

Ushering in New Era*

The period from November 2012 to the end of 2013, though brief in history, left a lasting imprint on China's journey toward national rejuvenation.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC held in 2012, the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping as general secretary has assumed the historic mission of leading the country.

The leadership has overseen the overall situation, made comprehensive plans, and governed with resolve. In doing so, it has rallied a mighty force for realizing national rejuvenation, and led the entire Party, the armed forces and people of all ethnic groups in opening a new chapter in the cause of the Party and the country.

From this new starting point, China, under the guidance of its new leadership, set sail and navigated steadily through the waves.

Dream Big, Take Bold Action, and Achieve with Dedication

On November 29, 2012, shortly after assuming office, the Party's new central leadership visited the exhibition *The Road to Rejuvenation* at the National Museum of China. Reflecting on the past and looking to the future, Xi declared: "Achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has been the greatest dream of the Chinese people since the advent of modern times."

The Chinese Dream is a magnificent collective vision. Since its

* The Chinese version of the article was released by Xinhua News Agency in January 2014.

introduction, it has quickly ignited the passion of hundreds of millions of Chinese people, gathering immense strength for progress.

Inspired by this vision, China is striving to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the centenary of the CPC in 2021, and to become a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious by the centenary of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 2049.

For a country of China's scale—the world's second-largest economy, with a population of 1.3 billion and nearly 100 million people still living in poverty—the path to national rejuvenation is anything but easy.

The tasks are pressing and the responsibilities immense.

Over the past year, the central leadership has demonstrated a broad vision, grasped the general trend, focused on key priorities, and assumed its weighty responsibilities with determination.

Confronted with new circumstances and tasks, the CPC Central Committee, with a profound understanding of global, national and Party conditions, has put forward a series of fresh ideas, perspectives and conclusions.

Xi's insightful statements span a wide range of areas: upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, deepening reform and opening up, advancing scientific development, strengthening socialist democracy and the rule of law, enhancing public communication and cultural work, properly handling international relations, reinforcing Party building, modernizing national defense, and advancing national reunification.

They have provided in-depth answers to major theoretical and practical questions concerning the cause of the Party and the country, enriched the Party's scientific theories, and deepened its understanding of the laws governing both socialism with Chinese characteristics and the building of a Marxist governing party.

Progress has been made across reform, development and stability; in domestic affairs, diplomacy and national defense; and in the governance of the Party, the state and the military. Important

initiatives have been rolled out in an orderly manner. Economic, political, cultural, social and ecological work, as well as the work of Party building, have advanced in a coordinated and comprehensive way.

As Xi remarked in a joint interview with BRICS media: “In a vast, populous, and complex country like ours, leaders must have a deep understanding of national conditions and stay attuned to the people’s needs and aspirations. We must act with full awareness and the greatest caution, as if treading on thin ice or standing at the edge of an abyss. We must embrace the wisdom that governing a big country is as delicate as cooking a small fish, never relaxing our efforts, never neglecting our duties, and always committing ourselves to service and the public good.”

With firm convictions, a strong sense of historical responsibility, genuine care for the people, and a pragmatic work style, the new central leadership has inspired confidence and strength among the people.

Unity of purpose brings unity of strength. Over the past year, Xi has, time and again, spoken of the Chinese Dream, and expounded on its meaning and essence:

—The Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is about building a strong and prosperous country, revitalizing the nation, and ensuring the well-being of the people.

—To realize the Chinese Dream, China must follow its own path, uphold the Chinese spirit, and rally the strength of the Chinese people.

—Ultimately, the Chinese Dream is the people’s dream. It must be achieved by relying on the people and must constantly bring benefits to them.

Chen Chen, a master’s student at China University of Geosciences and China’s first female college student to reach the summit of Mount Qomolangma, still clearly remembers Xi’s words at a seminar with young people: “The Chinese Dream belongs to history, to the present, and to the future. It is the dream of the nation, the

dream of every Chinese, and above all, the dream of the younger generation.”

“General Secretary Xi encouraged me to press forward under the inspiration of summiting the Qomolangma, and to keep reaching new heights in both my career and my life,” Chen said. “My dream is to scale the highest peaks on all seven continents.”

Throughout its history, the Chinese nation has dared to dream, shown the courage to pursue those dreams, and worked diligently to make them a reality.

Today, the Chinese Dream is inspiring new achievements. It reflects the shared aspirations of the Chinese people across generations and has become a guiding ideal, encouraging national unity and progress.

This vision is not only seen in national development but also in the changes taking place in local communities. In Luotuowan Village in Fuping County, Hebei Province, where Xi visited more than a year ago, life has quietly transformed. With a smile, 65-year-old village Party chief Gu Runjin recounted: “Last year we raised 100 head of cattle, over 1,000 sheep, planted 20 *mu* (1.33 hectares) of medicinal herbs, and opened two or three farm guesthouses. This year we plan to build a water plant and open more guesthouses.”

Respond Composedly and Advance Steadily

Composed response and scientific decision-making have been consistent hallmarks of the leadership. Over the past year, the CPC Central Committee has firmly adhered to the principle of pursuing progress while maintaining stability. With a view to improving the quality and efficiency of economic development, it has focused on stabilizing growth, adjusting structures, and promoting reform.

In the first half of 2013, as China’s economic growth slowed quarter by quarter, the country refrained from introducing new stimulus measures or loosening monetary policy. Instead, it accelerated the reduction of excess capacity, innovated in regulatory approaches,

and promoted development through reform while using development to maintain stability.

Throughout 2013, China's economic growth remained within a reasonable range. The quality and efficiency of development improved markedly, economic operations were generally stable, internal momentum for development continued to be unleashed, and innovation-led development was significantly strengthened, making China's performance stand out prominently in the broader global economic landscape.

The new central leadership's determination and perseverance in maintaining stable macroeconomic policies earned global recognition. One media outlet noted in response to the rebound in growth since the third quarter of 2013: "Once again, the Chinese economy did not follow the trajectory predicted by skeptics."

This reflects a long-term strategic vision.

"We can no longer rely on traditional opportunities arising from integrating into the global division of labor, expanding exports, and accelerating investment," Xi noted. "Instead, we are facing new opportunities that require us to expand domestic demand, strengthen innovation, and transform the model of economic development."

"Macroeconomic policies must remain stable, microeconomic policies should be flexible, and social policies must provide a safety net," Xi said, also stressing "seizing and making full use of the opportunities presented by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation."

"There is no room to wait, stand by, or slack off," he said.

Over the past year, during meetings of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and its Standing Committee, consultations with non-CPC personages, and discussions with provincial and municipal leaders, the central leadership has consistently studied and conducted research on major issues concerning economic and social development.

Xi has called for correctly assessing the situation, boosting

confidence, adopting comprehensive measures, and working diligently to promote sustained and healthy economic development. Efforts must also be made to safeguard and improve people's livelihoods, steadily advancing toward the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Stability is the premise, while progress is the goal. Progress must be achieved in accelerating economic restructuring and transforming the development model, in addressing pressing challenges—healthcare, social security and education in particular—and in seizing the historic opportunities offered by a new global industrial revolution and technological transformation.

Under the guidance of the central leadership, a series of major policies have been introduced to not only stabilize the present but also benefit the long term. These measures have effectively consolidated the foundation for economic development and boosted market confidence.

In 2013, domestic consumption steadily increased, modern services and other emerging industries grew far faster than traditional ones, prices remained stable, employment was generally steady, and society remained harmonious. Grain output saw its tenth consecutive year of growth, the first such streak since the founding of the PRC. All preset targets for economic and social development were successfully met.

On December 9, 2013, the central authorities issued a notice on improving performance evaluations for local Party and government leadership, making clear that GDP growth would no longer be the sole criterion.

“No longer can we judge success simply by the growth rate of GDP,” Xi stressed, challenging the long-standing focus on narrow performance metrics and aiming for a substantive shift in the pattern of economic and social development in China.

Over the past year, socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics has shown greater vitality. Cultural development has reached new heights. Social development has advanced through better

public services and innovative governance. Ecological progress has gained strong momentum. National defense and military modernization have also been strengthened.

New progress has also been made in the work related to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Across the Taiwan Strait, direct communication mechanisms between competent authorities were established, with political trust enhanced, and economic and political interactions intensified, further consolidating and advancing the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations.

Tackling Tough Challenges and Venturing into Uncharted Waters

Reform and opening up is a historic mandate for contemporary China and a defining feature of how the world sees the country today.

After 35 years of progress, China's reform has entered a critical and complex stage. Deep-rooted mindsets and entrenched interests have left people in agreement yet uncertain about further reforms, with hope for progress alongside lingering concerns.

Guangdong, a vanguard of China's reform and opening up, was Xi's first destination outside Beijing after assuming the Party's top post in late 2012. His message was clear:

Reform and opening up is a crucial move in making China what it is today. It is also the key to achieving the Two Centenary Goals and national rejuvenation. The pursuit of development, the emancipation of the mind, and reform and opening up have no endpoint. Stagnation or regression offers no solution. It is essential to follow the right path, dare to tackle difficult challenges, and venture into risky areas.

Xi's statement marked a new declaration of reform, a call for action and a signal for the country to advance boldly.

Over the past year, Xi and other central leaders have conducted extensive grassroots visits, engaging with the people in diverse settings including urban neighborhoods, rural households, factory

floors, schools and mines. They solicited public input on comprehensive reform, guided practical implementation, and built up consensus.

In July 2013, Xi outlined six major tasks for deepening reform: further establishing a unified national market system; enhancing the vitality of economic development; improving macroeconomic regulation; stimulating social development; promoting social fairness and justice; and strengthening the Party's leadership and governance capacity.

His broad vision and incisive analysis provided a clear guide for the direction of comprehensive reform.

At the same time, the new central leadership quickly initiated a series of reforms in key areas and critical sectors, sparking a new wave of reform across China.

Transforming government functions became the first priority. The central government eliminated or delegated more than 300 administrative approval procedures, giving greater power to the market and society.

Reforms in company registration and capital registration systems unleashed unprecedented enthusiasm for entrepreneurship. The government developed top-level plans for pension reform and accelerated the reform of the household registration system.

The Shanghai Free Trade Zone was approved, adopting a negative-list management model, and enterprise registration and approval times were cut from 29 days to just four days.

China has taken bold steps to tackle entrenched problems and dismantle longstanding barriers. Over the past year, the country's reform efforts have accomplished many things that were wanted but never got done. These measures have not only stabilized growth, promoted economic transformation and improved people's livelihoods, but also paved a new path for comprehensive reform.

Facing new situations and tasks, with the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eventually a

modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious, and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, the CPC Central Committee drafted a blueprint for deepening reform.

This blueprint was formalized in November 2013, when the CPC Central Committee unanimously adopted a landmark decision on comprehensively deepening the reform at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee.

The decision, reflecting the collective wisdom of the Party, outlined China's reform blueprint for the next decade.

The blueprint envisions a more dynamic China, where minds are further freed, productive forces are further unleashed and developed, society is more vibrant, the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is improved continuously, and the system of state governance and administrative capacity are modernized.

It also aims for a more developed China that adheres to socialist market economic reform, deepens economic system reform to allow the market to play a decisive role in resource allocation, and uses economic reforms to drive broader development.

It seeks to create a better China, where a system of social fairness—based on equality of rights, opportunity and rules—is in place to ensure social justice and improve the well-being of the people.

With this blueprint, the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary has demonstrated initiative, a keen awareness of grasping opportunities, and a strong sense of responsibility—qualities that reflect the most distinctive political character of contemporary Chinese Communists.

At the end of 2013, a series of major policy meetings, including the Central Economic Work Conference, the Central Urbanization Work Conference and the Central Rural Work Conference, unveiled a wide range of policy measures, ranging from maintaining the overall strategy of steady and balanced progress, to carefully advancing urbanization, and to strategically planning for the work

related to agriculture, rural areas and rural populations.

This year marked another pivotal period in the process of Chinese modernization, defined by reform. The new central leadership demonstrated boldness, decisiveness and insight in advancing reform, renewing people's expectations for China's future.

Positive Interaction and Shared Development

These were two extraordinary "eight hours" in China's diplomacy in 2013:

—In early spring in March, at the Kremlin in Moscow, President Xi Jinping spent eight hours holding talks and exchanges with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Cooperation agreements signed by the two sides were described by observers as "contracts of the century." For the first time, the Russian Ministry of Defense and the combat command center of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation had opened their doors to a foreign head of state.

—In June, at the Sunnylands estate in California, President Xi met with US President Barack Obama. Although the event featured neither gun salutes, red carpets, nor neckties, in two days, the two leaders spoke for a total of more than eight hours. They reached a consensus on building a new model of major-country relations between China and the United States, which highlights mutual respect and win-win cooperation, instead of conflict or confrontation.

The world today is undergoing significant adjustments in relations among major countries, while developing countries are rising collectively. The international financial crisis has triggered structural changes. Regional turbulence remains complicated, and global issues such as climate change are becoming increasingly prominent.

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, President Xi made a solemn declaration and commitment to the world: The Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation and the Chinese people's

pursuit for a good life are interrelated with all other nations' pursuit for peace and development.

"We will always follow the path of peaceful development and pursue an opening up strategy that brings mutual benefits. We will concentrate both on China's own development and on our responsibilities and contributions to the world," he said.

Xi's four overseas trips in 2013 brought him to 14 countries and four international summits. Meanwhile, 65 foreign heads of state and government visited China. The country's relations with the rest of the world were further deepened.

In just over a year, China signed about 800 cooperation agreements with various countries, covering politics, economy, trade, culture and other fields.

In the autumn, the first-ever seminar on the work of neighborhood diplomacy since the founding of the PRC was convened in Beijing, setting out strategic goals, basic principles and overall planning for neighborhood diplomacy for the next five to ten years.

Guided by the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, China engaged in head-of-state and government-level exchanges with 21 neighboring countries over the past year.

While ensuring a generally stable and sound neighboring environment, China has firmly upheld principles, kept pace, and exercised proper judgment and strength in safeguarding its core interests in issues such as territorial sovereignty, demonstrating firm confidence and will.

Upholding the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, President Xi met with 14 leaders from African countries and regional organizations in Durban, South Africa, to renew China-Africa friendship and discuss development plans.

On major multilateral occasions, including the BRICS Summit, the G20 Summit, the SCO Summit and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, President Xi frequently held bilateral meetings with other leaders.

Diplomatic events hosted by China also drew wide attention. In April 2013, leaders from ten countries attended the Boao Forum for Asia. In May, the leaders of Palestine and Israel visited China in succession. In October, the prime ministers of Russia, India and Mongolia arrived on the same day. In December, leaders of Britain, Ukraine, the United States and France visited in the same week.

Over the year, China continued to deepen its strategy of opening up, sharing weal and woe and common opportunities with all members of the global village.

—China signed free trade agreements with Iceland and Switzerland, and pushed forward free trade negotiations with Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

—China advanced talks with the United States and the European Union on bilateral investment treaties.

—China facilitated the adoption of the “Bali Package,” achieving the first breakthrough in multilateral negotiations in the 18 years since the founding of the World Trade Organization.

China has also actively engaged in addressing international hotspot issues, demonstrating its role as a responsible major country.

—It has never relented in promoting the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

—It played an irreplaceable role in facilitating the first-stage agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue.

—Regarding the Syrian crisis, China has consistently upheld the principle of resolving disputes through diplomatic means.

On the sidelines of solemn diplomatic events, some light-hearted moments were equally impressive: Chinese and Kazakh heads of state shared millet porridge and pickles on the same plane while discussing cooperation; and in Mary, Turkmenistan, around 100,000 people lined the streets to welcome distinguished Chinese guests.

Serious diplomatic talks are often punctuated by simple but

thought-provoking quotes: “Only the wearer of the shoes knows if they fit or not;” “Condition of good friends, condition of old wine;” “No mountain is too high for a man to scale and no road too long for a man to walk.”

The new Chinese leadership, demonstrating wisdom, pragmatism, sincerity and amiability, has earned widespread respect from the international community.

Victory goes to those who are good at overall planning, and understanding the world requires strategic foresight.

From a new starting point, and with a new, broad vision and more proactive approach, China's new leadership has joined people of all countries in advancing the noble cause of peace and development, won worldwide recognition, and opened a new chapter for China's diplomacy.

To Govern the Country, the Party Must First Govern Itself

In the autumn of 2013, at a special criticism and self-criticism session in north China's Hebei Province, members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee spoke in turn.

“I come here with no intention to listen to self-congratulations. What is needed is genuine criticism and self-criticism,” said Xi, who made a special trip to attend the meeting and put forward clear requirements.

This reflects the CPC's courage of introspection, a strong sense of responsibility and mission, and the confidence to accept supervision.

The key to realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation lies in the Party. Keeping in mind that one thrives in adversity and perishes in laxity, the CPC Central Committee has advanced rigorous self-governance of the Party by taking improvement of work style as the entry point.

Through formulating and implementing the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving conduct, launching the

program of mass line education and practice, combating corruption by taking down both “tigers” and “flies,” and strengthening institution-building, the Party has continuously enhanced its advanced nature and capability.

2013 was a year of improving Party and government conduct and strengthening cohesion between the Party and the people.

At the beginning of the year, in response to calls by netizens to curb “waste at the dinner table”—a reference to corruption in forms of unnecessary banquets—Xi gave instructions:

“We must do something to stop such waste as quickly as possible!”

“Party, government and military organs at all levels, institutions, people’s organizations, state-owned enterprises, as well as leaders and officials at all levels, must set an example in strictly obeying the rules,” he said.

The CPC Central Committee’s determination to enforce strict Party self-governance has become increasingly evident through a series of concrete actions. Examples include: the “four dishes and one soup” standard fading from headlines as it became routine; the “Clean Your Plate” campaign evolving into a social norm; disciplinary violations being publicly exposed rather than handled internally; and disciplinary rules becoming increasingly detailed and specific. These cumulative measures have deepened public recognition of the Party’s unyielding commitment to rigorous Party self-governance, earning widespread acclaim from both officials and the general public.

In June 2013, the CPC Central Committee launched a campaign for advancing study and implementation of the Party’s mass line, focusing on rectifying the “Four Malfeasances,” namely pointless formalities, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance within the Party.

This served as a long-ringing alarm: “If we allow these problems to spread like weeds, the consequences will be disastrous.”

Xi has issued a clear requirement for Party members and offi-

cials: “Start with yourself, start now, improve your conduct, renew your faith in the Party’s character, review your obligations as a Party member, and strengthen your resolve to observe Party discipline and state laws.”

In midsummer in Beijing, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held a special meeting to take the lead in examining the “Four Malfeasances” problems and conducting criticism and self-criticism. To ensure the success of this meeting, Xi listened to multiple special reports and gave 17 important instructions.

During the four and a half days of meetings, over 20 regulations and rules were deliberated, including measures governing thrift and opposition to waste in Party and government institutions, as well as the administration of domestic official hospitality.

The year 2013 marked China’s intensified crackdown on corruption, signaling an all-out war against graft.

At the first group study session of the Political Bureau of the new Central Committee of the CPC, Xi warned the whole Party: “Worms can only grow in something rotten.” “If corruption is allowed to spread, it will eventually lead to the destruction of a party and the fall of a government. We must keep up our vigilance.”

“We must work to simultaneously ‘cage the tigers’ and ‘swat the flies,’ corrupt officials irrespective of ranking,” he said, stressing that “we must confine power to an institutional cage.”

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, more than ten officials at the provincial and ministerial level and above have been investigated. In the first nine months of 2013, disciplinary and supervisory organs nationwide filed 118,000 cases—up 10.1 percent year on year, and disciplined 108,000 officials, an increase of 7.6 percent year on year. These figures speak volumes about the CPC Central Committee’s powerful anti-corruption drive.

Throughout 2013, the Party School of the CPC Central Committee in Beijing’s western suburbs conducted training programs for

newly elected members and alternate members of the Central Committee, as well as batches of provincial and ministerial-level officials. Xi and other members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee gave lectures, helping participants foster more resolute ideals and convictions.

Strict self-governance has consolidated organizational foundations. The orientation for selecting and appointing officials has become clearer, the tasks of strengthening service-oriented grassroots Party organizations more concrete, and the implementation of intra-Party organizational life more rigorous.

Strict self-governance has improved institutional development. Several historic “firsts” have been written into the annals of the Party’s institutional development, including the promulgation of the first “legislation law” for the Party—the regulations on the formulation of intra-Party rules of the CPC—the first five-year plan for drafting intra-Party regulations, and the first comprehensive arrangements to strengthen checks and supervision over the exercise of power.

Chinese Communists are faithfully practicing the Party’s enduring purpose and pursuit by always staying ahead of the times, serving as the backbone of the people and remaining the strong core of leadership.

Sharing Weal and Woe with the People

“Satisfying the people’s aspirations for a better life is the goal of all the Party’s work,” Xi has said.

On November 15, 2012, Xi met with the press after being elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. In his speech, he made reference to “the people” a total of 19 times.

At the first group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee after the 18th CPC National Congress, Xi stressed that the future and destiny of a political party and a government depend on popular support. “If we stray from the people

and lose their support, we will end up in failure,” he said.

At the end of 2012, despite the bitter cold, an unusual guest visited the home of villager Tang Rongbin in Luotuowan Village, Fuping County, north China's Hebei Province.

That guest was Xi, who came specifically to visit impoverished households. In his view, “frequent visits to poverty-stricken areas, sitting in the homes of poor households and talking with people in difficulty” are what CPC members should do.

Xi chatted with the Tang family and enjoyed the food the villager could offer—a freshly steamed potato from the pot.

“To see, one must see the real situation—to see things as they truly are,” Xi once said. “To see, one must see real poverty—to truly understand people's living conditions.”

Forty-five years ago, Xi, then not older than 16, went to the Loess Plateau in northwest China as an “educated youth.” He spent seven years in Liangjiahe Village of Yan'an, farming, hauling coal, building dams, carrying manure, and sharing hardships with villagers.

From the rural fields of Shaanxi in northwest China to Zhengding in north China's Hebei, and later in Fujian, Zhejiang and Shanghai, all in east China, Xi has always stayed close to the grass-roots, forging a deep bond with the people. He knows well who Chinese villagers are, what ordinary people's joys and sorrows are, and what the country's basic realities are.

Over the past year, Xi has visited impoverished areas time and again, including Fuping deep in the Taihang Mountains, Dingxi in northwest China's Gansu, once known as the “most barren land under heaven,” remote rural areas in western Hunan in central China, and an old revolutionary base in Shandong Province.

“The measurement for moderate prosperity lies in the rural areas,” Xi said. “To free rural residents from destitution so that they can live a better life as soon as possible, we must work diligently and effectively.”

On November 22, 2013, a pipeline leak caused a major blast in

Huangdao, Qingdao, Shandong Province. Xi visited the site where he told the bereaved families, “We can be reassured only when we know you are properly taken care of.”

When natural disasters struck or accidents took place, Xi issued immediate instructions prioritizing public safety and the protection of property, and dispatched officials to the sites to assess the situation and console affected residents.

“General Secretary Xi came into my tent, asked whether it leaked when it rained, checked the drainage outside, and asked about our food,” said Zhu Guoqing, a 65-year-old villager in Longmen Township of the earthquake-struck Lushan, Sichuan Province, vividly recalling Xi’s meticulous care during his post-quake visit.

Xi’s engagements—from discussing taxi-hailing difficulties with cab drivers, employment with college graduates, and living conditions with migrant workers, to visiting sanitation workers and remote rural households—show not only care but also a thoughtful problem-solving approach. He tackles immediate concerns while exploring long-term solutions.

Housing is a cornerstone of people’s livelihoods. In 2013, China set a target to complete 4.7 million government-subsidized housing units and begin construction on 6.3 million units for affordable housing. The annual goal was exceeded. According to the central plan, another ten million housing units in rundown urban areas will be rebuilt in the coming five years.

Policy signals have been clear—making social policies effective and ensuring the basic living needs of the people. This has been repeatedly stressed at both meetings of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and others.

The Party and government have introduced measures that embody fairness and justice, spanning from streamlining government functions and promoting judicial justice to ensuring equity in education and employment.

“All the Chinese who live in our great country in this great age

share the opportunity to pursue excellence, realize our dreams, and develop ourselves along with our country,” Xi said, articulating the basis for pooling people’s strength.

The new central leadership, with people’s expectations in mind, has shown a deep and steadfast commitment to serving the people.

“We Communists are like seeds, and the people are like the soil,” Xi said at a symposium marking the 120th anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong on December 26, 2013, quoting Mao.

He called on all Party members to always put the people first, rely on the people and stay close to the people.

Always standing together with the people—the practice in more than one year has once again proven that this is a cherished tradition that enables the Chinese Communists to maintain their vitality and capability.

With tenacity, hard work and unremitting efforts, the whole Party, the armed forces and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups are closely united around the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping as general secretary, resolved to overcome all difficulties and forge ahead on the journey toward realizing the Chinese Dream.