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Delegates to the 19th CPC National Congress
Guizhou: Reforming Away from Poverty

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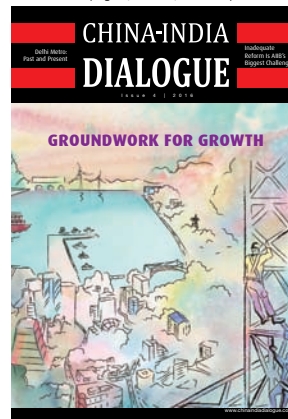
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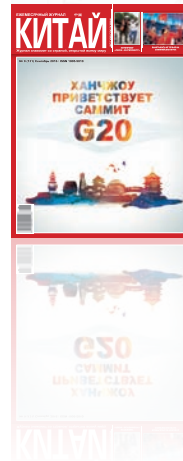
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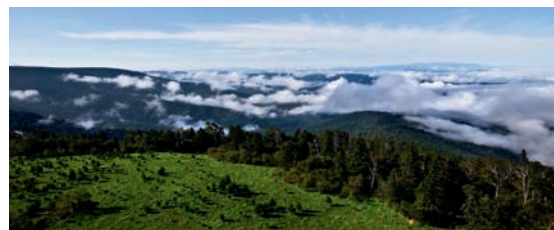
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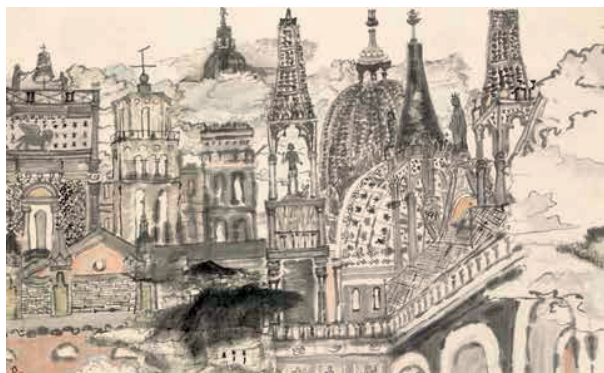
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by Su Yang/Xinhua

China Relaunches World's Fastest Bullet Train

September 21, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province: A Fuxing bullet train (left) runs on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway. China increased the maximum speed of bullet trains on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway to 350 kilometers per hour, six years after it was reduced to 300 kilometers per hour, making the line the world's fastest train service.

The acceleration cut the Beijing-Shanghai journey to four hours and 28 minutes. Connecting the Chinese capital to the country's major financial and trade hub, the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway is one of the busiest in the country, carrying more than 100 million passengers a year.

China operates the world's longest high-speed rail network, with 22,000 kilometers running so far.



by Ma Ping/Xinhua

China Claims 2017 FIVB Cup

September 10, Nagoya, Japan: The Chinese Women's Volleyball Team celebrates at the awards ceremony for FIVB Women's Grand Champions Cup 2017 at Nippon Gaishi Hall.

China clinched its second title at the FIVB Women's World Grand Champions Cup with a 3-1 victory over host Japan. Set scores were 25-22, 24-26, 25-18, 25-16. This was the fifth straight win for China during this year's tournament after beating the United States 3-1, Brazil 3-2, and South Korea and Russia in straight sets.

China also won the FIVB Women's World Grand Champions Cup title in 2001.



by Li Rui/Xinhua

China's Tai Chi Wows Times Square

September 10, New York, USA: Performing the traditional Chinese martial arts, a group of Chinese kung fu champions wowed visitors to Times Square.

A wide variety of tai chi styles and forms were performed during the demonstration, including tai chi fan dancing, Chen-family style, and double and solo tai chi performances. More than 25 masters seen in the performance hold international and Asian kung fu championship titles. As part of the 2017 Chinese Wushu Performance and Exhibition in the United States, the performance was organized by the General Administration of Sports of China and International Wushu Federation. Cultural exchange plays a significant role in China-U.S. relations, and kung fu as a sport has been a crucial part of it for decades.



by Yang Lei/Xinhua

Lighting Up Mid-Autumn Festival

September 18, Kunshan City, Jiangsu Province: Umbrella-shaped lanterns are displayed at the 2017 Cross-Straits (Kunshan) Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival in the ancient town of Zhouzhuang to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival. Mid-Autumn Festival happens on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, and falls on October 4 this year, symbolizing togetherness and reunion in Chinese culture.

The lantern festival is scheduled to last 30 days. With “Kunshan Impression,” “Island Style,” “Zhouzhuang Story” and “Blessing China” as the respective themes of its four major zones, the event demonstrates Mid-Autumn Festival folk traditions and integrates water-town elements and Mazu culture while promoting people-to-people exchange as well as common development across the Taiwan Straits.

Reaching for Modern Chinese Civilization

Text by Zheng Changzhong

As one of the oldest continuous civilizations in the world, the Chinese civilization is the only one that has survived every twist and turn in the history of mankind. In ancient and classical times alike, Chinese people continuously made brilliant achievements and remarkable contribution to the development of the human race. However, China's classical culture began to collapse in modern times under pressure from Western civilization, and the nation saw a steep decline since then. This is why modernization and rejuvenation has become the long-cherished wish of the Chinese people. Due to many factors buried deep in the storied history of Chinese civilization, the Chinese people have chosen the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to guide the development of modern civilization along a path of socialism featuring Chinese characteristics.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the subsequent establishment of the socialist system, China set up a planned economy, under which the national economy was dominated by the government bodies, and society was built with community-level Party organizations as the core to overcome the contradiction between the need of modernization and the situation of an underdeveloped agricultural society. These efforts laid the foundation of socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics. After the basic tasks of socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics were fulfilled, the CPC Central Committee decided to launch reform and opening up, which set up systems that have provided power for modernization construction in long terms. After more than three decades of efforts, the major elements of a modern civilization,

including a modern market, modern government, modern party and modern society, are established and flourishing in China.

However, many of these institutions of modern civilization are relatively new to China and their functionality still needs improving. Moreover, interaction among them is rare. In light of the situation, the 18th CPC National Congress vowed to comprehensively deepen reform and modernization of governance, and that spirit has been put into action since the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. Current work shows that China has begun to enrich the function of such major players and promote interaction among them from a comprehensive view.

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee presented the task of comprehensively deepening reform and modernization of governance to improve and perfect socialism with Chinese characteristics, which suggests that China has begun to explore the function of these institutions as well as interaction among them from a comprehensive view.

To consolidate reformed mechanism through legislation and forge ahead for the future of the country, the CPC Central Committee held the Fourth Plenary Session wherein the decision was made to comprehensively implement rule of law.

Efforts to "comprehensively deepen reform" and "comprehensively implement rule of law" are meant to construct a modern civilization and a solid foundation for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Since the comprehensive construction of a moderately prosperous society is the key step to rejuvenation, the CPC Central Committee held another session, making ar-

rangements for achieving this.

All these tasks need to be fulfilled behind the firm leadership of the CPC and with the support and joint efforts of all people of the entire nation. Therefore the Party must further improve its party building work, and to this end the CPC held the Sixth Plenary Session to comprehensively strengthen Party discipline.

Those four "comprehensives" are namely, comprehensively constructing a moderately prosperous society, deepening reform, implementing rule of law, and strengthening Party discipline, which all align with the needs of development of civilization and serve the solidification of socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Under the firm leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core and with the joint efforts of the party and people of the whole nation, China has finished the work of shaping the structure of a modern civilization, and the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new phase. At this crucial point in time, the 19th National Congress of the CPC will be held. It is expected that during this congress, strategies to further develop socialism with Chinese characteristics will be proposed in order to achieve the goal of completion of construction of a moderately prosperous society by the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC and rejuvenation of the Chinese people by the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. 

The author is director of State-Building Research Center of Fudan University.

Bright BRICS for a Bright Future

Text by Li Xia

The three-day 2017 BRICS Summit concluded in Xiamen, in China's southeastern province of Fujian on September 5, with great success. The breathtaking scenery of the coastal city of Xiamen, as well as perfect preparations and organization, deeply impressed the participants. At the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech titled *Working Together to Usher in the Second "Golden Decade" of BRICS Cooperation*, which de-

scribed a path to a bright future for the emerging market and developing countries by working together to promote world development.

Since the 1980s, the trend of globalization has provided historic opportunities for the emerging market and developing countries. The birth of BRICS was a result of this trend. Over the decade since its inception, BRICS has made remarkable contributions to the global economy and played a vital role in international affairs. As President Xi said in his speech, "In the past

ten years, our [BRICS countries'] combined GDP has grown by 179 percent, trade by 94 percent and urban population by 28 percent. All this has contributed significantly to stabilizing the global economy and returning it to growth, and it has delivered tangible benefits to more than three billion people."

The 2008 global financial crisis fueled doubt and pessimism about the strength and future of BRICS countries. Some argued BRICS had lost its luster. Such takes proved shortsight-

ed and were poor judgments of world structure and the potential of BRICS cooperation. The Xiamen Summit offered a good opportunity to demonstrate the great strength and potential of BRICS cooperation to the world. As President Xi declared, “Due to complex internal and external environments, we BRICS countries have encountered headwinds of varying intensity. But the growth potential and trends in our countries remain unchanged, and we are fully confident about the future.”

This confidence is rooted in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation that BRICS countries have maintained amid cooperation across a wide range of areas at multiple levels. The group has launched a number of cooperation projects aligned with the five countries’ development strategies that meet the interests of their people, such as the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement. This confidence is also inspired by BRICS countries’ active promotion

of the reform of global economic governance to increase the representation and say of the emerging market and developing countries, which is playing an important role in building new international relations.

Such confidence, as well as BRICS’ fruitful achievements over the past decade, made the Xiamen Summit particularly important. At the gathering themed “Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future,” leaders of the five BRICS countries conducted in-depth exchange and reached consensus on a wide range of topics including international situations, global governance and BRICS cooperation. They also passed the *BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration* by summarizing successful experiences of BRICS cooperation in the past decade. The Summit also reiterated the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation, drew a new blueprint for BRICS countries to strengthen their partnerships, deepened pragmatic cooperation in multiple fields, and painted

a bright future for cooperation among the emerging market and developing countries.

President Xi declared in his speech: “We should promote the construction of an open global economy, advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, jointly build new global value chains, and rebalance economic globalization. Doing so will benefit people around the world.” This statement drew considerable attention from foreign media and became a hot topic during the Xiamen Summit.

The 2017 BRICS Summit has fueled expectations for future BRICS cooperation. In a historic period that features extensive development, huge changes and sharp adjustments, a large number of emerging market and developing countries have come of age just in time to boost the sluggish world economy, adapt to the trends of political multi-polarization, economic globalization and cultural diversification, and build a new global order that meets the needs of the time. 

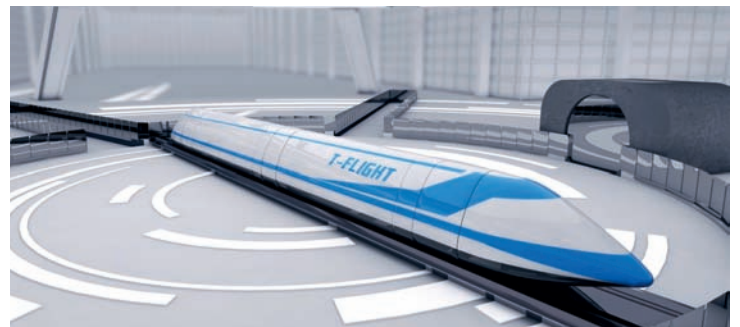
The author is executive editor-in-chief of *China Pictorial*.

Buzzwords

高速飞行列车 HyperFlight

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation recently announced that it will design and develop supersonic trains that can reach speeds of up to 4,000 kilometers per hour, 10 times that of traditional high-speed trains and five times that of passenger aircraft. Known as HyperFlight, it is a transport system that uses a vacuum tube to reduce air resistance and eliminates friction through magnetic suspension.




A model of the HyperFlight at an interchange, where the train can shift directions and head to another terminal. courtesy of China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation



Contrasting affordable (low-cost) housing and price-capped housing, housing with shared property rights defines limited property right, wherein the government and the purchaser share both value-added benefits and devaluation risks of the land and house. VCG

共有产权住房 Shared Housing Property

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

To stabilize housing prices and meet housing demand, China may introduce measures to promote shared ownership homes. “Shared housing property” refers to the local government transferring portions of land revenues and then selling homes at lower prices to families that qualify. Homeowners would be required to sign a contract in which the local government maintains a portion of property rights, has say in the conditions of future transactions and receives a share when the property is sold. Ownership is shared by the government and the families. 



Beijing's Hutongs: City Inside a City

Text by Helena Villar Segura

An old man parks his bicycle at a corner to buy a pack of cigarettes. While lighting a cigarette, he takes out his phone and scans the QR code of the roadside shop to pay before leaving.

A young, energetic delivery driver with a phone in hand screeches to a halt to avoid barreling into a group of giggling uniformed schoolgirls eating fruit.

Halfway down the street, a smiling

woman under a huge red umbrella sells lettuce, carrots, onions, tomatoes, potatoes and many other vegetables I couldn't identify as well as local yogurt, water, ice cream, oranges, blueberries, coconuts, bananas and durians. I consider a future purchase. I love durians.

On the left I spot a cozy-looking shop. An elegant lady in white opens the glass door ringing a bell. Inside the shop every-

thing is white too. The walls, table, chair, computer... even a cat! An iron, a frame, some notebooks, pens, clothes—all white—are all for sale. The only exceptions I can find are green cacti. I consider another future purchase.

Outside the shop, a little girl in split pants runs awkwardly while waving a spoon, as her grandmother follows her zigzagging steps. When the kid looks back laughing, she runs into a row of shared bicycles. "Don't cry," I say. She does anyway, but quickly forgets about the pain when she sees ten foreigners carrying luggage down the alley.

A flash from their cameras captures a group of locals chatting and enjoying the blue sky. One neighborhood resident is going home. She turns around and enters her house with a baby. Some elderly people sitting nearby at the entrance of a courtyard youth hostel talk, eating noodles and playing Chinese chess in Beijing's labyrinthine hutong (alley) area.

The first time I came to the capital of China, I had no plans to ever return. The world is such a big place that you normally don't think of visiting such a faraway city twice. This metropolis in northern China was a surprise: cosmopolitan, old and new, dotted with historical buildings, dance clubs on rooftops and people practicing Tai Chi. I wandered around the interesting city, climbed the Great Wall on its greenest days and let the magnificence of the Forbidden City consume me. I boated at the Summer Palace, took pictures of the Temple of Heaven and rode the metro to Yonghegong Lama Temple. I saw prayer flags in downtown Beijing. Tour guides explained even more about the splendid culture.

Five minutes from many modern



On September 25, 2017, an old man takes tourists sightseeing in Beijing's hutongs. IC



On September 25, 2017, a man brushes Chinese calligraphy in a hutong in Beijing. IC




Hutongs feel like a whole other city. By entering this little coffee shop, you travel directly to Tibet. That's the unique thing about Hutongs: They can take you anywhere. by Helena Villar Segura

metro stations in downtown areas are neighborhoods of narrow alleys, which not only remain home for people from Beijing who have been living there for generations, but also welcome new residents including foreigners, fancy restaurants, traditional tea shops, public restrooms, dumpling vendors and bars. Chaos exists alongside the cozy life.

A hutong area is a city inside a city—a community secluded from the rest of the capital but located right in the center of it. I fell in love with such alleys. They are the resulting streets serving adjacent lines of courtyard residences, one after another, like a maze. They were first built during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and many more emerged in the subsequent Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. “Hutong,” in fact, is a Mongolian word

that means water-well, since most of those areas were designed around a well where locals could get water for daily activities. When the Forbidden City was built in the early 15th Century, it was already surrounded by lanes of courtyards, divided by social class. High-ranking officials and powerful merchants generally owned the largest courtyards. The furthest courtyards from the city center were smaller and more modest and belonged to artisans, workers and merchants. Some of the twisted lanes remain in the city today, and I discovered them on my very first trip to China.

Now, nearly five years later, I live in Beijing. Every time someone visits me, I take my guest to every well-known spot I can find. But when I am alone, I just stroll through the most authentic lanes of the city. A feeling of calm lingers. Somehow

time slows down in those neighborhoods. Some days I eat food from Singapore, and other days I enjoy Yunnan cuisine served in a yard. If a good friend visits, we may have a leg of lamb cooked over burning coal and eat it on the street, or take a walk at night when everything is closed. Most of the time, I spend my afternoons in a Tibetan-style restaurant or a coffee shop that plays Spanish guitar music, where I read or study. Outside the window grandmas, children, cleaning carts and residents stroll around. Beautiful sunsets glow when the weather is good. I enjoy all of them. In a few years, perhaps I won't be here. I already predict missing it, and all it will be is some pictures and my fading memory of it. That's why I keep my camera at hand at all times and a notebook and pen close by. 

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, despite grave difficulties both at home and abroad, China has risen to the challenge and worked hard to press ahead, driving forward sustained, healthy economic and social development, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core.

During the past five years, China has achieved major progress in finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, made important strides in deepening reform, and continued to exercise law-based governance. All of these achievements show that Chinese people have the courage, ingenuity, and ability to overcome any difficulty or hardship, and that there is even better development ahead for China.

Guizhou: Reforming Away from Poverty

Text by Li Zhuoxi
Photographs by Dong Fang

Xiushui Village of Anshun City, Guizhou Province. Thanks to the development of tourism resources in the village, annual per capita income increased from 2,000 yuan in 2014 to 18,000 yuan in 2016.

Particular historical and geographical factors have cornered Guizhou Province in southwestern China into a grim situation. As described in the *Human Development Report 2005* released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), “If Guizhou were a country, it would follow Namibia on the human development index.”

By early 2015, 6.23 million Guizhou residents remained below the poverty line, and 50 of the 88 counties in the province were designated as key poverty alleviation targets in China. For many years, Guizhou has been known for its poverty.

Naturally, people across China have been contributing to lifting Guizhou out of poverty as they work towards the goal of mak-

ing China a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020.

In 2015, a reform plan for a prefecture-level city in Guizhou caught the attention of the central government of China. Liupanshui City made breakthroughs in furthering its rural reform via “changing resources into assets, changing capital into equities and changing farmers into shareholders.” On November 27, 2015, the city’s fruitful results were cited by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at a central work conference on poverty alleviation and development: “We should reform and renovate to activate resources of land, labor, capital and natural scenery in poverty-stricken areas to kindle profits while preserving the ecosystem like what they did in Liupanshui, Guizhou.”



Dong Dongxian (left) and Dong Tianying (right) from Duichangsha Cooperative in Caiguan Town. The “menu-style” poverty-aid policy has not only helped the Dongs earn more from growing vegetables but also made them shareholders in the cooperative, which pays a dividend at the end of every year.



The vegetable sorting workshop of Green Field Co., Ltd. in Anshun City, Guizhou.



Liangdudong Chicken Farm in Qinglin Town, Liupanshui City, Guizhou.

Collective Property Rights

In 1978, a new term began spreading across China: “Household contract responsibility system with remuneration linked to output.” It refers to contracting land for household operation, which greatly liberated the productive forces in rural areas, mobilized production enthusiasm and brought earth-shaking changes to rural China. Intensive and meticulous farming based on households miraculously managed to feed 22 percent of the world’s population with only seven percent of its land.

However, with the continuous development of rural areas, new problems have emerged. Household production hardly meets the needs of the large-scale, organized and market-oriented development of rural economics and is only roughly connected with the

market. In recent years, potential solutions to these problems have been on many minds.

In Miluo Town of Guizhou’s Shuicheng County is a company named Runyongheng that grows kiwi fruit on 10,000 mu (each mu is equivalent to 0.067 hectares) of land. Wang Shunyou from Ejia Village joined with his five mu of land, with an annual guaranteed income of 600 yuan per mu. “This figure will increase year by year: The second five-years will be 1,300 yuan, and the third five-years 1,900 yuan.” For Wang Shunyou and his family, it has proved more cost-effective than their previous crop of corn, which would make less than 500 yuan per mu.

The guaranteed income has attracted many villagers in Ejia to become stakeholders. At present, a total of 3,062 people from 875 households have joined up, each of whom can earn an average of 4,300 yuan annually from their shares.

Li Nan from Xiushui Village in Puding County didn’t expect any returns from his barren but arable land because he worked outside the village, which has seen booming tourism thanks to the support of the Anshun Xingwei Group. A total of 1,100 villagers bought shares of 5,200 mu of arable land under the management of the village-level company, and they annually earn 1,000 yuan per mu as a dividend.

In 2016, the annual income of Xiushui Eco-Tourism Park reached 17 million yuan, and profits were paid to villagers and used to reconstruct the village.

The conversion of resources into assets has created opportunities for the village to share the fruits of its development with villagers, capitalize on long-wasted resources, and transform everything into a potential source of wealth.



The relocation site for poverty-stricken households in Caiguan Town, Anshun City, Guizhou. To make employment easier, buildings were constructed with two stories: The first floor is for shops and workshops and the second for residences. Residents can work on the first floor without worrying about taking care of the family.

Industrial Platform

Building modern agriculture and changing modes of agricultural development are the focus of China's agricultural development in the modern era.

Guizhou Province's success in turning resources into assets, capital into equities and farmers into shareholders lies in its focus on adjusting patterns of agricultural progress in rural areas as it becomes more industrialized.

At 53, Dong Dongxian works in the field belonging to the local cooperative known as Duichangsha in Caiguan Town, Xixiu District of Anshun City. A few years ago, after her husband was injured at a construction site, Dong became the sole breadwinner for the family, but still struggled to support her family by growing crops.

"I used to grow corn and potatoes, which barely earned anything," recalls Dong. "Everything is different today. We follow what is in demand with the cooperative and grow seasonal vegetables, which earn a lot more, and we no longer have to do any marketing."

In early 2017, Guizhou Green Field Co., Ltd. was founded. The company contracts with cooperatives and arranges orders for production in accordance with the needs of the market and low-

income families, targeting both farmers and the market.

Duichangsha Cooperative, where Dong Dongxian works, is one client of Green Field.

Green Field deals with all sorts of agricultural cooperatives and enterprises, offering guaranteed prices in the off season and market purchase prices during the peak season to attract more impoverished families to participate in production. The approach has inspired 827 low-income families to join a team growing vegetables and raising chickens, bringing each an annual average income increase of 20,000 yuan.

Crops cannot flourish without fertile land. Reform focused on energizing such a fertile land has produced brilliant growth. Over the last two years, pilot reform campaigns in Guizhou have benefited 524,000 poverty-stricken families, increasing their per capita annual income by an average of 2,059 yuan. In 2016 alone, Guizhou lifted more than 1.2 million people out of poverty.

The province's reform experience has established a new model for agricultural management and blazed a new trail for targeted poverty alleviation, making Guizhou an engine pulling even more impoverished people up. 

Children in Niujiao (Ox Horn) Village, Liupanshui City, Guizhou. For a long time, villagers made a living through traditional farming, which produced little income. Over the last few years, they have shaken off poverty and become better off thanks to reform of poverty alleviation.



穷则思变

Tangyue: Prosperity from Adversity

Text by Li Zhuoxi
Photographs by Dong Fang

On the mountain near Tangyue Village are characters reading "from adversity to prosperity." This typical poor village in China's mountainous areas achieved comprehensive poverty alleviation and a well-off society in only three years. Villagers paved the "Tangyue road" that led them from adversity to prosperity and united the village community for joint ventures.

Tangyue Village in Anshun city, Guizhou Province was once a typical poor village in China's mountainous areas: Around 800 acres of its land is fragmented, and farmers subsist on traditional agriculture. Among the 1400 working-age residents of the village, nearly 900 leave the city every year to find work. Thirty percent of the village is wasteland.

In June and July of 2014, two rainstorms hit the village and almost every house and field was swallowed by the rising current, rubbing salt into the wounds of the dilapidated village.

“Nothing is difficult under the guidance of party cadres”

The floods forced the impoverished village into despair.

“My house was flooded 3 years ago,” recounts 82-year-old Zhu Shunhua. “The waist-deep water washed all of our crops and food away. I didn't know how I could go on living.”

With an already-poor village decimated by natural disaster, what could be done? “From adversity to prosperity, we have come to a key crossroads for change,” declared the village's party secretary Zuo Wenxue, proposing transformative change without turning back.

Shortly after election of the village committee and Party branch members, with support and leadership of the higher Party

committee, the village decided to use the urgent need to save the village as an opportunity to bring people together and promote joint development.

The day after the disaster, Anshun municipal Party committee secretary Zhou Jiankun arrived. Thanks to his inspiration, Zuo decided to guide everyone in setting up cooperatives, and unite all assigned responsibility cropland with unified management to realize industrial-scale development.

“Nothing is too difficult with the guidance of party cadres,” said Zhu on the changes that took place afterwards. “I never expected Tangyue Village to become such a well-off place in my lifetime.”

As Zuo said, “Choose a road, build a team, train the team, adopt a set of policies, and great changes will take place.”

“Uniting the village for joint ventures”

Land issuance became the focus of discussion among villagers during post-disaster reconstruction. “We cannot go on with our current fields, so why not find a company to contract the village land, so the younger residents can travel outside to work?” asked some villagers. However, others opposed the idea: “Migrant work does not last long. After that, we must come back. Furthermore, if only old people and children are left in the village, is it still a village?”



Once weathered brick houses in Tangyue Village have now become yellow walled western-style houses with red roofs.



The construction site of Tangyue food courts. Tangyue Village cooperatives feature their own construction teams that carried out all constructions in the village, solving employment problems for many poor households.



A self-built basketball court in Tangyue Village.

Zuo knew that Tangyue, like many villages, faces rural hollowing, an aging population and decreasing agricultural labor quality. Meager production failed to respond to myriad changes in the big market. This was why the village was having such a hard time shaking off poverty. Only when farmers became united and managed across a large patch of land could they maintain a stable wage.

The Tangyue Village Committee and Party branch found basis for reform in the resolution of the Communist Party of China in the third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, and decided to launch the “golden land” cooperative and the land transfer center.

This move marked a risky turning point for the entire village. Farmers retained the right to contract land and transferred usage rights to cooperatives. Previously, Tangyue Village mainly planted potatoes and corn, which did not produce great economic benefits. After the establishment of the golden land cooperatives, planting income increased by simply adjusting the planting structure and planting vegetables on the transferred land.

In just three years, 90 percent of farmers in the village had

joined the cooperative. The cooperative united around 700 acres of land that produced crisp red plums and lotus roots, and a pheasant breeding industry was developed. About 30 percent of income was distributed to the cooperative, 30 percent to the village collective and 40 percent to the villagers.

Villager Zhang Fuyou, 54, revealed that his half an acre of land is now all shared by the cooperative. Efficient usage of land resources to maximize profits greatly multiplied their previous land income. In previous days, Zhang’s family were all migrant workers, and the land was left uncultivated. Little was saved from their humble earnings. Now with the development of cooperatives, the family’s annual income has reached 50,000 yuan (around US\$7,500), and they found the money to build a three-story house

“Uniting the village community for joint ventures” is also great motivation for migrant workers to return home. Peng Yanquan, who works in the cooperative transport team said, “I used to receive frequent calls from bosses asking me to go back to work. I told them our village is under construction, and we have work and income all year round. Furthermore, we can take care of the elderly. There is no place like home.”



Workers in the village cooperative construction team repair a road. Previously, Tangyue Village faced an outflow of labor. Almost all young people chose to become migrant workers. Today, more people come back to the village to learn technology and achieve prosperity.

In 2015, 70 percent of the village land had been transferred to cooperative shares, and by 2016, every villager was a shareholder of the cooperative. This has provided important land resources and the manpower for scaled agricultural management and adjusting planting structure.

Changes in Tangyue Village are even significant in the form of data: in 2014, the number of migrant workers from the village was 860, a figure which dropped to 50 in 2016. The population in poverty fell from 643 in 2014 to zero in 2016. In 2014, the village collective economy produced less than 40,000 yuan (around US\$6,000), and in 2016 it soared to 2.024 million yuan (around US\$300,000). The 2014 per capita income was 3786 yuan (around US\$568) compared to 10,030 yuan (around US\$1,504) in 2016.


“Nine Red Rules” and Village Self-Governance

Another characteristic of “uniting the village for joint ventures” has been the simultaneous development of economic construction and grass-roots governance.

A resolution passed at a meeting of village representatives defined the unique “nine red rules” that regulate the health system,

banquet system, loans and rules for respecting the old and cherishing the young. The formulation and implementation of rules effectively solved decades’ accumulation of corrupt customs. More importantly, the relationship between villagers, and between villagers and the collective, has been effectively and rationally constructed to maximize development potential.

To ensure that every Party member in the village serves as an exemplary role model, villagers regularly score Party members. Members who score less than 60 points on three consecutive appraisals are asked to resign from the Party. This mode is used to assess whether the party really plays an exemplary role, and with it, Party construction in the village has run smoothly, and Party membership has increased rapidly.

The village autonomy in Tangyue has not only formulated an effective method to incorporate the Party branch in village governance, but also solved management problems. It combined the leadership of the Communist Party and traditional Chinese village governance while providing experience for the exploration of village and Party cooperation in the process of urbanization. 

Man of the People

Xi Jinping's Journey to the Core of China's Top Leadership

Concept by *China Pictorial*

On November 15, 2012, Xi Jinping was elected general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee at the first plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, becoming China's top political leader. Meanwhile, as the top leader of the world's second-largest economy, Xi stands at the forefront of the global stage.

From the Loess Plateau in northern Shaanxi to the southeastern coast, from localities to central leadership, Xi's career can be characterized by well-rounded political experience and development of a deep understanding of the conditions of his country and people as well as the opportunities and challenges China faces. Over the past five years, guided by Xi's theories on state governance, the Chinese people have made major strides on the road to realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and China has never before been so close to front and center on the world stage.


Xi's political career began in the humblest of circumstances, and he worked his fingers to the bone in farming communities for years, which played a major role in the formation of his thoughts on state governance and evidenced how Chinese leaders integrate their personal ideals with the fate of the nation.

Unlike many Western countries, the path to the top leadership in China is a many-step progressive process. Chinese leaders must scale two major political "steps" before joining the Standing

Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, China's top leadership group. One is serving as secretary of a provincial Party committee, which helps one accumulate experience in administrating a local government. The other is serving as a key assistant to any member of China's top leadership, because such experience is intended to help one understand how the central leadership makes decisions.

Xi's political path is just one example. In 1974, he began his political career as secretary of the Party branch of a rural village. Eventually, he became administrator of a county and then a city. Then, Xi consecutively served as acting governor of Fujian Province, Party chief of Zhejiang Province, and Party chief of Shanghai Municipality. He also acted as vice president of China before he became general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, chairman of the Central Military Commission, and president of China. The entire process took more than 40 years.

Although such a "step-by-step" progressive path can take a long time to walk, every rung on the ladder is like a brick in the foundation for future administrative work.

Xi once summed up the mission of the new central collective leadership across three responsibilities: to the nation, the people and the Party. Xi's solemn commitment foreshadows his historical responsibility to the Chinese nation and his faith in the continued improvement of Chinese governance. 



November 15, 2012: Xi Jinping waves to journalists at a news conference after being elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. Xi's political career evidences how Chinese leaders integrate their personal ideals with the fate of the nation. by Xu Xun

“Eternal Son of the Loess Plateau”

Xi Jinping’s Seven Years as an Educated Youth

In December 1968, Mao Zedong, the core figure of the People’s Republic of China’s first-generation leadership, declared that “it is absolutely necessary for educated young people to go to the countryside to be reeducated by poor and lower-middle-class peasants.” In response to the call, millions of “educated youths” swarmed from cities to rural areas, stirring up a tide of educated young urbanites going to and working in the countryside or mountainous areas. Xi Jinping, now general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, chairman of the Central Military Commission, and president of the People’s Republic of China, was one of those educated youths.

In January 1969, when not yet 16 years old, Xi volunteered to work in a small village named Liangjiahe in Yanchuan County of the northwestern province of Shaanxi. He slept on an earthen bed in a cave dwelling and ate steamed corn bread alongside the local residents. It was there that he was admitted into the CPC and became the village’s Party chief. He spent seven years working in the village, until 1975 when he enrolled in Tsinghua University.

Xi once said that his growth and progress started with his seven years in northern Shaanxi and that one of the biggest lessons he learned there was to seek the truth from facts and serve the people—a philosophy that continues to benefit him today.



A photo taken on September 25, 2014 shows the earthen bed in a cave dwelling where Xi Jinping slept during his stay in Liangjiahe Village. Photos of Xi as an educated youth still hang on the wall. IC

Overcoming “Four Obstacles”

Setting out from Beijing, Xi and 14 other educated youths headed to Liangjiahe. After a day and a night on a train, they took a truck and walked on foot for five kilometers along a mountain path before arriving at the village.

Despite its name “Liangjiahe” (literally, “Liangjia River”), the village hadn’t a river, but a ditch in which a little dirty water might gather in the rainy season. All of its 200-plus villagers dwelled in “earth caves” built in the steep slopes on both sides of the ditch. The earthen beds and brick stoves that local folks used were unfamiliar to educated youths who grew up in cities.

Xi was allotted an unused cave dwelling to stay. He learned to sew clothes and quilts by himself and became an expert in farming. Gradually, he integrated with the land that fostered and cultivated his forefathers. In an article, Xi mentioned that he overcame “four obstacles” during his stay in the countryside:

First, fleas. During the summers, fleas were rampant in Liangjiahe. In the beginning, fleas troubled him so badly that

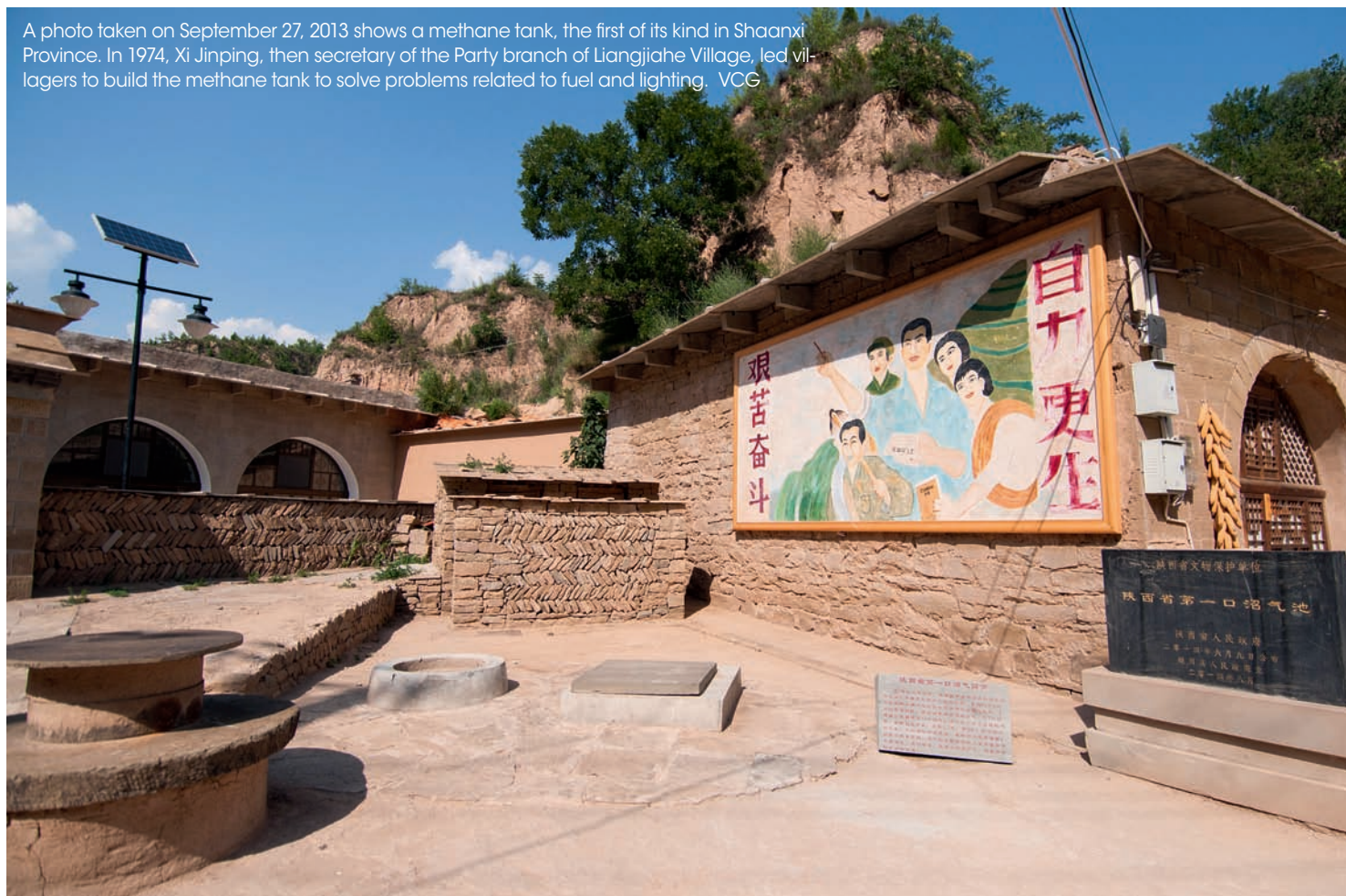
he couldn’t sleep. After two years, he became so accustomed to the situation that he could easily sleep through even the worst infestation.

Second, food. Those in big cities ate foods made of refined rice and wheat flour, but only coarse foods were available in the village. However, Xi soon got accustomed to local foods. Even today, he still misses rural dishes of northern Shaanxi, especially pickled cabbage.

Third, farm work. In the beginning, Xi earned *gongfen* (a unit used to measure working performance based on which laborers were paid in rural China at that time) even less than what a female farmer earned. Two years later, he could earn 10 *gongfen* a day (the highest level that an individual could achieve) and became an expert in farming.

Fourth, ideological development. Perhaps most importantly, Xi learned the spirit of seeking truth from facts and overcoming hardship through hard work by living shoulder to shoulder with local farmers. The locals soon saw and treated him as one of their own.

A photo taken on September 27, 2013 shows a methane tank, the first of its kind in Shaanxi Province. In 1974, Xi Jinping, then secretary of the Party branch of Liangjiahe Village, led villagers to build the methane tank to solve problems related to fuel and lighting. VCG





A 2014 photo shows Wen'anyi Town in Yanchuan County, Shaanxi Province. The town is only 7.5 kilometers from Liangjiahe Village, where Xi Jinping spent seven years as an educated youth. Xinhua

Serving the People

Xi joined the CPC in January 1974. Liang Yuming, a farmer and Party member in Liangjiahe Village, recommended Xi for Party membership. Liang recalled that he recommended Xi “because Xi performed excellently with a down-to-earth spirit as a man of ideas who consolidated the people and village officials.”

Soon after he was admitted into the CPC, Xi was elected secretary of the Party branch of Liangjiahe Village. The infertile loess land of northern Shaanxi features crisscrossing gullies, a dry climate and sparse vegetation. Xi led villagers in performing two tasks that radically transformed the harsh living environment plaguing local farmers in Liangjiahe for generations.

The first mission was digging wells and building four dams to help store water for drinking and irrigation. A villager still clearly remembers watching Xi in a “blue, old cotton-padded jacket with a blasting fuse tucked under his belt.” It was early spring when the ice and snow had just melted. Xi could often be seen working

at the construction sites of the dams with his trousers rolled up, standing in chilly water with bare feet. “His hands were blistered due to hard work, but he never complained,” the villager added.

The second mission was building methane tanks to help the village solve problems related to fuel and lighting. In August 1974, after a surveying trip in Sichuan, Xi led villagers to build Shaanxi Province’s first methane tank in Liangjiahe, which had capacity of eight cubic meters.

Today, a stone stele marks the site of the “first methane tank of Shaanxi Province” at the entrance to Liangjiahe Village. Its inscription reads: “In the early 1970s, to answer the call of the state to vigorously develop methane fuel in rural areas, villagers built 60 methane tanks under the leadership of Xi Jinping, then secretary of the village’s Party branch. This methane tank is one of them.”

The wells that Xi dug in Liangjiahe still provide drinking water for local villagers, and one of the four dams he built there remains in use.

Eternal Son of the Loess Plateau

Many villagers remember the day Xi left Liangjiahe: October 7, 1975.

In 1972, educated youths in the village began to return to the cities from which they came. Xi was one of the last to leave. He




In 1975, every villager in Liangjiahe cast an affirmative vote to recommend Xi Jinping for enrollment at Tsinghua University. This is a group photo of Xi Jinping and some villagers before he left. IC

left the village because he had been admitted to Tsinghua University, one of the most prestigious universities in China.

At the time, recommendation for enrollment at a college or university had to be discussed in a meeting of villagers. For Xi, every villager cast an affirmative vote.

When he first arrived at Liangjiahe, Xi lugged a heavy bag of books. Villagers remember him as not only hardworking and wise, but also devoted to learning and studying. He often read books “as thick as bricks” late into the night in the dim light of a kerosene lamp. When rising the next morning, “he coughed up black mucus” after breathing in so much smoke from the kerosene lamp.

Xi has read a broad range of books, from Marxist classics, history books and international political works to literary masterpieces. When he was young, he cultivated a studious spirit and good reading habits as well as strong logical thinking abilities, which have continued benefiting him throughout his life.

As Xi wrote in an article, he felt perplexed when arriving at the “yellow earth” at the age of 15, but upon leaving at 22, he was confident and tightly embracing the goal of serving the people. 



A 2016 photo shows Kangping Village, 22 kilometers away from urban Yan'an, Shaanxi Province, where 14 educated youths from Beijing ever lived. In 1969, more than 26,000 educated youths from Beijing arrived in rural areas of Yan'an to “be reeducated by poor and lower-middle-class peasants.” VCG



Xi Jinping in Zhengding: Innovating Economic Development

Sitting 240 kilometers south of Beijing, Zhengding County in Hebei Province boasts rich cultural and historical heritage. From 1982 to 1985, Xi Jinping successively served as deputy secretary and secretary of CPC Zhengding County Committee.

“Ensuring Enough Food to Eat Is an Urgent Matter for Zhengding”

After he arrived at Zhengding, Xi made door-to-door visits to every household in his jurisdiction. After the visits, he found that although Zhengding was well-known for its high yield, 400,000 locals had to turn over 38 million kilograms of grain to the country every year, leaving many in the area with insufficient food on

table. Moreover, due to outdated philosophies, Zhengding was still trapped in single mode of production, pursuing high yields of grain crops instead of higher-earning crops like cotton, oil plants and fruits. Therefore, local farmers weren't left with enough food to eat after they handed in their quota to the government.

In the latter half of 1981, the gross output value of Zhengding's industry and agriculture remained at 206.73 million yuan (now US\$31.13 million), with per capita annual income at 148 yuan (now US\$22.3). “Ensuring enough food to eat is an urgent matter for Zhengding,” said Xi. He declared that the high grain quota led to the county's imbalanced agricultural structure, which had to be adjusted. Xi and Lu Yulan, then deputy secretary of the CPC Zhengding County Committee, went to Beijing to report



A bird's-eye view of Zhengding County. The county boasts profound cultural and historical heritage. From 1982 to 1985, Xi Jinping successively served as deputy secretary and secretary of CPC Zhengding County Committee. by Chen Qibao/Xinhua

Zhengding's real situation and difficulties. In early 1982, China's State Council sent related authorities to investigate, who concurred with Xi and Lu's reports. The government reduced Zhengding's grain quota by 14 million kilograms, which relieved the food shortage problem plaguing the county.

After stabilizing their source of food, Zhengding people began looking for a better standard of living. Led by Xi, the county Party committee and government decided to try a contractual household output-related responsibility system in Lishuangdian's commune, which was poor and far from the county seat. As a result, the same year, the value of agricultural production in Lishuangdian doubled, with annual per capita income exceeding 400 yuan (now US\$60).



First built in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), Tianning Temple in the old town of Zhengding County became a key historical site under state protection in 1988. IC

In January 1983, Zhengding formally approved the contractual household output-related responsibility system, proposing that land be controlled by households through lease rights for at least five years. And communes could decide on their own management methods. Consequently, Zhengding became the first place in Hebei to adopt the system, which laid a foundation for its economic lift-off.

“Sound Environment Draws Talented People”

“High-caliber people are key to economic growth,” said Xi. “Exaltation of the virtuous is of strategic importance. Without high-caliber people, locals cannot become rich, nor the county strong.”

At Xi's suggestion, in 1982, the Zhengding government conducted three censuses to register intellectuals and technicians in all fields working in the county and made a roster. The county's 2,300 graduates of colleges and technical secondary schools were sorted according to their specialties and experience. Zhengding then had its first list of personnel. In November of the same year, Zhengding issued a regulation to improve intellectuals' working and living conditions, encouraging the group to play a more important role in social development.

Additionally, Xi wrote more than 100 letters to experts and scholars nationwide to invite them to join the Zhengding advisory group. Fifty-three experts accepted the invitation, including mathematician Hua Luogeng, economist Yu Guangyuan, ophthalmologist Zhang Xiaolou and Zou Renjun, then president of the Academy of Sciences of Hebei Province. The group introduced modern science and information to the county and helped it grow faster. Yu Guangyuan lectured in Zhengding many times, guided its rural work and pushed the establishment of a rural research institution



A cheongsam show on the ancient wall of Zhengding County. by Zhan Xincheng/Xinhua



September 2, 2017: The opening ceremony of the first Shijiazhuang Municipal Tourism Industry Conference is held in Zhengding County. by Zhan Xincheng/Xinhua





In Laba Festival, which fell on January 5 in 2017, over 2,000 Zhengding citizens came to the ancient Linji Temple to eat porridge to celebrate. VCG

in Yong'an Commune. Zou Renjun brought a batch of chemical projects to Zhengding. Since 1983, while spreading knowledge about disease prevention, Zhang Xiaolou had checked the eyes of 30,112 locals and performed 2,139 operations to improve or recover sight.


A native of Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, Qiu Binchang excelled at managing businesses. When Xi inspected Wuxi, he recruited Qiu and persuaded him to manage a Zhengding factory that was teetering on the verge of bankruptcy. The day after he took the position, Qiu sold all the surplus goods. In less than a year, production value doubled. Qiu worked in Zhengding for a dozen years until he retired. "I left my hometown and abandoned my former career just to follow a decisive and open-minded leader and reach for success," said Qiu. "I did it."

"Education Is the Foundation of a Wealthy Country"

In 1982, when Xi had just taken office in Zhengding, he launched a campaign to check the county's school buildings. It turned out that classrooms with a total area of 3,590 square meters in over 200 village-level primary schools were in bad shape. More than 10,000 school kids lacked desks and 40,000 pupils had to carry chairs to school themselves.

In October 1983, Xi made it clear that the county's education needed reform but could not reform randomly. According to this principle, the county issued documents like *Advice on Rural Educational Reform*, allowing those teachers who were originally paid by the community to be paid by the government instead. The county also paid delayed salaries to teachers, which actually inspired local teachers' enthusiasm for the job. The employment mode based on performance and contracts replaced traditional life-time appointment. Of 2,985 full-time teachers in the county, 2,833 passed qualification tests. Teachers became greatly motivated and gained a greater sense of responsibility.

In 1984, Zhengding collected 1.87 million yuan to renovate 1,020 classrooms and buy 3,000 sets of desks and chairs. A total of 16 villages built schools, and many illegally occupied playgrounds were returned to schools.

Xi spent over 1,000 days and nights in Zhengding and contributed greatly to the county's development. "Zhengding is where I started my political career and is my second hometown," he said. 



Xi Jinping in Fujian: Great Care and Pragmatic Reform for the People

“I spent my beautiful youth in Fujian Province,” Xi Jinping has expressed his feelings for Fujian on many public occasions. “It lasted for 17 and a half years since I started to work there in 1985, first in the Xiamen Special Economic Zone, the mountainous Ningde, and the provincial capital Fuzhou, and then in the provincial government and the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee. I experienced the process of Fujian’s reform and open-

ing up, moving forward with great momentum and changing with each passing day, which has bestowed on me a deep revolutionary friendship with the cadres and people there.”

Riding the Tide

On September 3, 2017, during his keynote speech at the BRICS Business Forum, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed



Xiamen Island seen from Gulangyu Island. From September 3 to 5, 2017, Fujian's Xiamen City hosted the Ninth BRICS Summit. Xinhua

his great passion for Xiamen: “Xiamen has been a trading port since ancient times as well as a gateway of China’s opening up and external cooperation. Embracing the vast ocean, the city has hosted visitors from around the world. On a personal note, Xiamen is where I started off when I came to Fujian Province to take up a new post in 1985... Today, Xiamen is a beautiful garden city with perfect harmony between man and nature.”

In 1985, Xi Jinping left Zhengding County in Hebei Province for Xiamen on the coast of the East China Sea to work as its vice mayor. It was by chance that he took office on his 32nd birthday. “I was so eager to work there because there were plenty of pilot chances for the economic reform and opening up,” he recalled.

In 1990, he became secretary of the CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee. During his tenure there, Xi proposed the idea of further opening the city’s door to the outside world economically, forming a “golden triangle” at the Minjiang River estuary, with the opening in downtown Fuzhou and Mawei Development Zone at the core, which gradually radiated to northeastern Fujian.

At a meeting on intensifying the introduction of foreign investment on April 2, 1994, Xi Jinping stressed that opening up to the outside world was the powerful impetus and lifeline for Fuzhou’s economic progress, which was decided by its geographical location.

“Fuzhou has achieved so many fruitful results in opening its door wider to the outside world and introducing foreign investment mainly because it didn’t copy others’ experiences,” explained Xi. “It has blazed a trail featuring its own characteristics, proceeding from its reality instead of bookishness and dogmatic interpretations of guidelines of the central government.”

During his tenure there, Xi Jinping broke scores of hindrances, ideological and systematical, beefing up the reform of state-owned enterprises in Fuzhou. He paid seven visits to Jinjiang in southeastern Fujian, coming back with the “Experience of Jinjiang” from many investigations and a huge amount of research, pointing out the direction for the economic development at the county level. He initiated and led the reform of the collective forest property right system, launched a campaign to crack down on food contamination, established an inter-cooperative pattern between departments, and set up a farmland-to-table supervision mechanism for food safety, among several other reforms.

Eradicating Poverty

“The people are interested in more urgent and practical matters. Working hard to strengthen the country, they have made a thriving and prosperous China their mission. They are dedicated to helping China escape from backwardness as quickly as possible and want to ensure that it will soon stand among the ranks of developed nations. In order to achieve these goals, everyone must agree that developing the economy is our political priority,” described Xi Jinping in the afterword for his book *Up and Out of Poverty*.

In 1988, Xi Jinping set off for Ningde, Fujian Province, as secretary of the prefectural CPC committee. Ningde was one of China's 18 most poverty-stricken areas located in eastern Fujian, with poor infrastructural facilities. During his tenure of one year and 11 months there, he visited almost all villages and townships.

The time Xi visited Xiadang Township in Shouning County is still fresh in his memory. It was a day's drive along the winding mountain road. "I still remember that the Party secretary of the township chopped wood at the very front. We took a shortcut along a river, each of us holding a bamboo pole," recalled Xi. "Few cadres had paid visits there because it was remote and the road was rather bumpy. I was the first prefecture-level Party chief to visit the place."

At that time, in some parts of Fujian, especially the poverty-stricken areas in the east, those living on a mountain got their

living from the mountain by collecting firewood, or those living near the water lived off the water through fishing. For generations, they had lived sparsely in huts or on boats, plagued by poverty. A small wooden boat might be the only dwelling for fishermen from one generation to another.

Drifting on the water all their lives, the fishermen living on the boat were considered a special poverty-stricken group with neither houses nor land. Upon seeing the situation, Xi was so worried that he made up his mind to make a difference to their lives.

In 1997, when he served as deputy secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, Xi was greatly touched by an investigative report on the living conditions of many villagers in eastern Fujian who still lived in huts. He wasted no time in holding a meeting and led a team to the coastal and mountainous areas in the east of the



April 12, 2106: Xiamen Industrial Expo & Industrial Robot Fair. Xinhua



Chixi used to top China's list of impoverished villages for poverty-alleviation campaigns. During his tenure as Ningde County's Party chief, Xi Jinping placed great importance on poverty reduction. Over the last few years, the village has made painstaking efforts to shake off poverty, enhancing its unique industries through scientific planting, breeding and village tourism. Xinhua



province. He submitted a report to the provincial CPC committee upon his return, suggesting that the problems of households living in “huts” or on “boats” be solved as soon as possible.

At the end of 1998, Xi Jinping presided over an on-the-spot meeting in Fu'an, relocating the fishermen to land. A few years of unremitting efforts led these fishermen on their way to a stable life, bidding farewell to their drifting days on the water, by the early 21st Century.

During his service in Fujian, “the people” was the most repeated phrase by Xi when he talked to his colleagues in the government. “Only by bearing in mind the people and taking everything into account for the people can we win sincere support from them.” “Regardless of position, we must act as servants of the people and always care about their security and well-being...”



Experience of Changting County

Changting County in western Fujian is one of the old revolutionary base areas, as well as one of the starting points of the Red Army's Long March (1934-1936). However, it was one of the counties suffering the worst water and soil erosion in Fujian and even throughout the red soil region of southern China.


In November, 1999, Xi Jinping, then deputy secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee and acting governor of the province, launched a campaign to harness water and soil loss.

In February 2000, the campaign was listed among the 15 projects benefiting the people most in the province, with an annual fund of 10 million yuan from the relevant departments of Fujian.

On October 13, 2001, Xi Jinping returned to Changting for the harnessing project, where he couldn't help but smile upon seeing the lush camphor tree he donated and planted in the spring of 2000. On June 10, 2004, Xi received a basket of waxberry from Changting, a thank-you gift from the area once hit by water and soil erosion.

Today, thanks to more than a decade of painstaking efforts, Fujian has turned out to be the leader of the country in forest coverage for many years in a row as well as the only province that enjoys “fine-quality” water, air, and ecological environment.

And that's only one of the many endeavors Xi Jinping made for the province's ecological progress. From Changting County to the entire province, Xi had taken practical measures to let the ecological strength serve the economy, so as to better benefit the future generations. Back to 2000, then governor Xi put forward the idea of building Fujian into an ecologically friendly province, and his initiative was put into practice: Fujian was included in the first group of provinces in the country for pilot work in 2002.

Striving for 17 and a half years in Fujian, Xi Jinping has contributed remarkably, both theoretically and practically, to a series of major sectors, such as reform, opening up, development, and Party building. His working experiences in Fujian have proven to greatly inspire his later theory and practice for the governance of China. 

Rice field in Dahun Village, Wutun Town of Wuyishan City, Fujian. Xi Jinping greatly inspired ecological progress in Fujian, which he believes to have the most valuable and abundant ecological resources, making it the most competitive and challenging playing field for conservation culture. Xinhua



Xi Jinping in Zhejiang: Taking the Lead through Solid Work

In 2002, Xi Jinping was dispatched to work in Zhejiang Province. From 2003 to 2007, he served as secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress, as well

as the first secretary of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Provincial Military Region. During his tenure in Zhejiang, Xi traveled to every corner of the province, promoted the scientific concept of “making profits while preserving the eco-system,” stressed provin-



An aerial view of Zhoushan City, Zhejiang Province, taken on September 22, 2017. During his tenure in Zhejiang, Xi Jinping stressed many times that Zhoushan should boost marine economic development. by Xu Yu/Xinhua

“Innovation through Inheritance, Development through Innovation”

In July 2003, at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, Xi outlined Zhejiang’s eight advantages in the fields of mechanisms and systems, geographical location, key industries, coordinated urban-rural development, ecology, mountain and sea resources, environment and culture, and formulated eight measures to enhance the province’s future development. This plan was later dubbed the “Eight-Eight Strategy.”

“It is even more difficult to conquer the highest mountain or to drive a car at top speed,” Xi often cautioned during his service in Zhejiang. Exactly how did he promote new development in Zhejiang, considering it was already economically developed? At the turn of the century, Zhejiang was facing a critical turning point in terms of economic and social development. Addressing emerging problems became a pressing task. When Xi arrived in Zhejiang, he started off by devoting considerable time to grass-roots surveys and investigations of provincial governmental departments. He frequently solicited opinions from representatives of various sectors and the people to brainstorm plans that would help Zhejiang realize better development. Finally, the Eight-Eight Strategy took shape and became a valuable philosophy driving Zhejiang’s development.

cial development in the fields of culture, public security and rule of law, and enacted the Eight-Eight Strategy, composed of eight strengths and eight measures, which laid a solid foundation for the long-term development of Zhejiang.



June 2, 2017: A technician installs a camera on an unmanned aerial device to inspect watercourses. by Weng Xinyang/Xinhua



June 1, 2017: Local residents enjoy a storytelling performance at an auditorium in Yaozhuang Town, Jiashan County, Zhejiang Province. During his tenure in Zhejiang, Xi Jinping attached great importance to cultural development. by Zhang Cheng/Xinhua



An aerial view of Anji County, Zhejiang Province, on June 8, 2017. "Clear waters and lush mountains are as valuable as gold and silver," Xi Jinping coined this dialectic notion when he visited Anji on August 15, 2005. by Zhang Cheng/Xinhua



September 8, 2017: Workers produce LED lamps at a factory in Lin'an District, Hangzhou City, capital of Zhejiang Province. In recent years, the government of Lin'an District has taken active measures to upgrade its energy-saving lamp industry. by Xu Yu/Xinhua

Xi attached great importance to the development of Zhejiang's marine economy. He visited islands, fishing villages and fishermen, and conducted many surveys. Xi pointed out that accelerating Zhejiang's marine economic development and making the province a maritime power would be a significant move based on Zhejiang's actual conditions. Xi remarked that this measure was a key piece of the Eight-Eight Strategy and its implementation was greatly important. "Innovation should be realized through inheritance, and development realized through innovation," opined Xi.

In 2011, the plan to establish a marine economic development zone in Zhejiang Province became a national strategy, a major part of China's ocean development and an important regional coordinated development strategy. The same year, China's State Council approved the establishment of Zhoushan Archipelago New Area, which was planned as a pioneering area to lead oceanic economic development. The strength of the ocean made Zhejiang's scientific development smooth, and the sea carried far-reaching significance in terms of the province's social and economic development.

"Clear Waters and Lush Mountains Are as Valuable as Gold and Silver"

Today, "making profits while preserving the eco-system" has become consensus and common practice not only in Zhejiang, but also nationwide.

On August 15, 2005, during his survey of Yucun Village, Tianhuangping Town, Anji County, Xi announced the theory that "clear waters and lush mountains are as valuable as gold and silver." Nine days later, he published an editorial on ecological progress in *Zhejiang Daily*, in which he pointed out that if ecological and environmental advantages were transformed into industries such as ecological agriculture and tourism, clear waters and lush mountains would produce "gold and silver."

Under Xi's leadership, Zhejiang promoted recycling economy as a key part of becoming an eco-friendly province. Ten key projects were launched, including ecological industry and cleaner production, ecological agriculture and construction of new socialist countryside, non-commercial forest construction, clean river course construction, ecological environmental management, construction of ecological towns, poverty alleviation, blue sea construction, ecological culture construction and scientific and educational support.

By 2007, Zhejiang had witnessed great environmental improvement. A total of 16 key zones and quasi-key zones for environmental supervision at the provincial level reached set standards. Chemical oxygen demand (COD) and sulfur dioxide emissions from major

pollutants saw sharp decrease. The decrease rates ranked third and fourth in the country, respectively. And the province's eco-environmental monitoring results soon ranked top in China.


The scientific concept of "making profits while preserving the eco-system" paved a new path forward for Zhejiang's future sustainable development.

"Neither Gold nor Silver Is as Valuable as the People's Approval"

During his service in Zhejiang, Xi often remarked that an official is only as qualified as they are in the opinion of the people. In his article *Inconspicuous Achievements vs. Obvious Achievements*, Xi mentioned the importance of recognition from the people: "We often say that neither gold nor silver is as valuable as the people's approval. We must establish the correct definition of political achievement. We should put our shoulder into concrete work, never seek short-sighted, quick and easy success, and remain devoted to long-term inconspicuous work which will benefit future generations."

In early 2003, while delivering that year's government work report to the Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress, Xi mentioned ten practical deeds the provincial government planned for the public that year. Since then, each subsequent Zhejiang provincial government work report, usually released at the beginning of the year, has set practical goals in ten fields. By the end of the year, the implementation situation is made transparent to the public. Already, Zhejiang has established a long-term mechanism for CPC committees and governments at provincial, municipal, and county levels to perform practical work for the people.

Xi attaches great importance to the construction and improvement of grassroots Party organizations and governments. On December 26, 2004, after his visit to the groundbreaking ceremony of the Wenzhou-Fuzhou Railway in Rui'an City, Xi paid a special visit to the city's Feiyun Town to deliver New Year's greetings to rural officials. "I used to work in grassroots governments," Xi recalled. "I served as village and county Party chiefs, and have been working with officials from grassroots levels continuously. I think about grassroots work often and feel close to grassroots officials." He called on the province to pay more attention to this work, and place greater focus on the needs of the most needy.

During his tenure in Zhejiang, Xi visited every nook and cranny of the province and developed a deep affection for it. "During my six years in Zhejiang, I visited every city, county, and district as well as many townships, villages, communities, schools and enterprises," he once remarked. 



September 9, 2017: The first Chinese Railway Express cargo train leaves for Prague, Czech Republic, from Yiwu in eastern China's Zhejiang Province. Xinhua



September 17, 2017: The awards ceremony for a national children's wear design contest is held in Zhili Town, Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province. In the first half of 2017, Zhili's online sales of children's clothing surpassed 3.5 billion yuan (US\$527 million). by Xu Yu/Xinhua



A panoramic view of the Youth Hi-tech Industrial Park on September 19, 2017, which was converted from a clay minerals factory in Meishan Town, Changxing County, Zhejiang Province. In recent years, Changxing County has reinforced its efforts to protect the ecological environment. Xinhua



Xi Jinping in Shanghai:

Targeting Long-term Development and Defining Direction

In March 2007, Xi Jinping was assigned to work in Shanghai, and served as secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee and the first secretary of the Party Committee of the Shanghai Garrison Command. Seven months later, he was transferred to the CPC Central Committee and embarked on a new journey. Although his tenure in Shanghai was short, Xi completed his mission successfully and kindled further development of the metropolis.

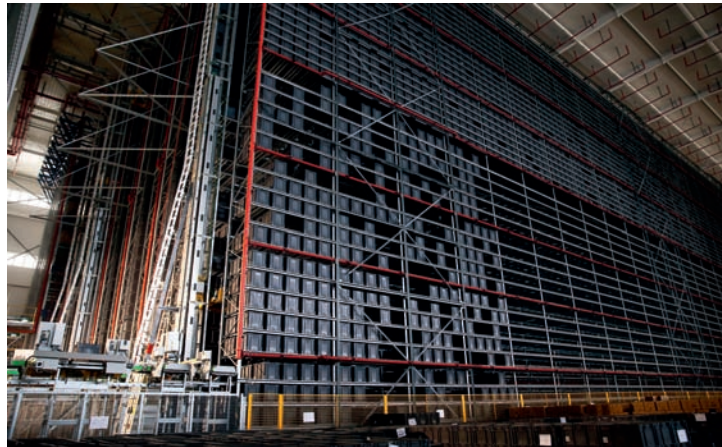
“The Reform and Opening-up Policy Is the Fundamental Driving Force for Development”

Soon after his arrival in Shanghai, Xi pointed out that at that time, various places in China had witnessed vigorous development and were competing with each other for further advancement. He cited an ancient Chinese saying: “Failing to advance means falling back” to describe Shanghai’s development against this backdrop. He mentioned feeling a “great responsibility” towards the city’s



White Magnolia Plaza (left), the highest building in Puxi, against a backdrop of the skyscrapers of Pudong, Shanghai. In recent years, Shanghai has maintained rapid development. Xinhua

development many times and pointed out that the “reform and opening-up policy is the fundamental driving force for development.” Xi indeed shouldered a great responsibility. Shanghai, as a key economic hub in China, has maintained double-digit economic growth for more than a decade. In the new century, Shanghai’s developmental tasks became even more pressing. With the 2010 Shanghai World Expo impending, too many things had been added to the agenda. On May 24, 2007, while delivering a speech at the



The Huadong-1 smart warehouse in Songjiang District, Shanghai, can handle 200,000 orders a day, much more than a traditional warehouse. by Pei Xin/Xinhua

Ninth Congress of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, Xi proposed the aim and guiding principle for Shanghai’s development over the next five years. He called for accelerating the process of building Shanghai into an international economic center, a financial center, a shipping center, and a trade center, as well as a modernized, internationalized socialist metropolis.

Xi suggested the theme for Shanghai’s development and offered proposals for the city’s economic and social construction, which mapped out the direction for Shanghai’s future development. Xi opined that in the coming five years, the comprehensive reform of Shanghai’s Pudong District would need major breakthroughs, the overall reform in Shanghai would need to advance in a coordinated manner, and the economic development patterns promoted by joint efforts of state-owned enterprises, foreign capital, and private capital would need further improvement. He asserted that Shanghai’s future development should focus on the city’s strategic position as designated by the CPC Central Committee, and should be considered and planned against the backdrop of economic globalization, China’s overall development and China’s general plan to develop the Yangtze River Delta.



A panoramic view of the container wharf of Yangshan Harbor in China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone on December 8, 2015. The pilot free trade zone was officially launched on September 29, 2013. by Ding Ting/Xinhua



A panoramic view of a forest park in Pujiang, Shanghai. In recent years, Shanghai has devoted considerable energy to urban construction. by Fang Zhe/Xinhua

“The Focus of Boosting Public Well-being Is at the Grassroots Level”

On April 2, 2007, less than ten days after he assumed his new post in Shanghai, Xi visited the community healthcare center of Yinhang Sub-district in Yangpu District. His arrival surprised patients and doctors alike. “He has been in the city for barely a week,” gasped one resident at the scene. “I am quite moved that he is already visiting locals.” The same day, Xi joined other senior Shanghai officials in conducting research into public livelihood in Yangpu District and visited the “Sunshine Home” for mentally disabled people, a community nursing home and local industrial and business parks.

After working for many years in places such as Zhejiang and Fujian, Xi considered field research a crucial tool and began conducting it immediately after he arrived in Shanghai. From late March to early September 2007, he visited every district and county in Shanghai and was “always kind and full of warmth,” said locals.

Xi often said in speeches that officials should keep the



July 6, 2017: A domestic robot attracts attention from visitors at the 6th China International Robotics Expo at the Shanghai National Convention and Exhibition Center. by Fang Zhe/Xinhua

people's needs in mind at all times. He stressed that the focus of boosting public well-being is at the grassroots level. More emphasis should be placed on community work, and issues related to the people's livelihood should be solved at the grassroots level. Community management and service mechanisms should be improved, and construction of harmonious communities should be promoted.


“Improving Work from the Top Down to Effectively Manage the Team”

Xi pledged to strengthen the efforts to build a clean and honest Party and government from the very beginning of his tenure in Shanghai. “Fighting corruption is a long-term task, and we must persistently ensure it continues,” Xi declared during a meeting with Shanghai Party and government officials on March 24, 2007.

Xi emphasized that Party members and officials should stand in firm support of the ideals and principles of the Party, and must embody the Party's fundamental tenets. He called on Party members and officials to exercise power fairly and reasonably and abide by codes of honesty, showcasing his determination to

“effectively manage the team.” On May 24, 2007, at the Ninth Congress of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, he pointed out some weak links in Party building in a report on behalf of Shanghai's Party committee.

On June 14, 2007, during an investigation, Xi cautioned Party and government officials to improve work from the top down by starting with leading bodies. He stressed opposition to “money worship, hedonism and extravagance.” During meetings with local officials, Xi placed as much importance on improving Party conduct and building a contingent of honest officials as economic construction.

Although Xi only worked in Shanghai for seven months, he positioned the city in an ideal developmental direction and enhanced its confidence. “During my time in the city, Shanghai people stood with me through thick and thin, and we rallied together like passengers on the same boat. I continue to feel more and more connected to the city,” Xi said later. “I thank the Shanghai people from the bottom of my heart for their trust, care, and support.” 

Editor's Note: The 19th National Congress of Communist Party of China (CPC) is scheduled to begin on October 18 in Beijing. It is an important meeting of the CPC during a key period of the comprehensive construction of a moderately prosperous society. According to regulations set forth by the Party Constitution and arrangement of the Party Central Committee, 2,287 party members from 40 electoral units have been elected representatives to attend the Congress. They rank among the most outstanding party members, and many are model workers that have made remarkable contributions in their positions. The "People" column of this issue focuses on such stars.

Feng Cuiling: A Breath of Fresh Air

Text by Hu Zhoumeng

Photographs by Chen Jian



Since her tenure as secretary of SPST's CPC committee in 2003, Feng Cuiling has improved mutual understanding conducted constructive work with two foreign deans, making great contributions to the reform of international education.

It wouldn't be hard to run into her someday outside the teaching building of the School of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology (SPST) under Tianjin University: She often takes a yellow shared bicycle to work and is known for persistent smiles and a tender voice but firm resolve in her eyes.

Feng Cuiling is secretary of the school's CPC committee, a post that proved a challenge when she first accepted it in 2003 as the SPST teetered on the verge of breakdown. Her joint efforts with two foreign deans brought dramatic changes to the school after the implementation of teaching reform. "She is my most reliable partner," declares Jay Siegel, the school's current dean from the United States.

"Action is an extension of thought," asserts Feng. "Party members should follow the Party's objectives and serve the people with heart and soul."

Conquering Difficulties

Feng Cuiling suffered her first big blow the day after she took office, when dean Zhao Kang claimed to quit. Zhao had lived and worked in the United States for a long time, and he returned to China to establish the SPST in 2001. Over the previous three years, the school's operations had deteriorated severely due to differences in management philosophy between Party and administrative leaders.

Feng Cuiling knew that Zhao Kang was determined to reform. “You founded our school, which can be easily reformed because of its small size,” she pleaded to Zhao. “Starting over on your dreams elsewhere might be difficult. Give me some time and I’ll work right next to you. You can leave at any time if you feel things are not working out.”

Feng eventually persuaded him to give it another shot, and they got to work. She performed a lot of research among teachers and students, brainstormed plans for reform with the dean, and communicated with every department.

Her unremitting efforts produced solid results. Most of the undergraduate and post-graduate classes at the school were soon taught in English. The number of practice courses was increased. A circulation system was established to enable graduate students to work with tutors in different laboratories and increase everyone’s choices. As for improvement of the

teaching staff, the school started offering great autonomy, allowing teachers to enjoy an assessment system instead of lifelong employment under contract in addition to evaluation in the form of annual reports.

Unfortunately, in December 2001, Feng Cuiling was diagnosed with a malignant tumor and serious breast cancer. After a year of chemotherapy, she went into recovery and started her work at the SPST.

“I’m so honored to be appointed to serve as Party secretary,” she exclaims. “It’s about trust and credibility.” In 2011, her breast cancer relapsed and worsened. Feng still didn’t stop working and maintained her big smile even while wearing a wig to the office.

Smooth and Quiet

In 2013, to welcome new dean Jay Siegel, Feng Cuiling researched Siegel’s favorite colors and styles from photos of him from his tenure at the University of Zurich, his previous employer, to prepare a

comfortable office for him in advance.

“Siegel doesn’t speak Chinese,” she explains, “So he might have felt helpless when he first arrived. I wanted him to feel welcome and respected.”

After the arrival of the new dean, the school began large-scale recruitment of foreign teachers, hiring about 10 in one year, which exerted great pressure on Feng. A seemingly innocuous incident sent her into a frenzy: One teacher had been in the office for many days but still lacked a wastebasket. Feng immediately organized office meetings, re-arranged the reception process for foreign teachers from airport pickup to office layout and created a detailed address book and survival guide.

Now, nearly half of the school’s faculty of 80 are foreign teachers from 18 countries and regions. Mark Olsen, an American professor, remarked that Feng’s “meticulous work” made him feel comfortable and happy to work in China.



Feng talks with international students to see how they are doing.



Feng works with postdoctoral researcher Nanjaraj Urs AN from India in a biology lab.

To help freshmen solve academic confusion and difficulties in life, the school implemented a mentoring system: Every teacher provides two to three students with professional guidance and each outstanding upperclassman mentors a dormitory of freshmen. Students who fall behind receive more attention from Feng.

In recent years, no one has dropped out of the school because of academic problems, and the employment rate has remained perfect. “Every student deserves guidance, appreciation, respect, trust and equal hope.”

Role Model

Feng Cuiling was born in 1964 in a small mountain village of Liaoning Province in northeastern China. When she was a child, her father was a village Party secretary who often mediated disputes. Feng recalls her mother worrying that he would offend others and her father always replying, “As a Party member, my responsibility comes first.”

She still freshly remembers the tears rolling down her father’s cheeks as he read the eulogy to mourn the death of Chairman Mao Zedong. She had never before seen

her father cry. “I can’t describe how much he loved Chairman Mao and the Party.”


In 1982, Feng Cuiling was admitted to Tianjin University. Every Friday, the monitoring teacher would bring oranges and snacks to her dormitory and chat about the week. “Our teacher was a Party member,” she says. “He cared about us like we were his children.”

These examples left Feng feeling like all Party members love to contribute their time and energy to serving others. Her sophomore year, Feng became the first student in the class to apply for admission to the Party.

Over the past 14 years under her leadership, SPST’s Party committee has grown from one branch to 10 today, producing over 400 Party members. At present, some 170 Party members can be found among faculty and students, and they play a leading role in the school’s basic services.

The school’s Party branches often invite foreign teachers to participate in campaigns such as visiting the memorial halls for Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping, two key Chinese statesmen, and the Memorial Hall of Beiping-Tianjin Campaign, to learn more about the Party’s history.

In accordance with Party-building studies, Feng bought Dean Siegel an English-version of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, which he finished reading during his holiday and responded by praising Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative.

A while ago, Feng Cuiling attended a seminar for senior Party members. “I was touched by members who show great concern for our country and the people,” she said after the meeting. “Upon learning that I would attend the 19th CPC National Congress, they offered many suggestions, hoping I would speak to the CPC Central Committee on their behalf.” 

Su Wenzhu: Reading Yesterday Today

Text by Yang Yunqian

Photographs by Qin Bin

In May 2017, Su Wenzhu, director of the Special Collections Department of Hebei Library and the Hebei Ancient Books Preservation, learned that she had been elected as one of 63 delegates from Hebei Province to attend the 19th Communist Party of China National Congress. This pleasant surprise gave her a new sense of mission and responsibility.

Protection

Special collections refer to old documents or materials that are different from ordinary books. They include ancient books and important historical documents. A library's special collections department is responsible for collecting, arranging, storing, circulating and utilizing ancient books and local documents. In 1996, Su Wenzhu, who had worked for the Hebei Library for nine years, was transferred to the special collections department. At the time, only four employees worked in the department. Even now, it has only expanded to employ eleven.

General investigation of ancient books is the basic task of ancient books protection. Employees must profoundly understand the documents first to capitalize on ancient book resources. In 2007, the General Office of the State Council issued opinions on further strengthening the protection of ancient books and officially launched a protection program. This is the first nationwide ancient book protection project sponsored by the State in the history of China. Hebei Ancient Books Preservation was launched at the Hebei Library in June 2008, and general investigation of ancient books commenced.



Su Wenzhu is the director of the Special Collections Department of Hebei Library and Hebei Ancient Books Preservation.

As Su recalls, the team immediately encountered many problems: A great amount of ancient paper was damaged by acid, worms and time. Books were not catalogued. Coordination with many different units of the province's cultural system was required and everyone lacked personnel, facilities and funds.

They began training personnel in ancient book preservation, rescuing and repairing ancient books, and publishing, utilizing and promoting ancient books. In places that were unable to carry out investigation, Su would deploy staff to help or offer local training. Thanks to the efforts of Su and her team, investigation of ancient books in Hebei progressed rapidly.

Resurrecting Ancient Books

If the vast number of Chinese ancient books are not effectively preserved and catalogued, the country will lose not only priceless historical records, but also crucial cultural context. In addition to preservation, Su began to consider how to promote the books.

Since 2015, Hebei Library has sponsored a "protection and promotion month of ancient books" three years in a row. Lectures on the protection of ancient books, traditional culture, and exhibition of techniques for ancient books preservation were offered. The "Heritage • Memory • Activation -- Maker@Library" intangible cultural heritage promotion campaign in June 2016 was particularly well received. Readers saw the production process for ancient books and live demonstrations of repair and block-printing techniques.

"Some spectators were surprised that ancient books could be preserved so well after hundreds of years," said Su. "Some were amazed by the delicate repair tech-

niques to mend damaged books. Others were consumed by the papermaking and printing technologies. Many young people today have a sense of distance from ancient books, and such activities bridge the gap."

Today, Hebei province has six ancient and modern protection units that provide constant temperature and humidity conditions, complete fire protection and a comprehensive monitoring system. "In addition to professional cultural units, more and more people are getting seduced by ancient books." Su believes that in recent years, the country has been advocating soft cultural power, and the excellent traditional culture buried in ancient Chinese books has deeply influenced the sentiments and morality of modern people, making them tremendously important in the promotion of Chinese culture.

In September 2017, the Ministry of Culture issued the first five-year plan to protect ancient Chinese books. It is the first "top-level design" for protection of ancient books. The plan defines the basic tenets of "adhering to the principles of primary protection, preservation, rational utilization of ancient books and strengthened management." Su's mission in the special collections department has just begun.

True to Form

In 1987, Su Wenzhu graduated from the History Department of Shandong University, and joined the Hebei Library. She was excited by the position because she enjoyed reading so much. But when she arrived, she oversaw patrons' borrowing and returning of books. Every day, she saw thousands of books but had no time to read them.



Registration is an important step of general investigation of ancient books.

“At first, I felt very uncomfortable because I couldn’t read the books,” she admits. “But I was happy to see so many people reading. This is probably why some people like working in libraries.” As a library staffer, Su believes that reading not only enhances education, but also cultivates moral character and motivation.

Today, in the fragmented reading era, Hebei Library is constantly brainstorming ideas to attract readers to the library. As a member of the China Writers Association, Su set up space in the local literature reading room and invited local writers to speak at pubs. She also organized a “love chanting” volunteer poetry recitation group. Su liked the group because even people who were afraid to speak publicly somehow found the courage to step up the stage to recite a few lines of poetry.

“Perhaps such activities fan the cultural flames in the hearts of the people,” says Su. Today, more than 70 people have joined the library’s poetry recitation WeChat group, and the group is still growing. After the renovation and expansion project of Hebei Library was completed in 2011, the upgraded hardware and a richer collection of books and activities drew long lines at the library before it opened every morning. On weekends, nary an empty seat could be found. In Su’s view, a scholarly society and poetic life is not a distant concept, but can be easily achieved.

“Since the 18th National Congress of Communist Party of China, general secretary Xi Jinping has discussed culture at length,” Su adds. “With changes in the social climate coupled with our efforts at the grassroots level, more and more people are getting into reading.” As a librarian, Su is happy as a lark. 



Su talks with Mr. Zhang, who oversees restoring ancient books. Restoration of ancient books requires unimaginable patience.



Due to impacts of the environment and human action, ancient books become acidized or damaged by worms, a situation that restorers call book “illness.” The process of treatment is just like treating a disease.

Yu Liufen: Her People's Leader

Text by Li Zhuoxi

It once took hours of hiking along a winding alpine path in the mountainous Guizhou Province to reach the village of Yanbo, home to more than 300 households of the Yi ethnic group. Today, visitors will be met with blocks of villa buildings with white walls and gray tiles. Many families in the village have their cars parked in front of their houses. Against the hillside behind the buildings are several village-run enterprises including distilleries and chicken farms. At the summit are well-equipped public buildings such as sports facilities and a medical clinic.

The difference from 16 years ago is unimaginable—then, the village lacked roads, electricity and tap water. Villagers lived in shabby houses built with earth or huts. The village's account was completely empty and the annual per capita income of villagers was less than 800 yuan.

"Things would be totally different without her," some villagers emphasize. "Her" refers to Yu Liufen, who was in her thirties when she became the first female secretary of the village's Party branch at the beginning of 2001, when she vowed to lead her fellow villagers to prosperity.

Change

"At that time, Yanbo Village was too poor," says Secretary Yu. "I vowed to make a difference the moment I took office."

Transportation was the major obstacle keeping the village in poverty because the mountains are high and dangerous. Cargo



Yu Liufen, secretary of the Yanbo Village branch of the CPC committee in Liupanshui City, Guizhou, has been highly acclaimed by Party members at grassroots levels. She was selected deputy to the 19th CPC National Congress. by Dong Fang

had to be transported on horse or by foot. On the day she took office, Yu held a village meeting and proposed building a road. There was no money in the village's account, and nobody could pay for the construction of the road or the land it would require. The proposal seemed impossible.

Yu had opened a small grocery store before starting her new job, so she had some savings. She offered to use 40,000 yuan of her own money to buy materials. But how to acquire the land needed to build the road? She and other Party members in the village visited affected families door-to-door to figure out the solution: All the Party members offered to exchange their own land for that needed for the road. Finally, the construction began.

A winter of construction led to a



Carefree kids. courtesy of Yanbo Village, Guizhou

four-kilometer road. The sound of New Year firecrackers christened it, followed by the delivery of 10 tons of coal in two big trucks. "All of this is attributed to the work of our Party secretary," grins a villager. "We would have remained isolated from the outside world for the rest of our lives if she hadn't taken this chance."

Shaking Off Poverty

By throwing out a "lifeline," Secretary Yu led the whole village in its fight

against poverty.

The natural conditions—high altitude and cold climate—allow for the production of nothing but corn and potatoes. Yu Liufen had bigger dreams: She tried to plant higher-earning crops such as fruits and medicinal herbs, but failed due to the cold.

After some setbacks, Yu turned her eyes to the forest. Learning that it was to be transferred due to poor management, she and the village cadres discussed the possibility of collectively purchasing the forest.



Yanbo Village, growing from a poverty-stricken community with an annual average per capita income of less than 800 yuan to that of 15,500 yuan, has been cited one of China's Top Villages for its improving the environment and upgrading standards of living. courtesy of Yanbo Village, Guizhou



Chicken farm run by Yuan Huiying from Yanbo Village. courtesy of Yanbo Village, Guizhou

“Many liked the idea, but everyone was quiet when it came to fundraising,” recalls a villager. “We couldn’t let it go so easily.” The unyielding Party secretary pulled out all the stops to raise 110,000 yuan in addition to getting a 60,000-yuan loan in her name.

“I would bear the loss if we failed,” Yu promised.

The villagers seldom saw her around after they obtained management rights. They later discovered that she had been busy shuttling between forestry departments to get logging approval and looking for clients. Within a year, the village had paid off all the loans and earned hundreds of thousands of yuan from the forest.

Big Picture

“A forest farm is a green bank,” asserted Yu after their first successful attempt. After that success, she has oriented her vil-

lage industry to focus on anything green: vegetable greenhouses, cattle ranches and chicken farms.

After several years of practice with small-scale businesses, both the villagers and the community accumulated a certain amount of savings. Yu Liufen, however, was not satisfied with the slow pace and mapped out plans for the big picture by establishing a farmers’ specialized cooperative.

The new system featured a large collective split into shares that villagers were free to purchase at any small proportion. This attracted the attention of many village stakeholders. Technical innovation was conducted in farms, which morphed into hi-tech farms for blue-eggshell chickens. Breweries evolved into a distillery, enabling large-scale production of a local liquor brand, known as Yanbo. Today, a large distillery has an annual output of 5,000 tons thanks to the introduction of

outside investment.

Along with speeding up industrial pace, efforts have also been made to improve the environment of the village. Renovations were made on residential buildings, public toilets, courtyards and public spaces, financed by both the government and private parties. Roads connect every household to the highways. Dilapidated buildings and huts are nowhere to be seen.


Leading Body

“Nothing can be done without the three formulas: basic Party building, poverty alleviation and a collectively owned economic system,” asserts Yu Liufen, on the key to shaking off poverty. “I’m so proud that our village’s leading body has been united and pragmatic, winning public credibility through fairness, justice and openness.”

“I literally could not have achieved anything without great support from both my fellow villagers and the leading body,” she adds.

Today, the leading body has accelerated the development of village-run industrial entities with innovation, amassing collective-owned assets of 62 million yuan and collective economic liquid funds of 4.72 million yuan. Annual per capita income has grown from less than 800 yuan to 15,500 yuan.

“I owe every success to our leading body, which has brainstormed brilliant ideas, and my fellow villagers, who have made great efforts towards changing their own lives,” remarks Yu.

But local villagers owe the village’s dramatic change to their leader, Yu Liufen, who pulled the leading body and over 900 villagers together to pave a new path for a green industry and prosperity in the new era. 

Fang Ruibiao: Spring in the Mountains

Text by Wang Shuya

Loufangping Village, located in Lanxian County, Luliang City in the northern Chinese Province of Shanxi, is an enchanting mountain village with typical local characteristics. Limited by special geological and climate conditions, the village has been haunted by poverty for many years.

In 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of poverty relief work on many occasions and called for implementing targeted and effective measures to fight against poverty in rural areas. That year, the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and several other central departments decided to send excellent CPC members to serve as First Secretary to support the 14 national contiguous poverty-stricken areas. Fang Ruibiao, an outstanding CPC member and information collector from the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) was chosen to be the First Secretary of Loufangping Village and led the villagers in a war against poverty.

Building a Smart Village

Surrounded by tall mountains, Loufangping Village is isolated at a high altitude of 2000 meters above the sea level with only about 95 frost-free days a year. From October to April most years, the village is sealed in by heavy snow and completely cut off from the outside.



Whether an information collector or First Secretary, Fang Ruibiao always considers CPC member one of his most important titles. by Qin Bin



In October of 2016, Loufangping Village was listed by the National Tourism Administration and other 12 departments as one of the major villages for poverty alleviation to promote local tourism, courtesy of the CAST

At the end of July 2015, Fang Ruibiao arrived at Loufangping to officially assume office with great ambitions to really make a difference for the poor. However, within a month of his arrival, the village was already blanketed in snow and entering the long off-season. To make a living, most working-age men in the village had to leave to work in the city, leaving the young and old behind. The whole village became more desolate and quiet, as if hibernating.

“Born in a small village in Shandong Province, I lived in a rural area for many years when I was young, so poor and hard living conditions are not new to me,” revealed the new First Secretary. “But considering the complicated situation in each village, I think it’s more important to get close to the villagers to understand their

real needs and expectations before just starting work quickly and randomly.”

As an administrative village, Loufangping has a total of 80 permanent households spreading across two small communities with a distance of five kilometers between them. However, no matter how brutal the weather became, Fang always walked to each house regularly to talk with the villagers.

“Far from standoffish, many were quite interested in talking with me and curious to know what was happening outside the mountain—they have such little exposure to the outside that it greatly limits their vision and cultural literacy,” said Fang.

In fact, mobile phones are hard to use there because of weak signals, and the whole village has just one computer using

dial-up internet, which is also quite unstable. “The spiritual poverty worried me even more than the material poverty,” Fang sighed. “Reducing poverty must begin with reducing ignorance.” Fang vowed to tackle the signal and network problems first no matter how difficult it turned out to be.

During the long and cold winter, Fang and his colleague, the Party Branch Secretary of Loufangping Village, went to Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, many times to seek help and support from the provincial Association for Science and Technology and the Mobile Company. After unremitting efforts of several months, they finally secured a scientific promotion project of the CAST in Shanxi Province, named E Station for Scientific Promotion in Rural China (E Station for short). As a



Fang Ruibiao and his colleague check potato packages in one of the 28 cellars that in total can store over 2000 tons of potatoes. courtesy of the CAST



Fang Ruibiao and his colleague check the quality of mushroom-cultivation sticks carefully in a greenhouse. courtesy of the CAST

supportive service of the project, in June of 2016, mobile broadband was finally connected to the village. One month later, much to the surprise of the villagers, Fang purchased routers with special poverty alleviation funds and covered the whole village with WiFi. People were thrilled by the huge change in the small mountain village. “It’s unbelievable!” exclaimed Wang Jianzhong, a local resident. “In the past, we couldn’t even make a phone call smoothly. But now we can get on the internet anywhere in the whole town.”

In July 2017, the E Station for Scientific Promotion in Rural China officially opened to the public in Loufangping Village, making it the first wired village in the contiguous poverty-stricken areas of the Luliang Mountain region. “As an information platform, the E station provides all kinds of agricultural messages, scientific knowledge and online-expert services, greatly improving the scientific and cultural quality of life in Loufangping and neighboring villages,” Fang explained. “The E station also features an e-commerce platform, which has been very convenient for farmers to buy agricultural tools and other materials.”

Optimizing Advantageous Industries

Loufangping Village has fertile land and abundant water, but because of the cold weather and high altitude, few crops can be grown there except potatoes. In recent years, farmers were mostly planting commercial potatoes, which didn’t sell well. To increase villagers’ incomes and adjust the traditional planting structure, Fang used the poverty alleviation funds from CAST to establish a 660-mu (44-hectare) planting base for seed potatoes, which are more profitable than the commercial crops.

“Our village has a high yield of pota-



At the end of the 2016, Fang Ruibiao purchased many cashmere goats from Liaoning Province with poverty alleviation funds and gave them to the poor in the village to expand the local breeding industry. courtesy of the CAST

atoes,” explained Fang. “However, harvest season coincides with peak supply time nationwide, especially for commercial varieties, which only sell for a very low price. So even if we increased production volume, the villagers still wouldn’t earn a handsome income.” Thus, after establishing the planting base for seed potatoes, Fang continued to brainstorm how to avoid peak season and sell the potatoes at a higher price.

With support of CAST, Fang called on the Potato Planting Cooperative in the Loufangping Village to establish 28 cellars. “When the cellars were ready, we stored potatoes in them until the winter. In winter, the potatoes can sell for a doubled price per kilogram, so the planters doubled their incomes,” Fang beamed.

In addition to improving traditional planting industries, Fang also tried to develop new ones. One day, Fang met a young local man who had been planting mushrooms in northeastern China during the off-season for ten years. “While chatting with the guy, I realized Loufangping Village has a similar climate to northeastern China, so I thought developing off-season mushroom cultivation could work here,” said Fang. He persuaded the young man to stay and cooperate with a local entrepreneur to launch an off-season mushroom cultivation base in the village, including eight greenhouses. To raise local incomes, work at the base-from making mushroom-

cultivation sticks to watering, harvesting, drying and packaging the mushrooms-was all performed with local labor and produced a daily income of 80 to 120 yuan (US\$12 to 18).

In 2017, considering the successful attempt of the first year, Fang led the villagers to establish another 10 greenhouses using poverty alleviation funds of about 300,000 yuan (US\$45,177). This time, the ownership of the new base belongs to the whole village, so every household can enjoy the benefits.

Sleepy Village Awakens

With Fang Ruibiao’s lead, by the end of 2016, just one year after his arrival, Loufangping Village had already shaken off poverty, with its residents’ annual per capita income exceeding 4000 yuan (US\$ 604). It completely transformed from a gloomy and stagnant place into a vigorous and dynamic draw.

Gradually, more and more young locals saw the booming development and promising outlook of the village and decided to return from the cities. Some got involved in modern breeding and planting industries and others launched grocery stores, orchards and farmhouse resorts, as increasing numbers of visitors began trickling into the village.

“I worried that villagers might reject new stuff, but I was totally wrong,” Fang said. “Now, almost all of them have bought smart phones and learned how to use WeChat. Some even post short videos and photos on Wechat to promote family-produced green agricultural products.”

However, Fang is most proud of teaching the elderly in the village to use video calling on WeChat so they can “see and talk” with their migrant children when they miss them, which greatly reduced their loneliness. 

Return of the Tiger

Text By Zi Mei

Photos Courtesy of Hunchun Forestry Bureau

At 4 a.m. one August morning, Ms. Ba drove her three-wheeled motorbike to “patrol” her cornfield in Liangshui Village, Ying’an County, Hunchun City, Jilin Province of Northeastern China. She set off firecrackers there to scare wild boar away; the animal often prowled her fields to gnaw on the crop.

Since 2008, Hunchun City, dubbed “the home of the Manchurian tiger,” has

begun to implement the “strictest-ever” management of forest and biological resources. Hunting is forbidden so that villagers can only frighten the animals away and cannot hurt them. After a decade, the population of wild animals in the territory, including tigers and leopards, has seen gradual growth. On September 12, 2017, the Jilin Branch of the Pilot National Park Administration for Manchurian Tigers and Leopards was founded.

Manchurian Tiger and Leopard Rescue

The Manchurian tiger, also known as the Siberian tiger, is found in Russia’s Far-East and China’s northeastern region. Due to destroyed habitat and human poaching, the population of wild Manchurian tiger dropped dramatically to 200 worldwide in the late 1970s. Between 1998 to 1999, experts from China, Russia and the United States jointly conducted research that



showed only 12 to 16 tigers and 7 to 12 leopards existed in all of northeastern China.

A border city straddling Russia and North Korea, Hunchun serves as an ecological corridor for Manchurian tigers to migrate back and forth between China and Russia, making the city the most densely populated area with the species. In 2001, to rescue the big cats and their habitats, Hunchun Nature Reserve was set up. Covering 1,087 square kilometers, it was the first of its kind in China and upgraded to national level in 2005.

When the reserve was first established, most rangers had no experience protecting the animal. Without any high-tech equipment, they still conducted field work even in winters as cold as 30 degrees below

zero. Carrying food and GPS, the rangers would head into the forest from 7 a.m. and return at dusk after hiking hills and crossing rivers. For special programs, they would spend dozens of days in the forest,

eating bread, drinking spring water and sleeping in farmers' sheds.

Their efforts proved worthwhile. Monitors show that at present, in Jilin Province's territory reside five tiger families with a total of 27 tigers alongside 42 leopards—a great jump compared to the 1990s.

"Tigers are the top of food chain," explains Chu Xinwen, head of Publicity and Education Center with Hunchun Forestry Bureau. "The presence of tigers indicates that a local food chain is intact. The recovering population of tigers and leopards demonstrates that the local biological environment is moving towards a virtuous circle, with wild animals and plants becoming more diverse."

Tiger Crossing

A road connects Hunchun to Dongning City of Heilongjiang Province. To improve transportation, Jilin Province had planned to construct a highway that would have crossed an area densely populated by Manchurian tigers and leopards, and would have impacted their migration.

Boasting high forest coverage rate, Hunchun serves as an ecological corridor for Manchurian tigers to migrate back and forth between China and Russia, making it the most densely populated area of the species.



One wild Manchurian tiger taken by an infrared camera.





The rangers patrol the forest.



One wild Manchurian leopard taken by an infrared camera.

“The road would have cut straight across the tiger’s habitat,” explains Chu. “Populations would have become isolated by the road, making it difficult with them to mate with outsiders, which severely impacts population growth and genetic diversity.” Jilin’s Provincial Government ended up cancelling the project and instead renovated the existing road. The same thing happened to the planned Hunchun-Vladivostok highway, which took a detour from its original route.

Considering protection of wild animals before launching any project has become

routine for Hunchun authorities. Hunchun banned hunting in 1996 and commercial logging in 2015. Those measures have contributed to the fast growth of animal and forest resources, filling the gaps in the food chain needed to support big populations of wild Manchurian tigers and leopards.

To design a long-term mechanism to protect the area’s big cats, Jilin issued *Notice for Further Protection of Manchurian Tigers and Leopards*, stipulating that any construction work around the area inhabited by tigers and leopards or ecological corridor had to be approved by experts from

forestry and environment administrations, who would analyze the potential effects of any project on the animals’ survival, reproduction and migration.

Pilot National Park

Statistics from China and Russia estimate that at least 35 tigers and 70 leopards are active around Hunchun and the neighboring Russian territory. However, the whole area covers only 4,000 square kilometers and its resource capacity can hardly meet the demands of the large animals, each of which needs 400 to 500 square kilometers






To better protect the two species and provide enough room for their survival, the State Forestry Administration of China set up a pilot national park, with the Hunchun Nature Reserve at its core.

to move around. To better protect the two species and provide enough room for their survival, the State Forestry Administration of China set up a pilot national park, with the Hunchun Nature Reserve at its core.

According to the blueprint, the Pilot National Park for Manchurian Tigers and Leopards will cover 14,600 square kilometers, crossing Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces. The area in Jilin accounts for 71 percent of the total. “It is the region with the most tigers and leopards,” says Wang Yue, head of Hunchun Forestry Bureau and Hunchun Nature Reserve Administration.

“It is the most important area for the animals’ residence and reproduction. Considering the current situation of the two cats’ habitats in Hunchun and Wangqing cities, the establishment of a pilot national park will likely strengthen connectivity, coordination and intactness of the two species’ habitats, and consequently push systemic protection of tigers and leopards and stabilize and grow their populations.”

“The pilot national park also addresses the country’s need to innovate protection modes for wild animals and do it in a scientific way,” Wang adds.

In recent years, ranger work has been upgraded from routine patrol to digital management. The team is equipped with GPS, infrared cameras, drones and SMART patrol systems, which produce thorough analyses. Hunchun Forestry Bureau maintains strong relations and frequent cooperation with Wildlife Conservation Society (WSC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Rare Conservation (RARE). The bureau has signed agreements with Russian Leopard Park to establish a long-term cooperative mechanism on joint research, monitoring, poaching, publicity and education. 

Farewell to Tianyi

Text by Hu Zhoumeng

Photographs by Chen Jian

Although the holiday shopping season is still more than a month away, a Black Friday-esque shopping craze already swept the Tianyi Small Commodities Market, the largest of its kind in Beijing. Located near the West Second Ring Road in China's capital, Tianyi is considered by many locals to offer "everything you need."

Unfortunately, this was the final closing sale. Clearance sale signs were found everywhere in the market, and customers carrying bags and even suitcases picked the shelves bare. Their shopping enthusiasm couldn't be cooled by the chilly air conditioners. Over the cries of peddlers and the noisy haggling, loudspeakers repeatedly announced that the Tianyi market would officially close on September 16, 2017.

To solve problems such as population pressure, air pollution, traffic congestion and surging housing prices, Beijing launched a campaign aiming to remove

its "non-capital functions" in 2015. Given that wholesale markets like Tianyi attract a heavy concentration of traffic, people and cargo, they become key targets for removal or renovation. As of now, over 370 wholesale markets have been relocated out of Beijing. As early as the end of 2015, Tianyi closed its branch store in Di'anmen. In early July this year, dealers at the Tianyi Small Commodities Market received a notice that the 25-year-old market would be closed soon.

Last Day

At 7:30 a.m. on September 15, 2017, 28-year-old security guard Ping Yu opened the gate of the Tianyi market as usual. Customers already waiting outside swarmed in immediately. According to Ping, customer traffic had increased substantially in recent days, peaking at 10 a.m. when drivers had to wait for as long as two hours to park in the market's underground parking lot.



The largest small commodities wholesale and retail market in Beijing, Tianyi featured about 1,900 dealers hawking more than 130,000 kinds of commodities, ranging from clothes, gifts and stationery to household appliances and cosmetics.



A customer carries bags loaded with goods purchased at the Tianyi market. September 15, 2017 was the last day of the market, and many commodities were sold at steep discounts.





A scarf peddler calls to customers in the square of the Tianyi market.

Four years ago, Ping moved to Beijing from his hometown in Shanxi Province. He joined the security guard team in the city's Xicheng District, and had worked at the Tianyi market ever since. His duties also included giving customers directions and helping them find lost companions. In the last few days before the market closed, many long-time customers asked to take a picture with him. "The market will be gone forever, so many want to keep it in their memories with photos," Ping explained.

The largest small commodities wholesale and retail market in Beijing, Tianyi consisted of three buildings with business space totaling 41,400 square meters, equal to nearly six soccer fields. The market concentrated some 1,900 dealers that offered more than 130,000 kinds of commodities, ranging from clothes, gifts and stationery



Many customers take photos at the Tianyi market on its last day.

to household appliances and cosmetics.

Li Ying, 65, squeezed through the crowd to get to her husband, Xie Kai, who carried a selfie stick. She showed him a brown haversack she had just bought for 25 yuan (US\$3.8). Li was a frequent customer

of Tianyi, and the amber necklace, bracelet and earrings she wore had also been bought there.

"I often spend the whole morning shopping here," Li grinned. "At lunchtime, I'd eat a plate of dumplings at a nearby restaurant. What a great life!" After the closure of the market, she'd particularly miss the cartoon and animal sculptures in the square. Despite decades of weathering, the iconic decorations never faded.

A group of customers sat resting behind the person-sized sculptures of the 12 zodiac animals. Adjacent to the sculptures was a stall selling silk scarves, with the merchant shouting from atop a stool, "Five yuan each! All of them!"

The shopping craze lasted until the market closed at 6:30 p.m. At that moment, many crowded at the entrance and pointed

Scarf merchants shout to attract customers. The sculptures of the 12 zodiac animals behind them were iconic decorations of Tianyi. Despite decades of weathering, they never faded.



their cell phones at the hanging electronic clock to capture the moment. The song “Unforgettable Night,” the farewell song of every year’s Spring Festival Gala, reverberated through the air.

Some residents who live near the market used to complain about the noise and traffic jams caused by disorderly warehouses and restaurants, tricycle carts transporting commodities and wholesale dealers carrying cargo. However, all of these problems vanished when the market closed. The downside is they may find it less convenient to buy gifts or decorations for Spring Festival. According to the planning of Xicheng District’s Commission of Commerce, a handful of hi-tech and financial companies will rent space where the Tianyi market once was.

Relocation

Early on the morning of July 13, 2017, a crane crept up to the market, and several workers removed the “Tianyi Market” sign from atop its main building. The best days of the faded signboard were long gone, as are those of wholesale markets at large. Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, small commodities wholesale markets like Tianyi mushroomed around China. In recent years, the popularity of online shopping and surging urban real estate prices have caused many wholesale markets to suffer a steep drop in profitability.

Against the backdrop of the integrated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, most of Beijing’s wholesale markets have planned to move to Hebei Province or Tianjin. It was reported that the Tianyi market will be relocated to Shijiazhuang or Langfang. The administrator of the market also organized survey trips for its dealers to find new places to settle. So far, however, the new location of Tianyi remains uncertain.



On September 15, 2017, the last day of the Tianyi market, customers were reluctant to leave before closing.

Mr. Lin from Zhejiang Province operated a jewelry store in the Tianyi market. For the past 12 years, his necklaces, bracelets and earrings were sold to countries like Croatia, Japan and Russia. He planned to stay in Beijing after the closure of Tianyi. “Perhaps I’ll open a new store in the Baiming wholesale market,” he said. “My WeChat store is still in operation. And my network of business partners is here. Even if I get out of the jewelry business, I’ll find something else to do.”

Mr. Luo from Sichuan Province was one of Tianyi’s 70-plus janitorial staff. “I don’t know where to go,” he sighed, lacking a clear plan for his future. “Perhaps I’ll go where the market moves or return to my hometown.”

On the afternoon of September 15, He Baoqiang, who used to operate a sporting goods shop at Tianyi, came back to “take a last look” at the market with his son, who studies at a local primary school. He was in his 20s when he married and left Hebei Province for Beijing to start a business at

Tianyi. His eyes glistened when he remembered fire drills and anniversary celebrations the market organized. “The Tianyi market was always well managed, and it felt like at home.”

At a logistics station in the northeast of the market, 30-year-old courier Cui Meng had almost run out of supplies. He used to work at a steel factory in his hometown in Shandong Province. After the decline of the steel industry, he moved to Beijing to seek job opportunities. During the two years he worked at Tianyi, his delivery business ran well. “At our peak, I delivered more than 1,000 packages a day, which took six or seven trips in a van.”

“This is the last delivery service to Tianyi,” declared one of Cui’s colleagues, who sighed and took a selfie in front of an electric tricycle cart loaded with goods before leaving. Cui wistfully watched him riding the cart through a stream of people and vehicles. No more packages would ever be delivered to “Tianyi Market, 29 Fuchengmenwai Street, Beijing.”

Paths of the Soul

Text by Chen Lili

Since its premiere on June 20, 2017, *Paths of the Soul*, a movie set in Tibet, has taken on a dark horse role en route to becoming a stunning blockbuster in the Chinese film market. It grossed over 100 million yuan in two months, a rarity for movies with no commercial elements such as visual effects and a dramatic plot.

Shot in 2014, the movie was directed by Zhang Yang, a famous sixth-generation director in China, who spent nearly a year shooting two movies prominently featuring Tibet.

Paths of the Soul recounts the story of 11 villagers in eastern Tibet making a pilgrimage to Mt. Kailash (also known as Kang Rinpoche), one of the four sacred mountains of Tibetan Buddhism, to hon-

or the birthday of Sakyamuni, founder of the religion.

The other film is *Soul on the String*, an adaptation of a fantasy fiction novel by Tibetan writer Tashi Dawa. Since its release on August 18, the film has performed impressively in theaters and reaped rewards at the box office.

Both films are squarely about Tibetans, totally different from anything Zhang has ever done before. From the original attraction of Tibetan mystery to the abundance of the region's symbolism, Zhang Yang shot the movies with a focus on local Tibetan daily life to pay tribute to the inhabitants on the roof of the world and reignite interest throughout China and the world through his understanding of the region.

Movie vs. Daily Life

For most people, Tibet is a mysterious but alluring tract of land. In 1991, when he was still a curious young student, Zhang Yang ventured to Tibet. "In those days, the road conditions were poor and going anywhere was inconvenient," Zhang recalled. "It took many days just to get there. Also, there weren't as many hotels and guest-houses as today."

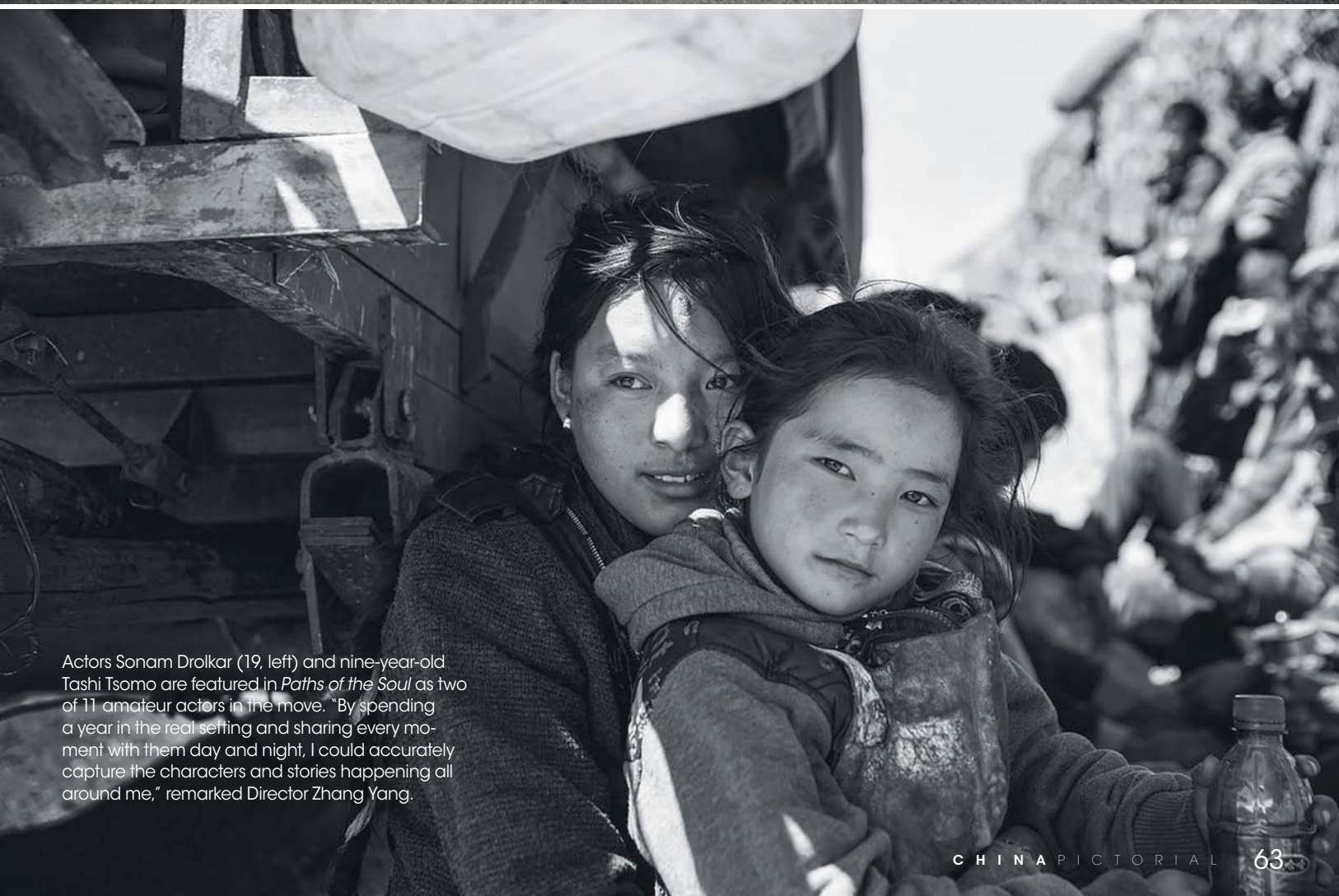
After graduating from the Central Academy of Drama in 1992, Zhang found the opportunity to shoot documentary films for a year on any topic he wanted. He chose places inhabited by Tibetan people, including Qinghai and southern Gansu provinces. His experiences there were quite different this time: "I was no longer just a curious kid."



Fueled by a long-term attraction to Tibet's mystery and an affinity with its abundant symbolism, Zhang Yang directed movies focusing on local Tibetan daily life, showcasing his passion for the roof of the world by sharing his understanding with China and the world. IC



A still from *Paths of the Soul*, a movie that follows 11 villagers from eastern Tibet on a 2,500-kilometer pilgrimage to Mt. Kang Rinpoche, one of the four sacred mountains of Tibetan Buddhism, for reasons ranging from birth and death to growth and transformation.



Actors Sonam Drolkar (19, left) and nine-year-old Tashi Tsomo are featured in *Paths of the Soul* as two of 11 amateur actors in the movie. "By spending a year in the real setting and sharing every moment with them day and night, I could accurately capture the characters and stories happening all around me," remarked Director Zhang Yang.

Since late 1990s, Zhang has directed and appeared in more than a dozen films including *Spicy Love Soup* (1997), *Shower* (1999), *Spring Subway* (2002), and *Going Home* (2007), which he also wrote. Many of his films have won domestic and international awards, including China's Golden Rooster Award, and have been selected for the San Sebastian International Film Festival, which has led to commercial releases.

Tibetan elements often appear in his films. For example, *Shower* includes scenes of Tibetan people bathing in Namtso, the second-largest lake in Tibet. "I knew that one day I will go to Tibet to film—it was just a matter of time," Zhang grinned.

His chance came in 2014 with the arrival of the zodiac year of birth of the sacred mountain of Kang Rinpoche.

Zhang revealed in the production notes that "there was no script," and "nothing

was known." *Paths of the Soul* was filmed in a simple documentary style. "I consider myself devoted to making good movies, so I immersed myself in the pilgrims' lives," Zhang said. "By spending a year in the real setting, sharing every moment with them, day and night, I could accurately capture the characters and stories happening all around me."

Zhang Yang eventually focused his camera on an 11-member group making the journey: a pregnant woman, an elderly man with strong hopes for his afterlife, a teenager going through puberty, and a couple and their daughter suffering from changes in their lives. The group set off on a 2,500-kilometer pilgrimage for reasons ranging from birth and death, growth and transformation.

"The only way to be part of their lives was to interact with them all day long,"

Zhang asserted. "It was a path to de-mystifying Tibet in a movie."

New Understanding

For a long time, the world's general understanding of Tibet has been limited.

The unique geography and climate of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau have created a relatively closed living environment that has preserved the traditional lifestyle of the Tibetan people.

In the 1990s and earlier, Tibet was less accessible. People had to learn about the place primarily through works of art such as literature and film.

Thanks to increasingly improved transportation infrastructure, Tibet has seen a rapid development in tourism, which has become a pillar industry for its local economy. In the first half of 2017, Tibet welcomed over 8.6 million tourists who



A poster for *Soul on the String*, which was released on August 18 in China. It was another movie about Tibet directed by Zhang Yang. IC



A still from *Red River Valley* (1996), which recounts a love story between a Han and Tibetan. courtesy of Xinhua New Agency



A poster for *Qinghai Hoh Xil* (2004), a story about protecting Tibetan antelopes and the ecology in Hoh Xil.



A still from another Tibetan-themed movie, *The Knot* (2007). IC



Released in 2011, *Kora* follows adventurers biking along the highways of Yunnan Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region. IC

spent nearly 10 billion yuan there.

Tibet is no longer so mysterious after so many Chinese films featuring it have hit the big screen. Movies such as *The Silent Holy Stones* (2006), *The Knot* (2007), and *Kora* (2011) were honored in film festivals in China and abroad, including the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Tokyo International Film Festival, by showcasing how people on the roof of the world live and work.

The Tibetan movie boom couldn't have happened without impressive efforts from Tibetan movie talent such as scriptwriters Alai and Tashi Dawa, and directors Pema Tseten and Sumtai Gya, who have broadened perspectives of Tibetan filmmakers.

They describe people's lives with their own language, which helps the world better understand the region and serves as a good reference," said Zhang.

"What ordinary people in Tibet want is all the same," declared Alai, a well-known Tibetan writer. "They care about things like nice houses, telephones, televisions, tap water, education, health care, retirement security, and good teachers working in Tibet's rural areas."

This view of Tibet is not shrouded in mystery. 

The author is a reporter from *South Reviews*.



The makeup, costume and dance steps of *The Tea Spell* were inspired by traditional Chinese opera including Kunqu Opera and Beijing Opera. It has created an "ancient orient" in modern context. Above is the poster of *The Tea Spell*. Tea Girl (left) is played by Liu Wen. Tea Boy (right) is played by Cao Peizhong.



With "tea" as the theme, the beautiful female Teafairy (played by a male dancer) meets three people: a wood cutter, a dignitary and a monk. Above is the Teafairy played by Yang Hailong. by Laurent Hou

The Tea Spell: A Modern Expression of Chinese Contemporary Dance

Text by Gong Haiying

On September 2, the aroma of hot tea swept through 300-year-old Zhengyici Peking Opera Theatre as the audience settled in for the show. A female dancer in white sipped tea and took questions from spectators. Contrasting most opera stages with a strict proscenium, the stage of Zhengyici Peking Opera Theatre thrusts far out into the auditorium. The tea ceremony took place in the VIP seats. Zhao Liang, a Chinese contemporary dance artist and direc-

tor of the opera, introduced that the performance kicked off as the tea ceremony began.

Then, seven dancers leaped and moved across the stage of the scarlet theater, so close to the audience that the first row caught beads of their sweat. The stage was designed by Zhang Liang, who believes that good art should be expressive from multiple dimensions and that future art will focus more on "integrity" and feature greater interaction with the audience.

Street shot of the cast of *The Tea Spell* in Edinburgh. As a special program for cultural cooperation between China and the U.K., *The Tea Spell* showed on August 13, 2017 during the Edinburgh International Festival. by Jin Yuxin



The Tea Spell is the second part of the trilogy *Oriental Soul & Desire* and was first performed in 2012. The first installment, *Dreams of Zen*, was first performed in 2011, the third in 2015. This opera focused on China's culture of Zen and tea and was inspired by a delicate tea set unearthed from an underground palace of Tang Dynasty that is considered the oldest and largest surviving underground Buddhist palace.


The opera is performed with tea as a driving symbol. The beautiful female "Teafairy," played by a man, meets three people: a wood cutter, a dignitary, and a monk. Those three people have differ-

ent ideas when meeting the heroine. The choreography is concise. The makeup, costume and dance steps of *The Tea Spell* were inspired by traditional Chinese opera including Kunqu Opera and Beijing Opera. Every frame presents a Chinese style free-hand brushwork painting. The performance was hailed for "creating an 'ancient Orient' in modern times."

Huang Yinran, a renowned Chinese art planner and poet, said that Zen and tea are the two elements that represent profound traditional Chinese culture through two important dimensions. *The Tea Spell* was intended to promote traditional Chinese cul-

ture from the day of its inception. However, the opera became much more. The wood cutter, dignitary and monk, in fact, represent three types of people, each representing various levels of identity, ego, and superego in times past. The opera is hailed as a "pioneering mixture of Oriental aesthetics and western narrative."

After its first show in Beijing on October 31, 2012, *The Tea Spell* was recommended by China's Ministry of Culture to be performed in the Chinese cultural year in Germany in early November that year. The opera group has since visited Seoul and the Edinburgh International Festival. The opera was invited to perform in the Suzanne Dallal Centre for Dance and Theatre in Israel in October this year.

Zhao Liang remarked that *The Tea Spell* is not confined to the limits of a room. "It is what art should be represented as in a free state," he argued. "In the future, I will present different versions and forms based on the architecture of the performance space." Zhao Liang has paved a unique road to explore the modern expression of Chinese dance, which has created countless new avenues for expression. 



On the right is "Purewhite," played by young Chinese dancer Li Nan. Although a bit part in the production, "Purewhite" is present everywhere. by Moon

Promising Emerging Arts

Exclusive Interview with Chinese Contemporary Dance Artist Zhao Liang

CHINA PICTORIAL: *What inspired the creation of *The Tea Spell*?*

Zhao Liang: I'm not great at planning and tend to follow my heart. A work is like a child, and I'd rather wait for them to come to me. I never imagined creating anything based on tea. When I got to really know tea culture, I realized how wonderful tea is. The original power of "tea" has already mixed with oriental culture and the world as a whole.

CP: *Why did you choose to fuse various elements like Chinese Kung Fu, traditional Chinese opera and Japanese Noh?*

Zhao: Dance itself is expression with bodies and doesn't need that many labels. Labels are used to define art better, not to label anything clearly known. There shouldn't be any limit on art. Everything in the world is related to each other. Artistic expression is a means to promote oneself, transcend oneself and connect with everything in the world. As more and more art works that transcend different areas have emerged, I believe we will see an increasing number of these kinds of works.

CP: *What kind of oriental aesthetics does *The Tea Spell* deliver? How does it attract foreign spectators?*

Zhao: So-called "oriental aesthetics" is too vague a conception. Every person can only represent himself or herself. With the label of "oriental aesthetics" stripped, *The Tea Spell* adopts popular methods of artistic expression. Chinese spectators will find it pioneering, while western audiences find it fantastic because


they have never before seen such a performance and can't name it.

I never worry that foreign spectators will have a hard time understanding my work because art is universally interlinked. As the creator, I don't define my work. The audience will offer their own answers according to their experience and understanding. The audience and the creator are interactioned but free.

Western audiences are unfamiliar with the system of oriental aesthetics. Our generation doesn't need to comply with or play up to western aesthetics. Instead, we should question and converse with the culture and the tradition in our blood. Something that cannot be defined easily today is perhaps what we need most.

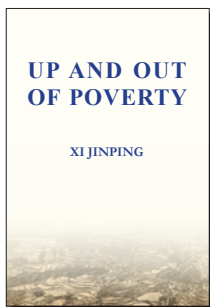
CP: *What do you think of the relation between tradition and modernity? What enlightenment can *The Tea Spell* bring to modern Chinese dance?*

Zhao: Tradition doesn't always remain unchanged. It absorbs elements of every age and every event and continues to exist. If something survives generations and still exists, it has to keep absorbing and evolving. This is what inheriting is all about.

In fact, elements from all kinds of art can be combined. Through this very series of operas including *The Tea Spell*, I want to show others that modern dance can be presented in this way. We not only feel our bodies move our own way, but also connect with the material world through different methods. 



Zhao Liang has paved a unique road to modern expression through Chinese dance. by Wang Pengfei



Up and Out of Poverty (English, French)

By Xi Jinping,
published by Foreign Languages Press &
Fujian People's Publishing House,
November 2016

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China's central leading body, with General Secretary Xi Jinping at the core, the country's government has considered poverty alleviation the most pressing task at hand, its top political philosophy, basic system and the development path of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the People's Republic of China. Development-oriented poverty alleviation has become the central mission for the country to complete construction of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. As Xi pointed out, the most difficult work in the mission must be performed in rural, poverty-stricken areas themselves, and China cannot be made whole without transforming such areas into moderately prosperous societies.

Statistics reveal that between 2013 and 2016, China saw its impoverished population drop by 10 million, during which time 55.64 million people rose from poverty—a population equivalent to a medium-sized country. Poverty dropped from 10.2 percent at the end of 2012 to 4.5 percent at the end of 2016. China's wisdom and successful practice in targeted poverty alleviation and elimination has drawn great attention from around the world.

Up and Out of Poverty, originally published in Chinese in 1992, comprises 29 of President Xi's speeches and articles written during his service as Party secretary of the CPC Ningde Prefectural Committee in Fujian Province, from September 1988 to May 1990, alongside 10 color photos, six of which show Xi at work.

To eradicate poverty and boost development in eastern Fujian, Xi Jinping devised innovative plans, mechanisms and methods that are documented by the book, and answered questions, both theoretical and practical, on how to accelerate economic and social development there, touching upon major topics of economic, political, cultural and social progress as well as ecological progress and Party building. Thoughtful and profound, vivid and cordial in style, the book is considered of high theoretical value.

Furthermore, it paints an engrossing picture of Xi Jinping's hard work during his two-year tenure in Ningde, a reflection of his unyielding determination to serve the people with all his heart and help impoverished communities rise up.

Zhang Fuhai, president of China International Publishing Group, addressed the release ceremony of the English and French editions of *Up and Out of Poverty* on August 23, 2017, noting that not only does the book document General Secretary Xi Jinping's ideals and faith in loving the people and serving the people, but also his strategic thought, theoretical support and practical exploration of targeted poverty alleviation and elimination.



The fishermen of Gongyu Village in Ningde City, Fujian Province make good livings by farming oysters. During President Xi Jinping's term as Party secretary of the CPC Ningde Prefectural Committee, he vigorously promoted seafood aquaculture to alleviate poverty.



Ningde has abundant forestry resources. President Xi Jinping mentioned in his book *Up and Out of Poverty* that developing the forestry industry was a key strategy to shake off poverty there.



- Excerpts -

Practical Significance of *Up and Out of Poverty*

Text by Li Junru

Poverty alleviation has always been a hard, thought-provoking topic. Why? China's second-generation CPC leadership with Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997) at the core developed a "three-step" development strategy: The first was to shake off poverty in the 1980s, the second was to promote better living standards in the 1990s, and the final step was to realize socialist modernization within 50 years after entering the 21st Century.

This became the general strategy for the whole country. Targets, tasks, and indicators differed for different regions due to different circumstances. In general, it was extremely difficult for underdeveloped areas to catch up by following the same strategy. Eastern Fujian, where Xi Jinping worked, was a poverty-stricken area. His two years there represented the last two for the country to shake off the final remnants of poverty. Could that part of the country grow as fast as other part of China? Ultimately, they succeeded: In 1990, eastern Fujian scored above the poverty threshold.

How did they do it?


The answers can be found in a book. "The title is *Up and Out of Poverty*," Xi illustrated. "Its significance is first and foremost to uproot outdated 'poverty mentality' and 'poverty thinking.' We must eradicate the 'poverty' that exists in our minds before we can eradicate it in regions we govern. We must enrich our minds before we can help the people and nation out of poverty and onto the road to prosperity."

"But I advocate action," he stressed. "Practice trumps knowledge because practice is based on action. Instead of fearing saying the wrong thing, we should worry about suffering from 'poverty mentality' that prevents us from envisioning bolder ways to implement reform and opening up. Instead of fearing doing the wrong thing, we should worry about eliminating the bankrupt mindsets that block us from taking stronger action to conduct reform and opening up."

Under his leadership, eastern Fujian caught up with other parts of the country and leapt out of poverty. Doing so required all residents to free their minds, seek truth from facts and act—reform and open up.

In the book, Xi Jinping revealed his strategic thinking. Ultimately, only development will make any difference, which became the key driver of his work in eastern Fujian to help it catch up with other parts of the country and reach the second-step goal set by Deng Xiaoping. With China in the primary stage of socialism, its core problem is inadequately meeting the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people. Therefore, it imperative to keep economic development as the country's central task.

Xiang Nan, first secretary of the Fujian CPC Provincial Committee, penned the foreword for *Up and Out of Poverty*. "The strongest feature of Xi Jinping's writing from this period is that it never strays from the focus of economic development," Xiang observed. In the book, Xi clearly expressed that the only way to prosper and strengthen a nation is to encourage all people to take economic construction as the top goal.

After reading it, I was sure that *Up and Out of Poverty* was an important work because it continues to serve as a practical and far-reaching guide. 

The author served as vice president of the Central Party School.



Remember You by Ilona Kosobuko (Belarus), oil and graphite on canvas, 120cmx130cm, 2016

Cultural Silk Road

Text by Yi Mei

In his work *The Silence*, Ecuadorian artist Nicolas Herrera depicts an African woman with her eyes covered. The beautiful and powerful painting has been a tremendous draw at a recent show, inspiring visitors to question female rights in a patriarchal society.

The work is part of the 7th Beijing International Art Biennale, which features 601 works by 567 artists from 102 countries, of which 411 pieces are by foreign artists and 190 by Chinese artists, on display at the National Museum of China. Works were selected from over 10,000 submissions by 4,000 artists from 120 countries. Alongside the theme exhibition are six special exhibitions. Four highlight the contemporary art of the countries of Georgia, Greece, Indonesia and Mongolia, alongside “Tour of Art from Tintoretto to Lilanga” and “Special

Exhibition of Donated Art from Previous Beijing Biennales.”

The theme of the 7th Beijing Biennale is “The Silk Road and World Civilizations.” In 1877, German geographer Ferdinand von Richthofen first coined the term “silk road” in reference to the ancient line of communication connecting the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa. During the Han (206B.C.—220A.D.) and Tang (618—907) dynasties, bustling trade along the Silk Road enabled China’s silk, porcelain and paper to reach the world and introduced foreign products and concepts such as Buddhism and spices into China. The Silk Road was a route not only for trade but also cultural exchange, facilitating communication and mutual learning between world civilizations.

As it has done for many years, the 7th Beijing Biennale still features paintings

and sculptures complemented by some new media forms like installations and video. Focusing on the theme, these works employ diverse forms of artistic expression, from the figurative to the abstract, from realist to surrealist. Though most works depict cultural relics of the ancient Silk Road, customs of different countries and symbolic images, they do not mourn for days of yore nor to explain political terms. Rather, they emphasize the expression of the Silk Road spirit—mutual learning and integration among world civilizations instead of confrontation and conflict.

During the exhibition, the two curators, Ding Ning, professor at the School of Arts of Peking University and Miguel Angel, vice president and editor of Studio International (world’s longest running art magazine, founded in 1893), granted exclusive interviews to *China Pictorial*.



Silk Road from China to Egypt 2 by Mohamed Zakaria Soltan (Egypt), integrated photography, 140cmx140cm, 2016

China Pictorial: As a curator, what is your main responsibility?

Ding Ning: The Beijing Biennale has a curatorial team. I am one of the curators for the international group. I need to guarantee that the exhibition is international. I am glad to see artists from more than a hundred countries join the event. Also, I

need to maintain the diversity of the works. A good exhibition, especially such a large-scale one like the Beijing Biennale, should include a rich variety of arts. Facing tens of thousands of submissions, curators must have sharp eyes to spot the outstanding ones. Actually, it was really difficult for curators to decide on the most exceptional work because of so many submissions.

And sometimes, we may appear biased due to the restrictions of cultural background. Fortunately, we had a team and could brainstorm, helping the exhibition be more inclusive. I think this is an advantage of the Beijing Biennale: Its diversity and quality are not to be compromised due to the curator's personal knowledge and experience.

Additionally, we tried to balance the



theme exhibition and the special exhibitions, which are the two parts of each Beijing Biennale. Even though the theme exhibition is big, it is still not big enough to accommodate more than one work from each artist, which is a pity. So we set up special exhibitions, which make up for that limitation to some extent. Some special exhibitions are tremendously significant and

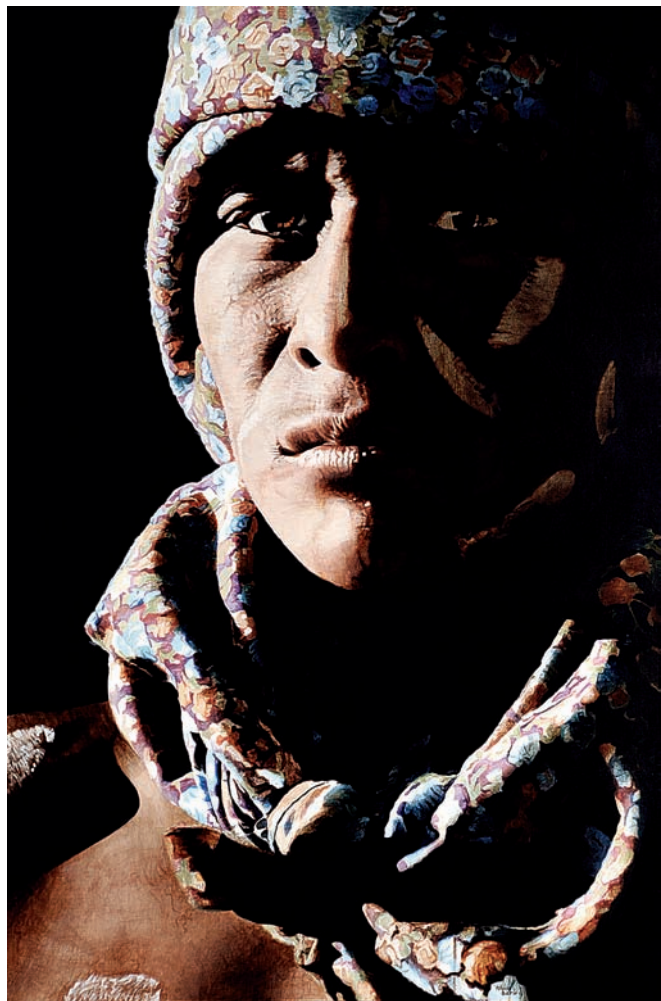
enable spectators to see different arts.

Miguel Angel: As a curator, I looked for art that showcased the theme of the Biennale as well as artists who created very distinct and powerful work. I submitted a list of recommended artists to the organizing committee. I am pleased that five of them were included in the Biennale. All the artists I chose have unique view of their

culture. Their works are all culture-based. But my criteria went beyond that. I think this exhibition is a good chance to display what is happening in every culture all over the world. So I looked for works that said something about humanity and something about the commonality between all people. Just because we look different does not mean we don't share the same feelings.



Fable of the Blind Painter by Dario Ortiz (Colombia), oil on canvas, 170cmx270cm, 2016



Flowers in the Desert by Patricia Guzman (Mexico), acrylic on canvas, 150cmx100cm, 2012

CP: How do you interpret the theme “Silk Road and World Civilization?”

Ding: The theme reflects the host nation’s sense of responsibility for the world. As is well-known, China has proposed the “Belt and Road Initiative.” So the theme “Silk Road and World Civilizations” alludes to ancient China’s contributions as well as the country’s future role in the world. The theme can foster an awareness of mutual learning and cultural exchange. Some think it is political. But I think every exhibition is political to some extent. Even without any political factors, an exhibition that purposely avoids politics is making a political statement. I intend to point out that the theme “Silk Road

and World Civilizations” can encompass endless topics and that it was a big challenge for artists to display the theme distinctively.

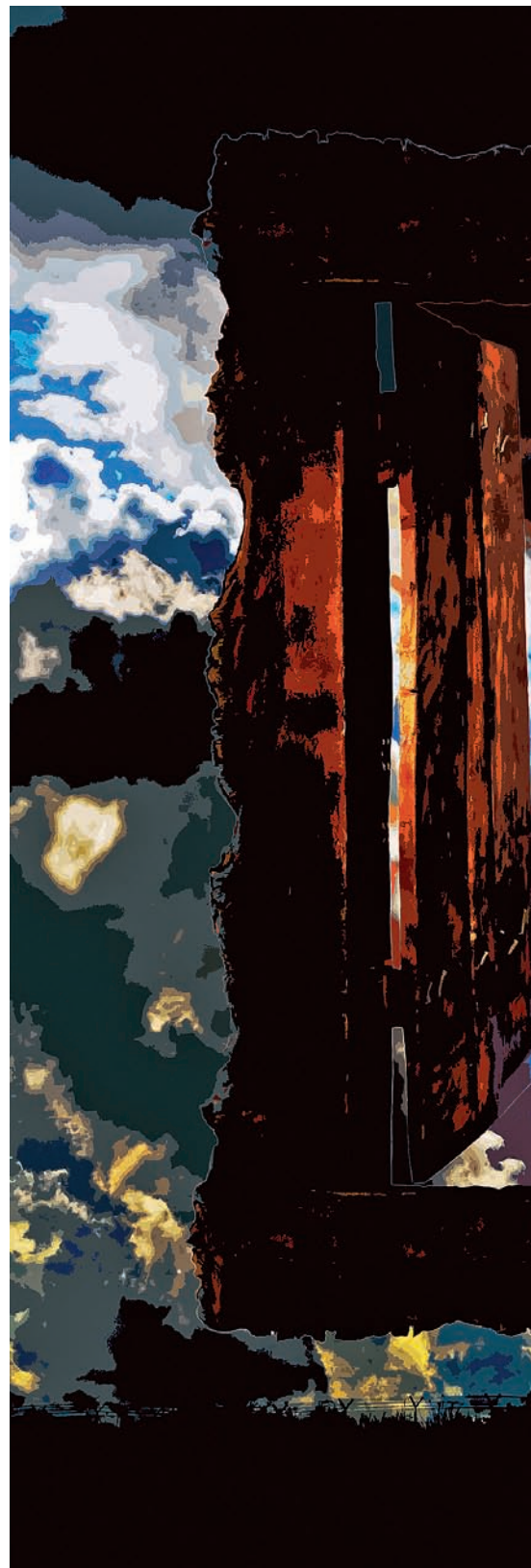
Angel: My understanding is that the theme encompasses every culture because the Silk Road was not only a trade route but also a cultural exchange route, where people met people from different cultures. To me, the Silk Road is what the internet is today. The Silk Road opened a door to the world for China as well as a door to the East for the West. Its function was very similar to what the internet does, allowing people from different cultures to communicate. It was like the first internet. So, the theme is about exchange of ideas, about culture and about humanity.



Utopia by Maryam Najd Javadipour (Belgium), oil on canvas, 180cmx120cm, 2016



Piazza San Marco, Venice by Fang Xi-ang (China), ink and color on paper, 248cmx124cm, 2013



Storm Approaching by Vladimir Vitkov (Israel), digital art on cardboard, 66cmx50cm, 2015




Fig Trees by George Gavriel (Cyprus), oil on canvas, 150cmx200cm, 2016

CP: *What's the highlight of the 7th Beijing Biennale?*

Ding: This time around, the number of participating countries has topped one hundred. Such a large-scale exhibition could be called a blockbuster. But we know quantity does not guarantee quality. To ensure quality, we only chose pieces with high artistry focusing on the exhibition's theme. And thanks to the increasing number of participating nations, the audience can admire less familiar works like those by female artists from the Middle East, artists from Eastern and Northern Europe as well as young artists from Western Asia and Africa.

Angel: I haven't seen all the works. So I can only comment on the artists I recom-

mended. Mexican artist Patricia Guzman's *Flowers in the Desert* depicts an elderly woman with a heavy lines and a lot of history to be seen in her. The work shows a fantastic use of color, light and shade resulting in emotion and power. Indian artist Shad Fatima's *Untitled* is an abstract work that appears like a landscape of falling buildings. It's very captivating. Even though everything is destroyed, the lights produced within create forms and shapes like you've never seen before. Maryam Najd from Belgium submitted a work titled *Utopia*, inspired by people moving from Syria to Europe. Many European people did not accept and welcome them. In the work, a man is standing on a rock with a sort of flag. It is very thought provoking. 

Age of Empires: Chinese Art of the Qin and Han Dynasties

The Qin (221 B.C.-206 B.C.) and Han (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) dynasties were the first two powerful unified empires in Chinese history. This exhibition features 170 sets (300 individual items) of key historical and cultural relics from a number of museums and archaeological institutions across China, covering major archaeological finds related to the Qin and Han dynasties since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Terracotta horses and warriors make a grand entrance at the "Prelude" section, before any of the exhibition's five parts. The first section demonstrates the two empires' national management and administration through cultural relics such as construction materials and coins. The second displays a stunning collection of relics including various articles of daily use, to showcase the extravagant life of the upper class. The third section exhibits the funeral culture of the Han Dynasty, and the fourth section presents the cultural and scientific achievements during the Qin and Han dynasties, including technologies on papermaking and shipbuilding as well as astronomical relics. The fifth section concludes the exhibition with the exchange between the empires and foreign countries after the opening of the ancient Silk Road.

September 17 – November 31, 2017
National Museum of China, Beijing



A gilded bronze pot with dragon design made in Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.—A.D. 8), unearthed in 1968.

A gilt bronze receptacle used for storing seashells (then currency) in Western Han Dynasty, unearthed in 1956.



A terracotta warrior from the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), unearthed in 1977.



A gilt bronze human-shaped lamp from the Western Han Dynasty, unearthed in 1968.





The manuscript of a Liu Sola musical score.

Nameless but Wonderful: The Changing Focus of Sola's Music

In the 1990s, Chinese musician Liu Sola began to take inspiration from paintings. She tried to materialize abstract ideas and translate her music into specific graphics to form her unique music scores. This exhibition displays Liu's musical manuscripts and original musical copies, which have never been shown to the public before. Videos of her creative process are another part of the exhibition, providing audience a singular visual experience to help understand Liu's creative process and methods.

Liu Sola is a renowned contemporary Chinese musician and writer. Her fictions are deemed representative of China's avant-garde novels in the new era.

September 9 – October 14, 2017

Tokyo Gallery+Beijing Tokyo Art Projects, Beijing

Muse: Zhang Hai'er

Since we became devoted to professional photography in the mid-1980s, renowned Chinese photographer Zhang Hai'er has been exploring it with a highly personal approach, showcasing his unique world view with his lens.

"Muse," the title of Zhang's solo exhibition, refers as much to a place as to a single person or a series of individuals: It could be Guangzhou or Paris, Zhang's wife or the myriad female personalities upon which Zhang has turned his camera since the mid-1980s. The images selected for the exhibition represent the photographer's achievements in portrait work: The male photographer sublimely captures the femininity and natural charm of females.

Zhang was born in Guangzhou in 1957. In 1988, he participated in Arles Photography Festival. He held solo exhibitions in several countries including Germany, France and Switzerland. From 1995 to 2016, he served as the chief photographer of *New Weekly*, a prestigious Chinese magazine on lifestyle and current affairs.

September 7 – October 29, 2017

Shanghai Center of Photography, Shanghai



Hu Yuanli by the window, shot in Guangzhou in 1987.



The Chinese Ink and Wash animation *New Classics of Mountains and Seas I* was created by Qiu Anxiong in 2002.

Qiu Anxiong—The Mirage of Mountains and Seas + Yves Netzhammer—Refurnishing Thoughts

Through dialogue between Chinese ink-and-wash animation and Western new media animation, this exhibition reveals the difficult situations in terms of humanity and modern civilization in both the East and the West today. It displays the ink-and-wash animated trilogy, *New Classics of Mountains and Seas*, created by contemporary Chinese artist Qiu Anxiong over a period of 10 years. The exhibition also features Swiss artist Yves Netzhammer's multimedia works, which efficiently combine seven animated short films, 30-plus iron installations and 10-plus wall paintings together.

Born in Sichuan Province in 1972, Qiu graduated from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute and now lives in Shanghai. His works are displayed by a number of renowned art galleries both at home and abroad including Oxford University Museum. Yves Netzhammer, born in 1970, studied at Zurich University of the Arts. He now lives in Zurich, Switzerland. Netzhammer had participated in a number of exhibitions in China including the Third Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale.

August 13 – October 7, 2017

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半个多世纪，三代人耕耘。

沙地变林海，荒原成绿洲。

寒来暑往，

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可绕地球赤道二圈。

Saihanba is a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It was once a barren land but is now home to 75,000 hectares of forest, thanks to the labor of generations of forestry workers in the past 55 years. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.