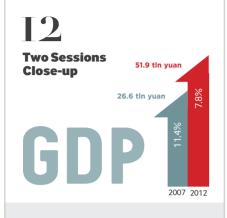




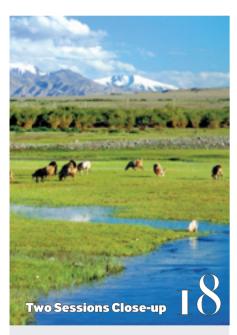
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Weighing In: The Work Report

Assessing government performance



Toward a Beautiful Country Political advisors airing their views

Cover Photo: Sky clears over Beijing's Great Hall of the People on March 4 for the First Session of the 12th NPC (WEI YAO)

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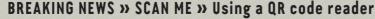
Follow Uncle Xi!

Chinese leaders gain popularity in cyberspace



Dunhuang Dance Classic show thrills New York





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Well-being At the Forefront

The first session of the 12th National People's Congress opened in Beijing on March 5. The annual event will see China's leadership change. Premier Wen Jiabao, on behalf of the State Council, delivered his government work report for the last time on that day.

Wen reviewed the achievements of the past decade, especially the last five years, setting out anticipated targets and macroeconomic policy for future economic and social development.

The 15,000-word report, the shortest of the past 10 years, emphasized the government's responsibility in improving people's well-being.

In addition, five key areas were highlighted in response to public concern. These included income growth, the environment, rights and interests of rural people, health care and government reform.

The report went on to admit government shortcomings alongside challenges

Wen suggested the new term of government continue to give priority to ensuring and improving people's well-being as well as advancing material and cultural living standards.

Current problems regarding the role of the government, corruption, pollution, unbalanced development between urban and rural areas as well as the income gap were also touched upon.

Similar to last year, PM 2.5 again made it onto the report. The document stated that economic growth should adapt to the endurance of natural resources and environment, and the government must make efforts to resolve environmental pollution and let people see hope by concrete actions.

Send an e-mail: contact@bjreview.com.cn

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

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CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DAY

Sun Danping (right), a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), attends an International Women's Day reception hosted by All-China Women's Federation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 6.

Around 1,200 people were present at the event, including ministers, academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, CPPCC National Committee members, deputies to the National People's Congress from Hong Kong and Macao, foreign ambassadors to China, and foreign experts working in the country.

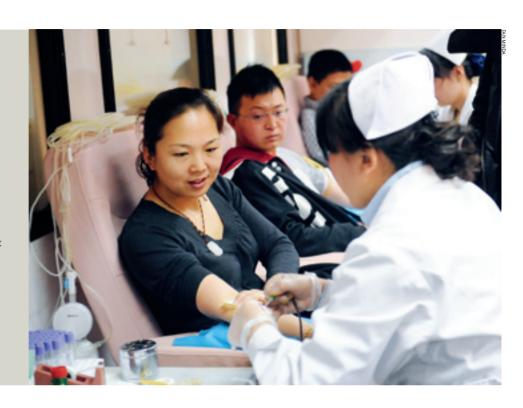


Role Model Citizen

A citizen donates blood in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on March 5, 2013 in an effort to follow the example of renowned altruist and national hero Lei Feng.

Lei Feng was a young Chinese soldier known for devoting almost all of his spare time and money to selflessly helping the needy. Lei died after being hit by a falling pole while helping a fellow soldier direct a truck on August 15, 1962.

A year later, late Chinese leader Chairman Mao Zedong called on the nation to follow Lei's example, and March 5 of every year is designated Lei Feng Day.



Urbanization Pace

China is likely to roll out a blueprint this year to guide the country's urbanization process to advance in an "orderly and healthy" way, a senior economic official said on March 6.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner, is coordinating related authorities to compile the blueprint, which is likely to be issued in the first half of this year, said Zhang Ping, head of the

NDRC, at a press conference.

Zhang said that China needs better planning to improve the quality of urbanization, particularly to address problems such as inadequate services provided to new urban dwellers from rural areas, backward infrastructure and imbalanced distribution of resources between megacities and small and medium-sized cities.

China's urbanization rate rose by 1.3 percentage points to 52.57 percent last year, according to

figures from the National Bureau of Statistics.

Social Security Fund

Central budget expenditures on China's social insurance and job security totaled 575.37 billion yuan (\$92.46 billion) in 2012, the Ministry of Finance said on March 6.

The Central Government also spent 204.82 billion yuan (\$32.91 billion) on medical treatment and an online statement.

billion) was allocated to local employment subsidies and for carrying out a job-creation program for hitech talent.

ponent of China's social insurance funds, hit 217 billion yuan (\$34.87



the ministry added.

system.

China registered an at-birth sex ratio of 117.7 boys for every 100 girls in 2012, marking the fourth year of decline, the People's Daily reported on March 5, citing figures from the National Population and Family Planning Commission.

ment insurance for state-owned

enterprise retirees, a major com-

billion) last year, the ministry said.

billion) of the central budget went

toward subsidies for other rural and

urban residents covered under the

country's social old-age insurance

expenses were reimbursed for hos-

pitalized residents that subscribed to

various types of medical insurance,

At least 70 percent of medical

Another 65.4 billion yuan (\$10.51

A normal ratio should stand at 103 to 107 boys for every 100 girls, considering the discrepancy in mortality rates between the two genders, according to the People's Daily.

public health initiatives, according to

Some 45.4 billion yuan (\$7.3

Expenditures on basic endow-





Exhibition staff arrange a booth before the three-day 2013 Beijing Wedding Expo kicked

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As temperatures rise, swans cluster on March 1 as they prepared to leave their winter habitat in Rongcheng, east China's Shandong Province, to return to north China

The decline is a reflection of China's successful efforts to curb an imbalance in the ratio, which reached a record high of 121.2 boys for every 100 girls in 2004, the commission said, adding that the imbalance remains problematic.

The figures for the previous three years were 119.45 in 2009, 117.94 in 2010 and 117.78 in 2011.

Private Orphanages

Currently 878 non-governmentaffiliated agencies are housing 9,394 orphans and abandoned babies across China, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on March 1.

Of the total, 583 are run by religious groups, with the rest operated by individuals or other organizations, according to statistics released by the ministry. Figures released earlier this year by the ministry indicate that China is home to about 615,000 orphans. Only 109,000 of these orphans live in governmentfunded agencies, with the remainder in the custody of relatives or private



orphanages.

The ministry is helping to include the orphans and abandoned babies in the country's institutional protection mechanisms and improve the facilities of private orphanages, Zhan said. It also sends professional nursing personnel to work in private orphanages and foster homes to help train staff.

Geographic Census

China is set to launch its first national census of geographic conditions between 2013 and 2015, according to a cabinet decision published on March 5.

A State Council circular said that the census will target natural and cultural elements on the Earth's surface within China's territory. Information will be collected on land features, vegetation, waters, deserts and bare areas, as well as transport grids, residential areas and facilities, the document said.

Preparations will be completed in the months before June, followed by a 24-month first phase process through June 2015, which will feature data collection and processing, field investigations and review.

In the second phase scheduled for July-December 2015, the tasks will be sorting, gathering and analysis of information, and forming a census report.

Food Poisoning

The Ministry of Health said on March 5 that 6,685 people suffered from food-borne illnesses in 2012, with

146 of the victims consequently dying, up 6.6 percent over the previous year.

Poisoning due to contact with toxic plants, animals and mushrooms resulted in the largest number of poisoning cases, as well as the greatest number of deaths, the ministry said.

Most poisoning cases and deaths occurred at home, the ministry said.

It has urged health departments at all levels to strengthen supervision and risk evaluations for foodborne illnesses while boosting their ability to cope with emergencies.

The ministry also called for intensified training regarding clinical treatment, epidemiology research and lab examinations.

Jumbo Jet

China's first jumbo jet, *C919*, is expected to make its maiden flight in 2014 as planned, its chief designer told the Xinhua News Agency on March 4.

The design of C919's airframe has been completed and the ground tests of the jet's major equipment will start in 2013, said Wu Guanghui, Vice General Manager of the Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China (COMAC), the aircraft's manufacturer.

The COMAC will complete a series of technical reviews and conduct over 40 wind tunnel tests in 2013, according to Wu.

Faster Network

A bus seat advertises availability of China Mobile's fourthgeneration (4G) mobile network access in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province.

China is expected to start licensing telecom operators to offer services on its 4G mobile phone network within 2013, Minister of Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei said on March 5. China Mobile, the country's largest mobile operator, employs time division long-term evolution technology, one of two international standards, for its 4G network. Its maximum Internet speed is up to 10 times faster than 3G.

The company started commercial trials of 4G services across Hangzhou and Wenzhou cities in Zhejiang in early February.



Family Farm To Lead Rural Economy

Staff spray herbicide on a wheat field at the Mingwen Family Farm in Tianchang, east China's Anhui Province.

Since the beginning of 2012, Tianchang has encouraged farmers to register as family farm owners. To date, the city has 80 registered family farms, an area of as much as 60,000 *mu* (40 million square meters).



Slower Expansion

Business activities in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors continued to expand in February, but at slower paces. Experts attributed the slowdown to the Spring Festival holiday (February 9-15), an occasion for family reunions when much of the country is off work.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector fell for a second month to

50.1 percent in February from 50.4 percent in January, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP).

The PMI stayed above 50 percent for the fifth consecutive month, indicating continued expansion, said the CFLP. A reading above 50 percent indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 percent indicates contraction.

The CFLP said China's industrial production is generally steady at

present and companies are relatively optimistic about their future economic prospects.

The PMI of the non-manufacturing sector was 54.5 percent in February, down 1.7 percentage points from January. The figure marked the first decline since October, said the CFLP.

Lawsuit Accepted

China's Sany Group Co. Ltd. said on March 2 that its core request in the lawsuit against U.S. President Barack Obama has been accepted.

Sany's U.S.-based subsidiary Ralls Corp. last year filed a complaint against Obama and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) for blocking its ownership of four wind farms in Oregon.

The core request, which maintains that the president's order deprived Ralls of its legal property without executing legal procedures, was accepted by the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. according to a preliminary ruling issued on February 22, said Wu Jialiang, CEO of Ralls Corp.

Wu said the Sany case provides a model for other Chinese investors to protect their legitimate rights via legal means when facing similar resistance from the CFIUS.

The case is subject to further trial after both sides submit more documentation to defend their claims.

Eyeing Commercial Space Launch

China plans to increase its share in the global commercial space launch market to 15 percent by 2020 from 3 percent at present.

The China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology will explore new business models of in-orbit delivery and space-and-ground integration, Liang Xiaohong, the academy's



AN EMERGING WHEEL EMPIRE

A worker at a production line of CITIC Dicastal Wheel Manufacturing Co. Ltd. The company, based in Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei Province, is a world leading manufacturer of aluminium wheels, with 10 billion yuan (\$1.61 billion) in sales revenue in 2012

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JOB HUNT

Job seekers examine recruitment information at a career fair held in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on March 5

deputy head, told Xinhua News Agency.

The academy is working to establish strategic alliances with other major launch service providers in the world, and set up strategic cooperation relations with major satellite manufacturers, he said. The academy is also striving to set up a management system in line with the market and international standards.

The cost advantage of Chinese rockets is not as prominent as before due to the rise of the Japanese and Indian aerospace industries and private aerospace enterprises from the United States and Europe, he said.

The China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology is the premier space launch vehicle manufacturer in China and one of the major launch service providers in the world.

Opposing Protectionism

China should be mindful of increased trade frictions with European



countries and the United States, Yi Xiaozhun, permanent representative of China to the WTO warned on March 4.

In 2012, the EU launched anti-dumping investigations into photovoltaic cells from China valued at over \$20 billion, affecting the entire Chinese photovoltaic cell industry.

Yi said that trade restriction measures adopted by European countries and the United States have evolved from simple anti-dumping measures to countervailing and anti-subsidies measures and even a combination of anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

Trade frictions have also expanded from low-end sectors

like textiles and shoes to high-end sectors such as the photovoltaic and telecommunications industries, he said.

Over half of the world's countervailing measures are directed against China, and 70 percent of U.S. countervailing measures are aimed at China, he said.

"We must resolutely oppose such trade protectionism abuse," Yi said. "Otherwise, China will see an increasingly worse export environment."

Downgrading Japan

On March 4, Dagong Global Credit Rating Co., a Beijing-based credit rating agency, downgraded the local currency sovereign credit rating of Japan from A+ to A, and its foreign currency rating from AA- to A+, with a negative outlook.

"The new economic policies of the Abe government will critically exacerbate the fiscal situation and cannot solve the entrenched problems constraining national wealth creation capability," Dagong said.

"The economy will remain in a prolonged slump, whereby the risk of the outbreak of a sovereign credit crisis rises." The key reasons cited for the downgrade are the recent recession, and the new economic policies of the Abe government that have failed to solve the structural problems restricting economic growth.

Numbers

2.24 tln yuan

China's fiscal revenue in January and February, up 7.2 percent year on year, much slower than the 13.1-percent growth during the same period last year

1.24 tln yuan

Combined net profits of China's commercial banks in 2012, up 18.9 percent

683.7 bln yuan

Increase of China's yuan funds outstanding for foreign exchange in domestic financial institutions in January, the highest level on record

Her Time To Shop

Discount price tags of women's shoes are on display in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Shopping malls in Ningxia hold an array of promotional activities for the March 8 International Women's Day to push for more spending, particularly among women.



18.05 tln yuan

Total output of major companies in the light industry in 2012, up 18.2 percent

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THIS WEEK WORLD



Venezuelans mourn the death of President Hugo Chavez in Caracas on March 5. Chavez, 58 lost his battle with cancer that day







Chinese dancers perform an ethnic dance during the annual Nice Carnival parade in Nice, southern France, on March 2



A woman writes on the East side Gallery, a 1.3-km-long remainder of the Berlin Wall, on February 28. A section of the wall is set to be removed for a housing construction project in Berlin







Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 Super Hornets conduct a flying demonstration during the Australian International Airshow in Melbourne on March 1









ANTARCTICA

"We can see that migrant workers' wages are growing, that's why they feel happier about life. However, the social participation situation is not getting any better."

Hu Ping, a professor of psychology at Renmin University of China, responding to a survey jointly conducted by the university and Job.gzh.com, which said more than half of polled migrant workers constantly have negative feelings, including loneliness, isolation, and worthlessness



"To sell products to developed countries, developing countries not only have to ensure high technology and good quality, but also face foreign customers' inherent preference for native products, which has posed the main obstacles for WeChat (voice messaging service developed by Tencent) in entering European and U.S. markets."

Zhang Xiaolong, Vice President of Tencent, speaking on February 28



"Without agents, writers' domestic copyright authorization is sometimes a mess, as their works are often published by several different groups, which is harmful in utilizing their talents to the best, not to speak of publishing works abroad".

Liu Feng, editor in chief of Yilin Press, speaking of China's urgent need for literary agents, who negotiate between writers and publishers



"I'm very honored to assume such an important role at a crucial time for Chinese football."

David Beckham, speaking in response to his being invited to become ambassador for the Chinese Super League as the nation's soccer recovers from scandals



FIRST SPOKESWOMAN



Fu Ying. China's Vice Foreign Minister, was named spokeswoman for the first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) on March 4.

Fu, the first spokeswoman in the history of the country's top legislature, chaired a 75-minute NPC news conference on that day.

Her debut as the NPC spokeswoman won favorable reactions from the public. Netizens' comments ranged from her stylish silver hair to her radiant smile and wise response to questions.

Fu, 60, joined the Foreign Ministry in 1978 and has been ambassador to the Philippines, Britain and Australia. In 2010, she was promoted to vice foreign minister.



YOUNG DEPUTY



Tie Feiyan, a road toll collector in southwest China's

Yunnan Province, is a deputy to the

ongoing NPC session.

Born in 1992, she was dubbed by netizens "the most beautiful girl born after 1990," because she rescued people from drowning in 2010 and has adopted an abandoned infant.

She presents proposals on left-behind and migrant children studying in cities at the session.

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MEDIA DIGEST THIS WEEK



Upgrading Urbanization Oriental Outlook

February 28

China's urbanization speed is picking up. According to a report released by the National Bureau of Statistics on August 17 last year, the country's urban population accounted for 51.27 percent of the overall total in 2011. From 2002 to 2011, China's urbanization rate increased 1.35 percentage points on average every year while the urban population rose 20.96 million on average annually.

Many local governments equal urbanization to expansion of city territory. Experts say that urbanization of the rural population falls far behind that of rural land. Although a large area of rural property has been included into city territories, many people haven't become urban citizens.

The report to the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China laid down the path of new urbanization with Chinese characteristics and called for coordination with agricultural modernization. The report also set the target of improving urbanization quality by 2020. Despite the new direction, traditional thinking patterns persist—since April 2012, a city expansion movement has been going on in many areas. Some local officials want to carry out construction projects to add to their achievements, which may help them gain promotions.

How new urbanization should be carried out will decide the fate of both cities and villages in this country.

Calling for Qualified Baby Formula

Beijing Evening News March 5

The law of Hong Kong stipulating that a person can carry only two cans, or 1.8 kg, of baby milk formula out of Hong Kong took effect on March 1. Violators will be fined 500,000 Hong Kong dollars and sentenced to two years in prison. In two days following the implementation of the law, 45 people were arrested for carrying excessive baby formula.

There are two reasons for people from the mainland carrying over baby formula to the mainland: First, imported formula is sold at a lower price in Hong Kong; second, mainland parents have trust in the quality of Hong Kong's imported baby formula. However, as Hong Kong has a limited amount of imported formula, increasing sales caused a price hike, which upset locals and prompted the government to take measures.

When asked about Hong Kong's new baby formula law at the first press conference of this year's National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the spokesman said that 99 percent of mainland baby formula is safe. The problem is that mainland people don't have enough confidence in mainland products.

However, for parents, they not only want to buy safe formula, but want everything their children use to be better than theirs. No parents want their children to have that 1 percent substandard baby formula.

Zhou Bohua, Minister of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, said livestock raisers, dairy companies and the government are all responsible for the quality of baby formula. These three parties should recognize their responsibilities and make all domestic formula reach the standard within the shortest time.

The government should also reduce and even exempt taxes for dairy companies. It should also give subsidies to cow raising and dairy companies that produce qualified baby formula. For the health of our

next generation, it's high time for fiscal subsidies to play a role.

Volunteer Spirit

Xi'an Evening News

March 5

Half a century since Lei Feng passed away, the motto "Learning from Comrade Lei Feng" seems a little bit old. However, Lei Feng still exerts an influence on the Chinese and inspires them in concepts of contribution and the value of life. Today, we still need the Lei Feng spirit.

In 2000, March 5 or the Lei Feng Day, was designated as Chinese Youth Volunteers' Service Day. The volunteer spirit, which means contribution, friendship, mutual help and progress, is a lofty ideal pursued by

the whole world, and coincides with the Lei Feng spirit.

On the one hand, this spirit needs to evolve with the development of society. In modern China, this spirit should have multiple forms of expression. On the other hand, the current moral dilemma, such as whether we should help a fallen old man or woman up, doesn't mean that Lei Feng spirit is disappearing.

According to statistics from the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, the number of registered Chinese youth volunteers had reached 33.92 million and 175,000 volunteer service stations had been built as of December 2011. Take Beijing for example, registered volunteers have exceeded 1.7 million, nearly 10 percent of the city's total population. The Lei Feng spirit may have changed forms of expression, but it is always around us.

Lenovo's Path of Internationalization

Lifeweek

February 25

Lenovo, a Chinese company, started its path of internationalization in 2004 when it purchased IBM's PC business. According to a report by Gartner, Lenovo takes up 15.7 percent of the global PC market, the highest in the world.

Lenovo purchased IBM's PC business for its technology and the global market behind. However, whether the IBM brand, which cost more than \$1 billion, can be managed properly

by Lenovo and how to keep its value, remain problems. Liu Chuanzhi, then Chairman of Lenovo, chose to compromise. He resigned from the chairman position and Yang Yuanqing filled in. An experienced foreigner was assigned CEO of Lenovo, which is a powerful post. Yang even designated English as Lenovo's official language.

When Lenovo had become a company managed by a foreign management team after three years of internationalization, many regarded Lenovo as an American PC company. Therefore, how Yang and his team manage Lenovo decides whether Lenovo is a Chinese or an American company.

In order to succeed, Lenovo not only has to learn the basic rules of international companies and cooperation between employees of different cultures, but also study the fast changing PC industry.



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WEIGHING IN: THE WORK REPORT

Premier Wen Jiabao delivered the government work report during the opening meeting of the First Session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC)—China's top legislature—in Beijing on March 5. *Beijing Review* reporters Yin Pumin, Zeng Wenhui, Wang Wenjie and Liu Jian spoke to NPC deputies and members of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)—China's top political advisory body—to hear their views on topics covered in the report, ranging from expanding medical insurance to increasing private investment. Edited Excerpts follow:



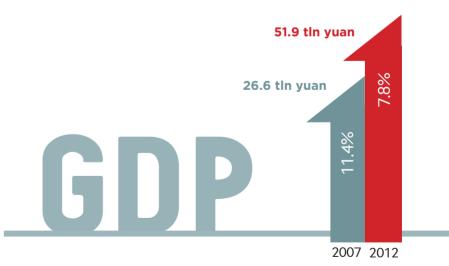
An Inspiring Report

This year's government work report is in line with the people's expectations.

It's an answer to people's desire for a better life. The report shows that our government is willing to shoulder responsibilities.

This is the first NPC session after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the session in which a new government was elected.

Therefore, this year's work report should have included an overall layout for the future, so that the new government can have a clear-cut orientation.



Zheng Jinchun, CPPCC member, Deputy Chief Procurator of Inner Mongolia People's Procuratorate

Legal Oversight

It's the first time the term "legal oversight" has appeared in the government work report, marking huge progress for the country.

"We should uphold democratic, legal and public opinion-based oversight and improve the system to ensure that the people monitor the

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TWO SESSIONS CLOSE-UP 💿





exercise of power," according to the report.

In the future, the general public should participate in major projects and major decisionmaking processes.

More promotional activities about relevant laws and regulations on the punishment of the abuse of power by civil servants should be held.



Hou Yuwen, NPC deputy, Manager of Xinhaian Business Hotel in Pingxiang, Jiangxi Province

A Good Way to Create Jobs

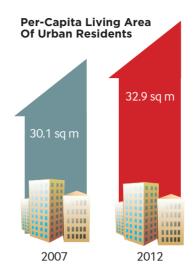
The government should allow for easier access to financing for small and micro startup businesses in the service sector. Premier Wen's remarks on further fostering the service sector are of huge significance. The service sector will expand with greater opportunities.

The sector is forever a rising-sun industry. Although it doesn't always have a high profit margin on the whole, it can offer a considerable amount of employment opportunities for people.

The government should further lower the threshold for financing start-up businesses. Despite the micro financing and interest-free loans already on offer, those wishing to start their own businesses still encounter difficulties securing bank loans.

Financial institutions should offer loans according to the feasibility of business plans, the credibility of borrowers and their ambitions for the business.

Salaries of farmers who are engaged in the seed production business should also be raised. For the past three to four decades, many farms in Pingxiang have worked for a seed production



business in Sanya, Hainan Province. Because the land they are using in Hainan is rented, those farmers can't receive subsidies granted by the Central Government to rural residents.

The structure of subsidy allocation should be adjusted so that farmers who are actually working in the field can enjoy it, such as the seed production farmers. Right now, they have to compete with growers of other highly profitable plants in terms of land, electricity and water. Seed production is very important to the country and we should give it more support.

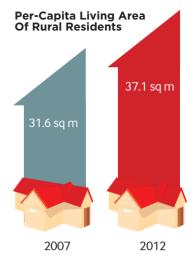


Chen Jingwei, CPPCC member, President of Hong Kong China Chamber of Commerce

Private Companies Favored

Compared with state-owned enterprises (SOEs), private companies receive a warmer welcome in the overseas market.

Foreign countries have doubts on the overseas expansion of Chinese companies, but that angst is mainly targeted at SOEs. That's because



the overseas investment and takeovers by SOEs are often seen as the Chinese Government extending its reach into other nations and challenging their interests. That view changes with private companies.

The China Overseas Investment Summit held in Hong Kong last year attracted participants from over 40 countries. During the summit. Chinese private firms were being courted for overseas investment.

China should use foreign exchange reserves to support qualified private companies to invest overseas and using Hong Kong as a platform to do so.

Among outbound direct investment by Chinese companies in the non-financial sector, 65 percent was invested in Hong Kong or via it to the overseas market, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

When Vice Premier Li Kegiang visited Hong Kong in August 2011, he said the Central Government will support a "going global" strategy jointly conducted by mainland and Hong Kong companies and fully exert the city's expertise in finance, law, accounting and investment consultation.

Private companies nonetheless face many risks when "going global."

They are extremely cautious when expanding overseas because they have to shoulder all the risks during the whole process. They face many difficulties in financing and sometimes miss good opportunities for that reason.

The Central Government must do more to support private companies wishing to compete and expand globally.

Many policies only point out the main direction private companies should take but fall short on details. This will lead to a poor implementation of those policies. The country should release more specific measures and implementation guidelines to better support private companies.

Government Spending on Education 706.54 bln yuan 2007 2012 2.2 tln yuan, reaching 4% of national GDP for the first time



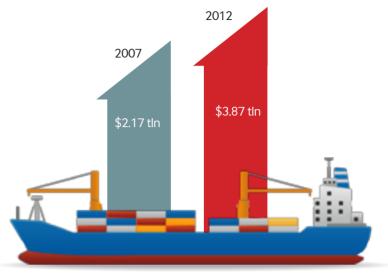


Fan Di'an, CPPCC member. Curator of the National Art Museum of China

Culture-Based Urbanization

Urbanization should combine people-oriented with culture-based principles. On the one hand, the quality of farmer life should be enhanced, and on the other, the awareness of cultural preservation should be strengthened. By 2020, tens of millions of farmers and other rural dwellers are expected to migrate to urban centers across the country, fueling what could be China's next economic boom.

Urbanization is aimed at improving the lives of farmers, which means a shift from traditional farming to an urban lifestyle. It is a huge project resulting in changes in economic livelihoods, production modes, lifestyle and the management of society.



Import & Export Volume

The whole process should be based on the principle of being people-oriented. Making farmers richer will narrow the wealth divide and lead to a more harmonious society.

Culture should never be overlooked in the process. Urbanization in the 1990s, when many cultural relics were damaged, destroyed or abandoned, has taught us a harsh lesson. Although some of the ancient buildings remained, such as temples, historical resorts and former residences of celebrities, the ecological fabric upon which culture relies has disappeared.

When you visit those tourist resorts in cities, you'll feel like outsiders instead of a part of it. This will lead to lacking a sense of belonging for urbanites.

Urbanization is a systematic project that

needs the cooperation of many departments and regions. A major overview of China's urbanization should be laid out, but each region should formulate its own plans according to local conditions and add to the awareness of cultural preservation. Urbanization should have Chinese characteristics.

China can learn from foreign practices in urbanization, citing North America and Europe as examples.

European townships have their own characters and cultural features, and people still live a modern life.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development should do some research and help design buildings according to the flourishes of different townships.

Energy Conservation, Emissions Reduction & Environmental Protection

2007

of 87 mln tons

Decrease in energy consumption per unit of GDP over the previous year: 3.27% Backward production facilities closed: Iron works with a total output capacity of 46.59 mln tons Steel mills with a capacity of **37.47 mln tons** Cement plants with a capacity



2012

Decrease in energy consumption per unit of GDP over the previous year: 3.6% Backward production facilities closed: Iron works with a total output capacity of 117 mln tons Steel mills with a capacity of 78 mln tons Cement plants with a capacity of 775 mln tons

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Major Development Goals

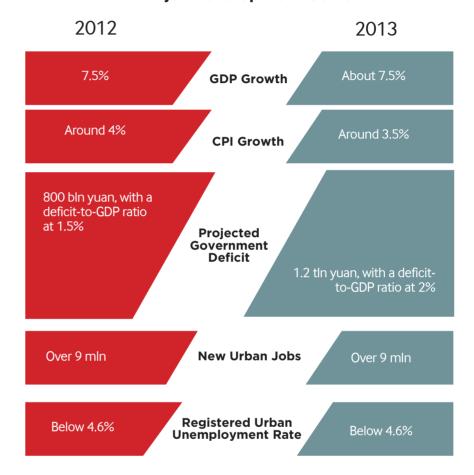
All cities are now the same and we definitely don't want all townships to be the same. Otherwise, our cultural memories will be gone for good.



Better Medicare Services

Wen emphasized the need to deepen reform in China's medical and health care services to fall in line with the population's growing demand for better medical coverage.

The country should integrate its basic medical insurance and medical aid system. Currently, the New Rural Cooperative Medical Scheme, which offers affordable medical services to rural residents, is managed by the Ministry of Health. The medical insurance of rural residents is under the supervision of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. And the Ministry

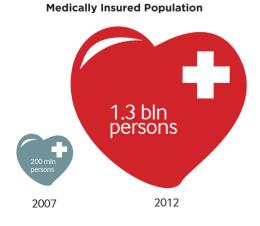


of Civil Affairs controls the medical aid system. If related departments under the three ministries were integrated and managed by a single ministry, work efficiency and access for both rural and urban residents would increase.

Right now, there are three sets of staff. It's a huge waste of resources.

Jiangxi's measures on medical insurance coverage of critical illnesses provide a good example. It offered free operations for patients with cataract and cleft lip and palate in 2009. In 2010, congenital heart diseases and childhood leukemia were cured for free with funding from the provincial government. In 2011, uremia patients were given free access to hemodialysis. Last year, the province launched its campaign on curing severe mental illness among povertystricken families. To date, Jiangxi has offered free medical treatment to 237,000 patients with serious diseases. In addition to those existing programs, Jiangxi plans to add women's cervical and breast cancer to the list of free medical treatment in 2013.

More efforts should be made in preventing and curing bilharziasis, including combating infection sources and establishing departments for disease prevention and control.







KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2013

In his last delivery of a government work report as China's premier, Wen Jiabao made suggestions to the succeeding government at the country's annual legislative session on March 5, based on an understanding of the work of the past 10 years, especially of the past five years. Edited excerpts follow.

Change of the Growth Model

The difficulty in—and key to expanding—domestic demand lie in consumption, and that is also where the potential lies. To expand individual consumption, we should enhance people's ability to consume, keep their consumption expectations stable, boost their desire to consume, improve the consumption environment and make economic growth more consumption-driven.

In the current stage, the role investment plays in promoting economic growth cannot be underestimated. China has both investment capability and investment demand, but the key is to make investment in the needed sectors, optimize the structure of investment, and improve its performance and returns. Government investment is important in guiding non-government investment, but its share of the country's total investment is decreasing, so we must further relax controls over market access for non-government investment and stimulate it.

We must accelerate the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, energetically develop new- and high-tech industries, and raise product quality and competitiveness.

We should promote sound development of strategic emerging industries, with the focus on expanding their share in the domestic market and making breakthroughs in major and key technologies.

We should develop and expand the service sector, and attach

equal importance to producer and consumer service industries and to modern and traditional service industries.

We should adhere to the basic state policy of conserving resources and protecting the environment and endeavor to promote green, circular and low-carbon development.

We should greatly boost the conservation and reuse of energy and resources, give priority to saving energy in industry, transportation and construction and in public institutions, restrict total energy consumption, and reduce energy and materials consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. We should speed up adjusting the economic structure and distribution and upgrading related standards, practices, and laws and regulations. We should adopt effective measures to prevent and control pollution and change the way we work and live. We should resolve to solve the problems of serious air, water, and soil pollution that affect the people's vital interests; improve environmental quality, and safeguard people's health, and give the people hope through our concrete action.

We should strengthen comprehensive marine management, develop the marine economy, become better able to exploit marine resources, protect the marine ecological environment, and safeguard China's maritime rights and interests.

We should continue to fully implement the master strategy for regional development and promote balanced development between regions.

Deepening Reform and Opening up

We should unwaveringly consolidate and develop the public sector of the economy and encourage, and support and guide the development of the non-public sector, so as to foster a structural environment in which economic entities under different forms of ownership have equal access to factors of production in accordance with the law, compete on a level playing field and enjoy equal legal protection.

We should ensure that the people occupy the principal position, make people's democracy more extensive, fuller in scope and sounder, ensure that the people enjoy extensive rights and freedoms prescribed by law, and promote people's well-rounded development. We should govern the country on the basis of the law, and fully respect the authority of the Constitution and laws. We should ensure that the powers of policy making, implementation and oversight both constrain each other and function in concert and that government bodies exercise their powers in accordance with statutory mandates and procedures. We should continue to transform government functions, separate government administration from the management of enterprises, state assets, public institutions and social organizations, and build a well-structured, clean, efficient and service-oriented government that has scientifically defined functions and that the people are satisfied with.

We should adhere to the basic state policy of opening up and implement a more proactive opening-up strategy.

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Promoting Integrated Urban And Rural Development

Agriculture and rural development in China have now entered a new stage in which overall agricultural production costs are rising, structural problems in the supply and demand of agricultural products are worsening, the rural social structure is undergoing profound changes, and the integration of urban and rural development is speeding up. All the major and difficult problems that we face in completion of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects are in rural areas. The rural land system is central to maintaining rural stability and ensuring China's long-term development, Its main purpose is to guarantee farmers' property rights and interests, and its main objective is to ensure that China's farmland remains at or above the red line of 120 million hectares. We should continue to make household contracts the basis of rural operations, support the development of new farmers' cooperatives of various forms and multi-level commercial organizations that provide agricultural services, and gradually establish a new type of system of intensive agricultural operations that are specialized, well organized and commercialized. We should always protect farmers' legitimate property rights and keep them motivated.

Urbanization is a historical task in China's modernization drive, and urbanization and agricultural modernization complement each other. Megacities and large cities should be kept at an appropriate scale and fully play their role in driving the development of their surrounding areas. Small and medium-sized cities and small towns should become better able to develop industries, provide public services, create jobs, and attract residents. We should accelerate reform of the household registration system, the social management system and related institutions; register eligible rural workers as permanent urban residents in an orderly manner; progressively expand the coverage of basic public services in urban areas to all their permanent residents; and create an equitable institutional environment for freedom of movement and for people to live and work in contentment. In improving village conditions, we should preserve their distinctive rural flavor, make their environment more livable, and ensure that urbanization and the building of a new countryside reinforce each other.

Improving People's Well-being

We should do all we can to increase employment, and persevere in implementing the strategy of giving top priority to employment and adopt a more proactive employment policy. We should create more jobs by maintaining stable economic growth and adjusting the economic structure and provide better vocational skills training to help people to find jobs or start their own business. We should increase government spending and policy support, improve the employment services system, stimulate employment by encouraging business startups, assist target groups in finding jobs, and stimulate sustained, steady increases in urban and rural incomes.

We should improve the social security system, and continue to follow the policy of making coverage universal, ensuring basic care, and providing multi-level and sustainable social security. We should expand the coverage of social security, turn over the overall management of social security accounts to higher-level authorities, raise social security benefits, improve and coordinate all social security programs, make social security more equitable and sustainable, and facilitate the smooth transfer of social security accounts between localities.

We should advance reform and development of medical and health care services, consolidate and improve the system for using basic drugs and the new operating mechanisms of community-level medical and health care institutions, speed up the reform of public hospitals, and encourage non-government bodies to operate hospitals.

We should progressively improve the government population policy, and adhere to the basic state policy on family planning. In response to changes in the size and structure of China's total population, we should comprehensively solve problems relating to the size, health, structure and geographical distribution of the population and promote longterm, balanced population development.

We should strengthen and make innovations in social management. We should improve the way the government provides public services, strengthen the system of social management and services at the community level, and improve self-governance by villagers and urban residents, to ensure that the people directly exercise their democratic rights in accordance with the law by managing communitylevel public affairs and running public service programs.

We should tighten regulation of the real estate market and strengthen construction of government-subsidized housing. We need to firmly rein in speculative and investment-driven housing demand, promptly improve the accountability system for stabilizing housing prices and the policies for regulating the real estate market, and strengthen mechanisms for sustaining its steady and sound development,

We should deepen reform of the management system for science and technology. We should integrate science and technology more closely with the economy, and establish a technological innovation system that is based on enterprises, guided by the market, and integrates enterprises, universities and research institutes.





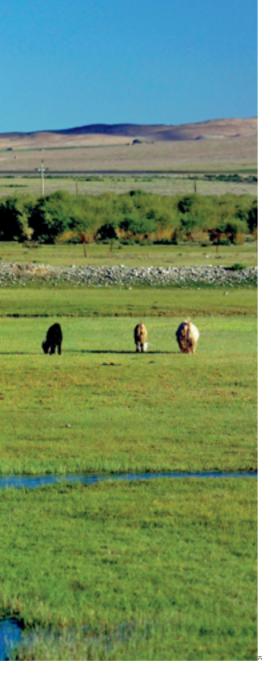
TOWARD A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY CPPCC members contribute proposals on a cleaner and healthier China By Yu Lintao

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TWO SESSIONS CLOSE-UP 💿







hat the Beijingers were most eager for over the last two months might be blue skies and clean air. At the beginning of the year, more than 1 million square km in east China were blanketed by heavy smog. Beijing enjoyed only five days of respite from hazardous weather in January. The hazardous smog once again reminds Chinese people and officials of the continual worsening of the natural environment following the last several decades of rapid development.

In his report to the opening of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China last November, Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Party's 17th Central Committee, gave high priority to making ecological progress and incorporating it into the whole process of advancing economic, political, cultural, and social growth. The report also introduced the concept of building a "beautiful country."

But how far is China from attaining this lofty goal? During the annual full session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in Beijing on March 3-12, the question became one of the hottest topics for political advisors from all walks of life.

Facing the reality

"A good natural environment is essential to a well-off society," said Gao Jixi, Director of the Naniing Institute of Environmental Sciences in Jiangsu Province. "That is to say, the people should also have a nice living environment while our country becomes prosperous."

Wang Wenbiao, President of the Elion Resources Group in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, said, "I hope China in the future is a country full of blue sky, green lands, clear water and clean air."

Speaking of a "beautiful country," most CPPCC National Committee members expressed similar ideas.

However, the current reality in China is not as satisfying. The seemingly ubiquitous pollution in air, water and soil, the worsening city waste crisis, as well as resource exhaustion, make the public feel anxious.

Pan Biling, Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Department of Hunan Province, has long kept a watchful eye on water pollution in the province. "The groundwater of some villages in Hunan is severely polluted, therefore, no local resident has passed the physical examination for military service in the last 10 years," Pan said. "Many villages are not the 'pure land' as we thought before, but all the food, vegetables and fruits people eat are produced in villages,"

Figures provided by Sun Taili, President of the Tianjin Qingda Group, show that of the 131 rivers flowing through cities in China, 36 are severely contaminated, 21 are heavily polluted and 38 are moderately affected. Water of the contaminated rivers permeates underground

Sun also pays much attention to soil pollution. Accordingly, the consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides per unit of cultivated area in China is much higher than the global average. In addition to resulting in the hardening and poisoning of soil, their residue would also seep into the ground.

City waste is another major environmental concern. He Wei, President of private He's University in Liaoning Province, said that the per-capita annual trash output of Chinese citizens is about 440 kg. That is to say that the total annual trash output of China has reached 400 million tons, ranking first world- ▶▶



Gao Jixi











Wang Wenbiao

Pan Biling

Sun Taili

He Wei Ge Jianxiong















Zhang Yunling

Ning Chongrui

Zhang Jiyao

Shi Jie

Liu Zhibiao

Huang Youyi

wide, and the figure is growing by 8 to 10 percent each year.

What is more, the accumulated quantity of garbage over the years has reached 6 billion tons. More than 200 cities are circled by garbage, with about 50,000 hectares of land covered with refuse. Waste collection, sorting and treatment infrastructure are still developing slowly.

Ge Jianxiong, a professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, said, "Since the beginning of the 21st century, the living conditions of Chinese people have improved remarkably, but their dream of a beautiful habitat seems out of reach"

New road

Though there are some irresistible natural causes for the environmental problems, the main reason for pollution still lies in man-made factors. Gao said.

According to Zhang Yunling, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the cost of China being the world's factory is high consumption of resources and severe pollution. "We exported a large amount of clean products to the world, but we're left with all the murky water and dirty air at home."

Ning Chongrui, chief architect of Lanzhou Engineering and Research Institute of Nonferrous Metallurgy Co. Ltd. in Gansu Province, said that China should change the current economic development model in view of the severe damage it has brought to the environment and climate.

Zhang Jiyao, former Director of the State Council South-to-North Water Diversion Office, said that excess production capacity, unreasonable energy infrastructure and highly energyconsuming lifestyles are the main reasons for

"We have paid a high price for ignoring environmental protection during economic development," Zhang said. "Now we should pay great attention to sustainable development."

"The pollution in east China is much more severe than in the west, which also reflects the imbalance in the country's economic development." said Zhang.

"We have chosen the industrialization road of the West, and our lifestyle is also unconsciously influenced by materialism, which eventually bring a great environmental burden," said Zhang Yunling. "We need to regain the Chinese tradition of thrift."

He, also a member of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, calls as well for green lifestyles. "For instance, over-packaged and disposable goods are a major waste of resources at a big cost to the environment," he said, adding promoting resources recycling is the right and efficient way for environmental protection and sustainable development,

Most CPPCC National Committee members agree that environmental legislation is another important basis for abating pollution and building a beautiful country.

He said, "Promoting ecological progress needs institutional guarantees. Though China has enacted a series of laws and regulations concerning environmental protection, their guiding principles are relatively lagging and lack operability. To keep up with social progress, the laws and regulations should be revised."

Sun proposes a quicker action in legislating underground water protection. In the meantime, he said that the government should increase investment in water-quality monitoring and release relevant data regularly. "Those enterprises and individuals that pollute water sources should be punished in strict accordance with the law," Sun said, adding calls for revision of the law on air quality protection as well.

This year, Shi Jie, Vice President of Sichuan Province Lawyers Association, submitted proposals calling for revision of environmental protection laws, particularly those relating to air and water. He hopes that the revision of those laws could impose harsher penalties on enterprises and individuals damaging the environment.

Gao claims that to a great extent, current environmental problems are related to an irrational industrial structure. "As the current development model of China relies too much on land resources, damage to the environment is inevitable," Gao said. "To change the situation, high-grade and advanced technologies are needed to increase productivity per unit of land. When most of the land is left for nature, the environment will become much better."

Liu Zhibiao, President of the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, echoed Gao's remarks. "To resolve environmental problems at the source. China should further advance its level of development and readjust the economic structure," he said.

Liu suggests that China should implement an economic globalization strategy based on boosting domestic demand. Taking advantage of this, the country can siphon worldwide highclass production factors to advance its industrial level and develop an innovation-driven economy. From there, China can build a modern industrial system dominated by hi-tech and emerging strategic industries, and a healthier

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Environmental Woes

- Chief of the State Forestry Administration Zhao Shucong: China is still one of many nations to suffer heavily from desertification, with about 27.33 percent of its land occupied by deserts, ranking number one in the world
- CPPCC member Sun Taili: Among the 131 rivers flowing through cities in China, 36 are severely contaminated, 21 are heavily polluted and 38 are of medium-level pollution
- According to data of Beijing Meteorological Bureau, the average density of PM2.5 in January was 180 micrograms per cubic meter in Beijing, about 30 percent higher than that recorded during the same period from 2009 to 2011
- CPPCC member He Wei: Now the annual average trash output of citizens in China is about 440 kilograms. The total annual trash output of China reaches 400 million tons, ranking number in the world
- Statistics from Ministry of Land and Resources show that about 10 percent of arable land has been polluted by heavy metal

industrial structure dominated by a modern service industry.

Zhang Jiyao said that China should be determined to shut down highly polluting and energy-consuming enterprises and those with excess production capacity or no ability for structural transformation.

"Education in rural areas is also a key factor for building a beautiful country," said Gao, who is also a member of China Zhi Gong Party. "On one hand, education helps villagers enhance environmental awareness," Gao said, adding that improving rural education is also one of the important bases for industrial restructuring,

Shi calls for greater public participation in building a beautiful country. "The government should attract and absorb more non-governmental organizations and individuals to join in the environmental protection campaign," Shi said.

The lawyer claims that China should strive to develop environment-friendly public goods, paying particular attention to speeding up the development of rail transportation and electric buses, which are carbon-conserving,

Huang Youyi, Vice President and editor in chief of the China International Publishing Group, advocates international exchanges and learning from the valuable experiences of other countries as China strives to build a beautiful country. "There are many effective measures for the country to learn from foreign countries that have completed industrialization," Huang said.

"The Chinese Government has established many binding targets in energy conservation and emissions reduction, and have made notable progress in achieving the targets," Huang added. "But as China is still in the rapid development stage of industrialization and urbanization, it is impossible for emissions to decrease immediately."

Action

In addition to making proposals, many CPPCC National Committee members have contributed a lot to the building of an environment-friendly society.

For Pan, also a member of the China Association for Promoting Democracy, one major duty is promoting environmental protection knowledge in rural areas.

Pan's team compiled a series of environmental protection brochures and donated them to rural primary and secondary schools, to help instill fundamental environment awareness among local residents. From 2010 to 2012, Hunan Province, where Pan works, has invested 2.28 billion yuan (\$368 million) for environmental improvement in rural areas, benefiting about 2.3 million people in 1,046 villages.

Gao, an expert on soil protection, is working on a project extending "red lines"—policy jargon for a range of legally acceptable minimums, maximums and binding targets—across China's socio-environmental map.

"The 'red line' can be seen as one of the

bases for building a beautiful country," Gao said. "This way, China can promote ecological protection for later generations."

It could also help the country build a benign ecological pattern to support its sustainable social and economic development, Gao added. At present, a trial of the project is being conducted in Jiangxi and Hubei provinces and Inner Mongolia and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous regions.

From the economic perspective, the restoration of desert ecology is not cost-effective for most investors as it needs large investment as well as a longer cycle for making profit.

Ecology is invaluable to Elion's Wang, as evinced by the anti-desertification efforts of his company. "Elion thus far has afforested about 5,000 square meters of desert," said Wang, "Which is not only helping ecological restoration in Inner Mongolia but also helping to suppress sandstorms"

Since 1997, Elion has built 500 km of roads across Hobq Desert in Inner Mongolia, the seventh biggest desert in China. The company has also covered an area of 1,500 square km with pharmaceutical crops such as licorice and sand willow, producing 4 billion yuan (\$645 million) of medicines.

In the meantime, the forest and grass Elion planted have sequestered about 10 million tons of carbon. The Seven Star Lake, which lies deep in the desert, has become a tourist attraction. Currently, Elion is striving to develop modern water-saving organic agriculture in cooperation with Israeli partners.

"Now Elion aims to expand the ecological protection area of the desert to 10,000 square meters in three to five years, which will also set an example of anti-desertification efforts for the whole nation," Wang said.

(Zhang Fang. Li Guowen, Zhang Xueying. Li Yuan, Yao Bei, Li Wuzhou, Wang Shuo, Yin Xing and Dong Yan contributed to this story)

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