors and the entire world.



**Arthur Dong**, professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business

General Secretary Xi Jinping's speech was one of considered reflection on China's achievements combined with a clear-eyed view of the many challenges that lie ahead. Xi took note of the rapid advancement of China in the post-reform era from economic growth, elevated living standards to its growing influence on the world stage. He followed this by reminding the audience that much more work needs to be done and that China should not rest on its laurels but should work toward resolving some of the most critical fault line issues within China today.



**James Moore**, director of Georgetown University's Business, Society and Public Policy Initiative

What impressed me most was the confidence General Secretary Xi displayed by projecting an economic and political model for China that relies on a strengthened Party, a corruption-free system, and a sense that a patient and a persistent path to achieve a set of concrete goals had paid off.

## Foreign journalists deem nation's progress impressive

By CHINA DAILY

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China marks a historic point for the country and means a lot to the world, foreign reporters said on Friday when more than 50 of them visited an exhibition showcasing China's progress in the past five years.

Zubair Qureshi, a senior correspondent from the Daily Pakistan Observer, said the exhibition shows the commitment and resolve of China to

develop itself into a modern economy.

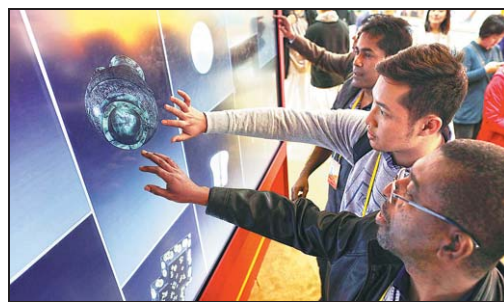
"I was impressed, particularly by Chinese models of nuclear submarines and other military equipment, since they looked to me quite effective," he said.

The congress is a historic moment for China to develop into a moderately prosperous country, he said.

Many global issues can be resolved with China's wisdom and experience, since the country is taking on a role as a global leader, he added.

Ronald Kato, a journalist from New Vision newspaper in Uganda, said it is amazing that China has made such remarkable progress in science and technology as well as in agriculture.

He said the report delivered by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at the congress on Wednesday recognized the challenges that China is going through and gives an idea of the direction that China wants to take.



Zaw Ye Aung (center), a journalist from Skynet Up to Date media in Myanmar, and other reporters touch a screen to learn about a cultural relic at the digital Palace Museum section of an exhibition showcasing China's progress in the past five years. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

"It would be interesting to see what China will be like according to his vision by 2050," he said, adding that he thinks it

will be a better place, and if China is a better place, the world will be a better place, too. China is playing an

increasingly important role in the international community, and the country is leading the way in global governance, he added.

Zaw Ye Aung, a journalist from Skynet Up to Date media in Myanmar, said the development of China over the past five years has been outstanding.

"The achievement in technology impresses me most. The C919 jet (the first large passenger aircraft produced in China) is one of the milestones of China," he said.

Journalists around the world are interested in the congress, he said, adding that they can learn more about China from the congress.

Zhou Jin contributed to this story.

## Track: Without Chinese growth, 'dark choices' for West, says analyst

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Perry added, "The world is transforming, and acceptance of different systems with shared good goals can enable the West to find growth again.

"Without Chinese growth and the Belt and Road Initiative, the West faces dark choices."

Alan Wheatley, associate fellow for international economics at Chatham House, the

Royal Institute for International Affairs, an independent policy institute based in London, said, "His repeated emphasis on a new era and the rejuvenation of China signaled to me a belief that China, under the CPC's direction, is firmly on the right path not only domestically, but also internationally."

Xi unveiled the new Thought while ushering China into a new phase of historic

development, which he said positions China "closer ever than anytime in history to its great rejuvenation".

The road to China's national rejuvenation won't be a "walk in the park", Xi said. Citing an old Chinese saying that "the last leg of a journey just marks the halfway point", he said every Party member must "be prepared to work even harder toward this goal".

Commenting on Xi's

emphasis on deepening and continuous reform and opening-up, Jim O'Neill, the renowned British economist who coined the term "BRIC", said: "China continues to see growing its economy and the wealth of its 1.3 billion inhabitants as significant. If the economy grows above \$12 trillion, it will be three times bigger than that of Japan."

China's rising consumer

demand remains the single most important development in the world economy, O'Neill said, adding that another point Xi highlighted — China's peaceful nature — suggests that China will continue on its path to greater global importance.

Erik Berglof, director of the London School of Economics' Institute of Global Affairs, said Xi has acknowledged the enormous challenges his

country is facing and is connecting with the concerns of his population.

"He showed that the leadership is serious about the ... challenge and understands what it will take to address the problems," Berglof said.

Cecily Liu contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at leixiaoxun@chinadaily.com.cn