

Ministerial Officials Crucial to State Governance



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivers a speech at the opening session of a workshop for provincial and ministerial officials on the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee in Beijing on February 13 (XINHUA)

On February 13, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, told leading officials to practice strict self-discipline and eliminate special privileges.

Xi made the remarks when addressing the opening session of a workshop on the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. The workshop at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee was attended by senior provincial and ministerial officials.

The opening session was presided over by Premier Li Keqiang. Other leaders including Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli were also present.

Xi said implementing the decisions of the plenum would have far-reaching and profound significance for both the Party and socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Xi urged leading cadres to “build a fence” against special privileges to prevent themselves and those around them from abusing power.

Leading officials should use their power “impartially, cautiously and legally,” Xi said in his speech.

“Leading officials should strengthen their political capability, firm their political ideals, uphold political direction, be steadfast

in their stance and strictly observe political rules,” Xi said, stressing they should enrich their political experience and match their political capability with the positions they were holding.

Xi said upholding the authority of the CPC Central Committee with strict observance of orders and rules was related to the future and fate of the Party and the nation as well as the fundamental interests of all people across the nation.

Xi called on all Party members to become more aware of the need to uphold political integrity, keep in mind the bigger picture, follow the CPC as the core of the Chinese leadership, and act consistently with CPC Central Committee policy.

Such workshops date back to late last century and are now part of the CPC routine. In 1999, a financial seminar at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee was attended by provincial and ministerial officials.

Since then, workshops on major strategic plans have been held almost every year, with topics covering deepening reform, promoting rule of law and implementing decisions of plenary sessions of the CPC Central Committee.

This year’s workshop focused on and brought up requirements for “key minorities,” which was first

raised at a workshop in February 2015, referring to the small group of officials at provincial and ministerial level who have both big power and responsibilities.

The term has since been regularly brought up. In January, senior CPC leader Liu Yunshan asked organization departments to practice strict intra-Party political life and strengthen intra-Party supervision, focus on “key minorities” and promote comprehensive and strict governance of the Party.

According to Xin Ming, a professor with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, this group of officials is crucial to governing the country, as many are members of, or alternate members of the CPC Central Committee.

Provincial and ministerial officials act as connectors, carrying out the policies of higher authorities and making decisions for lower ones, said Guo Xiangong, Director of the Party Building Division of the Party School of the CPC Henan Provincial Committee.

For the central authorities, these officials follow their policies and guidelines, while to city, county and township-level ones, they are the decision makers, he said.

Their understanding of the policies and guidelines of the central authorities directly decides

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

No.1 Central Document Stresses Reform in Agricultural Sector
PAGE 2

Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei undergo comprehensive integration
PAGE 3

The Man Who Changed a Village
A primary-level Party chief leads his fellow villagers out of poverty
PAGE 4

Xi Jinping: Selected Speeches at the G20 Hangzhou Summit
PAGE 4

Getting to know China through keywords
PAGE 4

Major Events in February
PAGE 4

the implementation and effect of policies, he added.

Cai Songtao, Secretary of the CPC Lankao County Committee, said that such workshop has benefited Lankao, a county in central China’s Henan Province, in many ways.

“As a local official, I sometimes do not grasp the essence of central instructions. Provincial officials deliver instructions more accurately after a workshop, and we can follow them more easily,” said Cai.

At a similar workshop last year, Xi stressed the new concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, to promote economic and social development during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20) and achieve the country’s goal of becoming a moderately prosperous society in an all-around way.

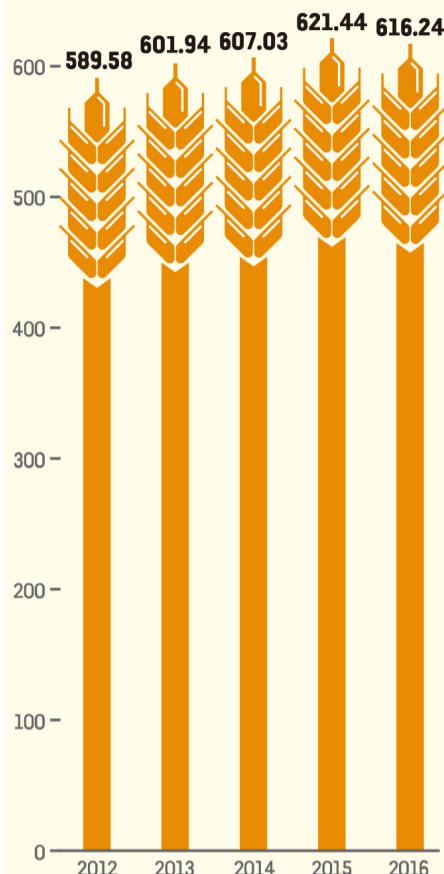
Based on guidelines made by provincial authorities after last year’s workshop, Lankao County has tackled poverty through industrial development, urbanization and public services, and fulfilled various tasks as scheduled, Cai added.

No.1 Central Document Stresses Reform in Agricultural Sector



Farmers harvest chrysanthemum flowers in Zhoujia Village of Longsheng Multinational Autonomous County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, November 2, 2016 (XINHUA)

China's Grain Output (mln tons)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics, designed by Pamela Tobey)

The "No. 1 central document" is the name traditionally given to the first policy statement of the year released by the central authorities and is seen as an indicator of policy priorities.

This is the 14th year in a row that the "No. 1 central document" has been devoted to agriculture, farmers and rural areas.

million tons, down by about 5.2 million tons or 0.84 percent year on year.

Better farm products

The gist of supply-side reform in China's agricultural sector is to increase the output of high-quality products based on green and innovative production.

The country will maintain its zero increase in the usage of pesticides and fertilizers and vigorously control water usage in the sector.

For better farm produce, a group of innovation centers and alliances will be created, and outstanding research will be enhanced.

The reform also aims to refine the quality supervision and standard system for farm produce, control soil pollution and encourage agricultural businesses to gain international certifications.

China will promote the export of competitive farm produce, cross-border operation of agricultural enterprises and the establishment of global leaders in the sector.

Tangible benefits

"The success of agricultural supply-side reform depends on increase in farmers' income as well as more quality farm products," said Tang Renjian, Deputy Director of the Central Rural Work Leading Group.

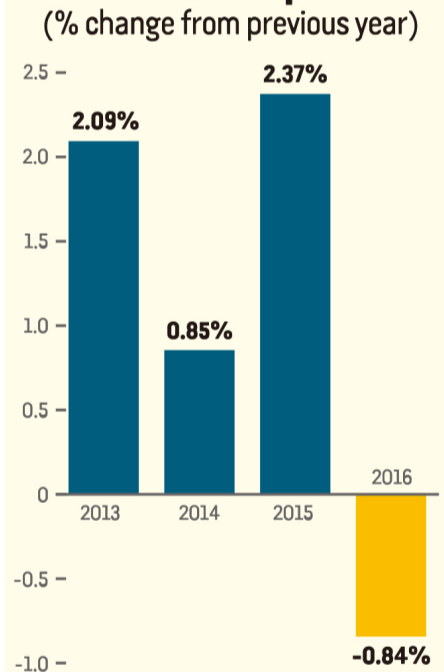
Continuous income increase, like ensuring food security, is a must during the reform, he said.

China will deepen reform on pricing mechanism for major farm products to make sure farmers sell their harvest at reasonable prices. It will ensure moderate growth in fiscal spending in rural areas and the increase in loans issued for farmers and the development of agriculture and the countryside.

The policy document called for the implementation of a rural land reform which separates farmland ownership rights, contract rights, and operating rights, allowing farmers to earn more by transferring their land rights to individuals or conglomerates.

The per capita income of urban households was 2.72 times that of rural households in

Growth of China's Grain Output (% change from previous year)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics, designed by Pamela Tobey)

China will deepen supply-side structural reform in agriculture to develop the sector, according to a policy document released on January 29.

The major problems facing China's agricultural sector are structural ones, mainly on the supply side, according to the document, dubbed "No. 1 central document" in China, by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council.

The document calls for improving structures in the industry, promoting green production, extending the sector's industrial and value chain, boosting innovation, consolidating shared rural development and enhancing rural reforms.

National grain security must be guaranteed when carrying forward supply-side structural reform for the sector, according to the document.

It also said that supply-side structural reform in the agricultural sector would be a long and challenging process, demanding the relationship between government and market be well handled and in the interests of all stakeholders.

China started structural reforms in its agricultural sector a few years ago. Partly due to structural adjustment, China's grain output dropped slightly in 2016, ending a 12-year rising streak. The yield stood at about 616.24

2016, down from 2.73 times in the previous year, as the government pursued the integrated development of urban and rural areas, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Brain gain

China will encourage migrant workers to return to rural areas and start businesses, while stepping up training for professional farmers, including professional agricultural managers.

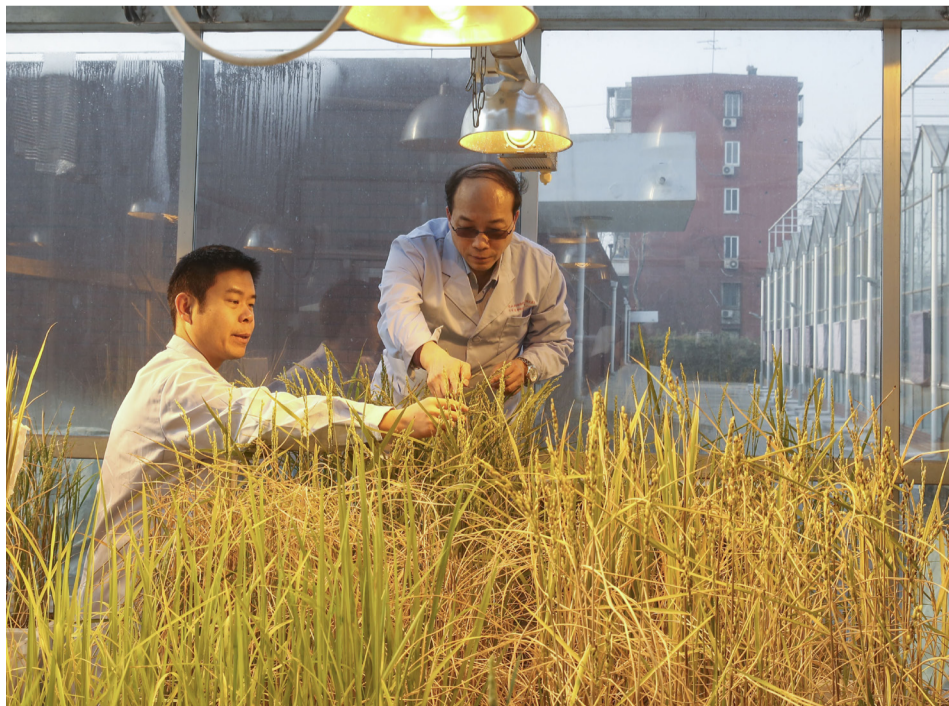
Authorities will offer favorable taxation policies for business start-ups in rural areas in addition to support with financing, land use and social insurance.

Local governments are encouraged to start business parks and incubators for the returnees.

The nation will also encourage college graduates, entrepreneurs and returned students from overseas to start businesses and bring technological and managerial expertise to rural areas.

Institutions of higher learning will open more programs and courses on rural planning and rural house design.

"New industries and new types of businesses will become engines of rural development and increase the income of farmers," Tang said, adding that farming will become an enviable profession.



Scientists check the effects of a newly developed pesticide in a greenhouse in the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing on January 25 (XINHUA)

Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei undergo comprehensive integration

By Deng Yaqing

Three years have elapsed since the synergetic development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (Jing-Jin-Ji) region was first put forward as a major national strategy by Chinese President Xi Jinping in February 2014. Xi called for the coordination and integration of the economic zone surrounding Beijing. Now, a fledging Capital Economic Circle is taking shape.

The planned area encompasses Beijing, Tianjin and part of Hebei Province, a cluster inhabited by over 100 million people—three times as many as that of the Tokyo megalopolis—and covering a total area of over 200,000 square km.

In the past three years, an array of breakthroughs have been made in establishing the economic circle, which represents an answer to a number of urban diseases currently afflicting Beijing, such as traffic jams and air pollution.

In 2016 alone, investment in the synergetic development of the Jing-Jin-Ji region exceeded 340 billion yuan (\$49.58 billion), with Beijing building its sub-center, Tianjin actively promoting transportation interconnection, and Hebei finishing a number of tasks in areas related to integration.

As an important backup to the development of Jing-Jin-Ji, an integrated transportation grid encompassing expressways, railways and public transportation is gradually forming. It is expected that all regional dead-end highways will be completely interlinked by the end of this year, including 12 highways such as Beijing-Taipei, Beijing-Kunming, Beijing-Hong Kong-Macao, and ring roads in the capital area will be connected with the overall transportation grid.

Besides this, a one-card, integrated public transportation system has so far covered 11 cities. By the end of the year it is expected that people will be able to use a single card for bus and subway travel across the whole Jing-Jin-Ji region.

In November 2016, the National Development and Reform Commission promulgated a plan to establish an intercity railway network in the Jing-Jin-Ji region that aims to shorten the travel time between surrounding small towns and satellite cities and the capital itself to less than an hour by train. With extended sections of the Tianjin-Baoding and Beijing-Tianjin railways now complete, it takes merely an hour to go from Tianjin to Baoding and from Beijing to the Tianjin Binhai New Area, instead of the previous three hours.

“Next, the three involved parties will fix their attention on lowering public transportation costs to encourage traffic and business flow,” said Tianjin Mayor Wang Dongfeng. This suggests that Beijing and Tianjin authorities may consider canceling highway tolls and introducing a high-speed railway monthly ticket system.

The Jing-Jin-Ji region has simultaneously witnessed the formation of a complementary industrial pattern. In the past three years, a total of 1,341 highly polluting manufacturing enterprises have been shut down in Beijing, and roughly 350 commodity transaction markets have been adjusted or moved out of the capital.

Wang Haichen, Executive Deputy Director of Beijing’s Leading Group for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Integrated Development, noted that Beijing is not shaking off its burdens through the integration, but eyes long-term development for the Jing-Jin-Ji region.

Over the past three years, Beijing has shut down 1,341 companies that consumed large amounts of energy and water and produced high levels of pollution, instead of relocating these so-called low-end companies to Tianjin and Hebei. Beijing intends to transfer part of its high-end manufacturing capacity, which lacks a comparative edge in the capital, to Tianjin and Hebei,” said Wang Haichen.

According to Wang Haichen, in doing so, Beijing is also exporting cutting-edge technologies to nearby cities. In 2016, the value of technology exports from Beijing to Tianjin and Hebei stood at 15.4 billion



Chaobaihe Bridge, which will connect Beijing's Tongzhou District and Hebei's Yanjiao County, under construction on November 27, 2016 (XINHUA)

yuan (\$2.25 billion), up 38.7 percent year on year; paid-in investment made by Beijing-based enterprises in Tianjin and Hebei grew 26 percent and 100 percent, respectively; Hebei introduced 4,100 projects from Beijing and Tianjin, with total investment amounting to 382.5 billion yuan (\$55.78 billion), according to data from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform.

“The manufacturing industries in Beijing, such as the mobile phone and automobile sectors, are relatively lighter and more advanced compared to those of neighboring areas. Therefore, the vitality of Beijing’s manufacturing can radiate to Hebei and transfer more jobs to the province,” said Zheng Xinye, Deputy Dean of the School of Economics at Renmin University of China. He noted that the high-value-added and energy-efficient manufacturing sectors that Beijing transfers to Hebei can help the province optimize its industrial structure.

Jointly tackling air pollution is another major task facing Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei.

In 2015, Tianjin reached agreements with both Cangzhou and Tangshan in Hebei in jointly preventing and controlling air pollution. More specifically, in 2015 and 2016, the governments spent 400 million yuan (\$58.3 million) each year on improving coal-burning facilities and coal-fired stoves.

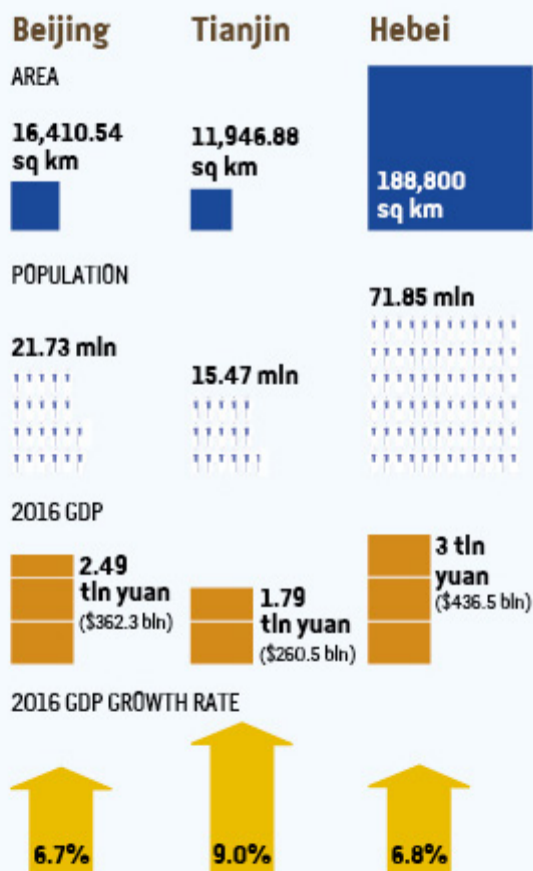
Meanwhile, progress has been made in promoting the replacement of coal with electricity and natural gas, and the use of coal-fired stoves has been completely eliminated in the main urban zones of Beijing, Tianjin and Baoding and Langfang in Hebei. By 2016, the average concentration of airborne particulates with a diameter of up to 2.5 micrometers in Jing-Jin-Ji had declined by 33 percent compared to the 2013 level, according to data from the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

“The prevention and control of air pollution must be carried out by the three together. Each one dealing with its own pollution alone is inefficient,” Zheng said.

People in rural parts of Hebei as well as the suburbs of Beijing and Tianjin still burn as much as 40 million tons of coal every year for heating.

“Only when the three parties jointly promote the use of clean energy and reduce the emissions from scattered coal burning can the air quality be significantly improved,” said Chen Guoying, Director of the Hebei Provincial Bureau of Environmental Protection.

A Look at Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei



(Sources: Government websites of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei; designed by Pamela Tobey)

The Man Who Changed a Village

A primary-level Party chief leads his fellow villagers out of poverty

By Jiao Yuanyuan



Pei Chunliang, Secretary of the Peizhai Community General Branch of the Communist Party of China (QIN BIN)

A brightly lit, two-story shop on the business street of Peizhai Community in central China's Henan Province is lined with racks full of neatly arranged goods. The first floor features products for mothers and children while the second floor boasts a swimming pool for babies. The shop is owned by Pei Longhui, who returned to the village after working in south China.

"Now I can make at least 150,000 yuan (\$21,757) a year, which is several times what I made while working on ships in southern China," Pei said.

There are more than 600 such shops on the street. The area, once a stretch of rural wasteland, is now full of tall buildings. There are villas, a primary school, a basketball court, a plaza, and other amenities that one can find in cities.

Peizhai has undergone tremendous change in recent years, thanks to one man--Pei Chunliang, Secretary of the Peizhai Community General Branch of the Communist Party of China.

A self-made man

Pei Chunliang had to drop out of school at the age of 13 because of poverty. After working several jobs, he decided to learn how to cut hair at a barber's shop to make a living.

But he did not stop there. After learning that some out-of-town merchants who had come to the village to buy walnuts and hawthorns could not find a place to eat, he rented a house, opened a restaurant, and started selling stewed noodles. His noodles sold well and he invested his saving in a bigger restaurant, hiring more than 20 people. His life finally began improving.

Pei Chunliang always kept an eye out for business opportunities. He would carry a pen and a notebook with him everywhere he went, jotting down all the useful things he saw, even advertisements stuck on electric posts. In this way, he found many business opportunities unnoticed by others.

From the customers eating at his restaurant, he heard that selling marble in Beijing and Shanghai was a lucrative business. That inspired the ambitious Pei Chunliang, and leaving the restaurant under his fiancée's care, he went to Beijing to sell marble.

In Beijing, Pei Chunliang zipped around the city on a bike day after day to peddle marble. He made a fortune, amassing as much as 90,000 yuan (\$12,980) from one order.

After returning to his hometown from Beijing, he partnered with his friends to buy mines and began trading. His businesses grew bigger and bigger. He became a successful entrepreneur, whose businesses included hotels, casting services, mining and cement production.

Repaying the village

In 2005, the villagers of Peizhai, led by their former leader, came to see Pei Chunliang, urging him to return to the village and be its new chief. Mindful of the favors he owed them, he agreed.

On returning to the mountain village as its new leader, Pei Chunliang put it onto a fast growth track. He invested nearly 90 million yuan (\$12.98 million) out of his own pocket to build villas, farmland ponds and a reservoir, improving villagers' lives and addressing the acute drinking water shortage the village had suffered for generations.

Guided by Pei Chunliang, villagers built greenhouses, grew organic vegetables, and engaged in other forms of high-efficiency agriculture. A commercial street was developed, providing a vending platform for business owners. This spurred the development of the service industry.

In 2016, Pei Chunliang invested 80 million yuan (\$11.6 million) in residential buildings to accommodate people who were being relocated to Peizhai from two villages 60 km away.

Today, Peizhai has shaken off poverty. Local residents' per-capita annual income increased from just 1,000 yuan (\$144) in 2005 to \$11,000 yuan (\$1,588) in 2015. Peizhai has been enriched by cultural, sport and entertainment facilities so that villagers can enjoy urban amenities. Its official name has been changed to Peizhai Community.



Xi Jinping: Selected Speeches at the G20 Hangzhou Summit

The 11th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) was held in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, in September 2016. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a series of important speeches at the summit to elaborate on China's policies and stances regarding global governance in a bid to provide Chinese wisdom and solutions to global economic recovery and development, and map out a blueprint for global economic growth. The speeches have won high acclaim both at home and abroad.

Xi Jinping: Selected Speeches at the G20 Hangzhou Summit in both English and Chinese consists of 17 important speeches Xi made during the G20 Summit, including his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the G20 Business Summit or B20, his speeches at the opening and closing ceremonies of the G20 and some other speeches he gave at the summit.

Getting to Know **CHINA** through **KEYWORDS**

The Chinese Dream

Achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has been the greatest dream of the Chinese people since modern times. Its basic idea is to make the country prosperous and strong, rejuvenate the nation, and enable the people to lead a happy life. [More>>](#)

The Two Centenary Goals

The 18th National Congress of the CPC set forth a master blueprint for building a comprehensively moderate prosperous society and accelerating socialist modernization and it issued a call for achieving the Two Centenary Goals. [More>>](#)

Major Events in February

Feb. 9: [Xi sends condolences to Chilean president over deadly forest fires](#)

Keywords: Chile, China, forest fire

President Xi Jinping has offered condolences to Chilean President Michelle Bachelet over deadly forest fires in the South American country.

Feb. 22: [China, Italy pledge stronger ties](#)

Keywords: China, Italy, bilateral ties, Belt and Road

President Xi Jinping and his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella held talks February 22, pledging to enhance bilateral ties.

Feb. 24: [Xi stresses preparation for Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics](#)

Keywords: Beijing, 2022 Winter Olympic Games

President Xi Jinping has stressed that the city planning and construction in Beijing, and preparation for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, are two important missions for the city in the present and near future.

Feb. 28: [Xi stresses stability, progress in China's economic work](#)

Keywords: seeking progress, maintaining stability, supply-side structural reform

China will stick to the basic tone of "seeking progress while maintaining stability" in this year's economic work to ensure stable and healthy development, Chinese President Xi Jinping said.

Feb. 7: [China to complete drawing ecological "red line" by 2020](#)

Keywords: ecology, red line, environmental protection

The central authorities issued guidelines on an ecological "red line" that will declare certain regions under mandatory and rigorous protection.

Feb. 20: [China to improve government service in townships](#)

Keywords: public service, education, training, public health, culture, infrastructure

The central authorities have issued a document calling for improved public services at the township level.