

Xi's Guizhou tour stresses poverty reduction, transformation



Xi Jinping visits Huamao Village in Fengxiang Township in Zunyi County, southwest China's Guizhou Province on June 16, 2015.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, also Chinese president, made a three-day visit to China's southwestern province of Guizhou between June 16 and 18, stopping at schools, villages, industrial parks and revolutionary sites. During his visit, he touched upon a wide range of challenges that the deprived province is now facing, including rural development, poverty reduction and environmental protection.

"Poverty is nothing to fear"

On June 16, Xi went to Huamao Village, Zunyi County, a place with a revolutionary history that has been lifted out of poverty in recent years, and visited greenhouses, a rural financial services center and bamboo and pottery workshops.

"We create a good life with our own hands. Poverty is nothing to fear. If we have confidence and determination, we can overcome any difficulty," Xi told villagers.

Xi said during his chat with villagers that the CPC Central Committee is very concerned about poverty in rural areas and has drafted a series of policies to promote rural development.

"We can judge whether our policies are good or bad by looking at the expressions on people's faces. If they smile, we can say our policies are good and we will continue them. If people are not happy, then our policies need to be improved and adjusted," Xi said.

2015 marks the end of China's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) and the beginning of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) and is the year by which China has vowed to comprehensively build a moderately prosperous society. There are now 70.17 million poor people in rural areas of the country, accounting for about 7.2 percent of the rural population, according to the latest data from China's National Bureau of Statistics.

"The most difficult challenge in comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society

lies in the rural areas, especially poor areas. Governments at all levels must take every opportunity, overcome weaknesses and make greater allocations for poverty relief during the 13th Five-Year Plan to ensure that all the poor people in the country will be lifted out of poverty by 2020," Xi said to the Party chiefs of several southwestern provinces at a seminar held in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province on June 18.

Xi outlined four prerequisites at the seminar for achieving this target.

- Ensuring official responsibility. The CPC leadership must make full use of the political advantages of the socialist system which enables it to concentrate resources to accomplish large undertakings.

- Making sure policies are implemented with precision. Poverty relief efforts must be more targeted so that different measures can be adopted in different circumstances.

- Pooling resources with society. All parties must be included since it is the common responsibility for the CPC and the whole of society to participate in poverty relief efforts.

- Strengthening grassroots organization. Xi urged the government to coordinate grassroots political, economic and social organizations so they can all contribute to national development.

Two bottom lines: economic growth and ecological protection

"Economic development and environmental protection are two bottom lines," Xi stressed. He urged Guizhou to exploit its unique advantages and to pursue a new development path that is different from other provinces, underscoring the need to balance economic development and environmental protection and ecological conservation.

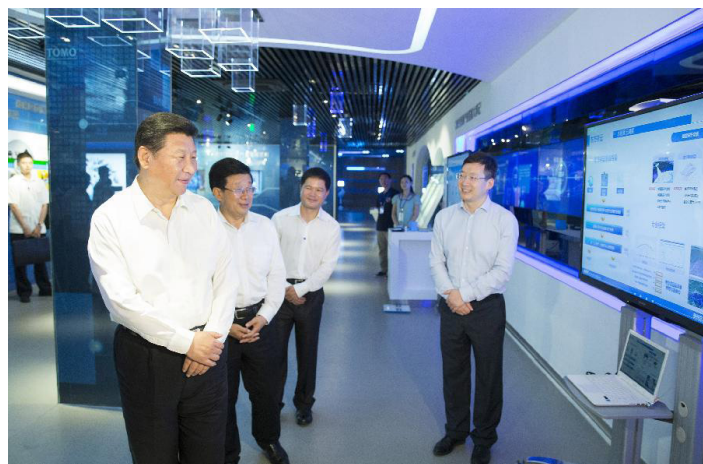
Guizhou, a mountainous province, has vowed to develop

itself into the 'Switzerland of the East' by upgrading traditional industries and developing a green economy. The province is committed to fostering five newly emerging industries: big data, healthcare, high-efficiency modern mountain agriculture, cultural tourism and new building materials. The Eco Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2015 held on June 26 this year will provide new momentum and new wisdom for Guizhou to handle the relationship between economic development and environmental protection.

In Gui'an New District, a national industrial park, Xi said the central government aims to build the new district into a new pillar of economic growth and an eco-civilization demonstration area. Xi stressed that the planning and construction of the new district should aim for environmental sustainability as well as high standards.

Science for a stronger and thriving China

Xi reiterated the role science and technology must play in strengthening China's competitiveness in his visit to a big data demonstration center in Guiyang on June 17. Xi recognized the importance of developing the big



Xi Jinping (front) visits the Beijing-Guiyang Big Data Application and Exhibition Center in Guiyang, southwest China's Guizhou Province on June 17, 2015.

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data industry in Guizhou.

"As China's big data industry is still in its infancy, we must invest more and deepen research in this field to put China at the forefront in the world," Xi told entrepreneurs at the center.

Although Guizhou is among the least developed regions in China, it has increased efforts to develop its big data industry since last year, establishing a state-level big data agglomeration with the aim of holding two million servers. Some cities in Guizhou offer free city-wide WiFi service. Guizhou is also home to data centers for China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom, the three largest Chinese telecommunication operators.

By stressing the value of big data, Xi is signaling to less developed regions like Guizhou that integrating technology innovation with social development will provide powerful momentum for healthy and sustainable economic growth, said Wang Dong, a philosophy professor at Peking University, as President Xi has on many occasions said science and technology strengthens the nation and makes it thrive."

The 'Three Stricts and Three Honests'

Educational Campaign for Chinese Officials

General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee proposed a series of requirements for officials to improve their work, namely "Three Stricts and Three Honests," in his speech at a panel discussion during the Second Session of the 12th National People's Congress on March 9, 2014. An educational campaign of "Three Stricts and Three Honests" for Chinese officials is currently being launched nationwide, aiming at creating a good political ecology.

WHAT?

Be strict in morals

Be honest in decisions

Be strict in power

Be honest in business

Be strict in disciplining oneself

Be honest in behavior

WHEN?

Starting from the end of April 2015, China launched the "Three Stricts and Three Honests" educational campaign for Chinese officials.

WHO?

Leaders and officials with title above county level in government and CPC departments, and people's organizations.

Leaders of levels above the middle rank at state-owned enterprises and public institutions.

Political Bureau
of the CPC Central Committee
Takes the lead to implement the
educational campaign.

Party groups of the Standing Committee of the National People's
Congress, the State Council and the National Committee of the
Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
Implement the educational campaign
according to their own real situations.

Provincial and ministerial leaders; members of the city and
county Party and government leadership, especially those
leading Party and government officials; leaders, managers above
county level in government organs, public institutions, state-
owned enterprises and their internal organizations
Implement the educational campaign
according to the requirements for their levels.

The educational campaign should proceed at all levels at the same time.

WHY?

Goals of the educational campaign -- to achieve substantial results in:

Cementing and expanding the Party's mass line educational practice results while dealing with "the four forms of decadence" (formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance).

Obedying discipline and rules and creating a good political ecology.

Carrying out deeds in practice, pushing forward reform, development, and stability.

Problems that require great efforts to resolve:

The problems of shaking ideals and faith, lost belief, missing spirit, lack of tenet, ignoring the people's interests, lack of Party member qualities and self-cultivation, and working without the Party's principles.

The problems of abusing power, power rent-creating and rent-seeking, collusion between officials and businessmen, transfer of benefits, avoiding problems, evading responsibilities, still carrying out "the four forms of decadence" even with rules in place, and continuation of corrupted deeds.

The problems of ignoring the Party's political disciplines and rules, being dishonest with the Party and a dishonest person, feigning compliance, going one's own way without the Party's disciplines and the nation's laws in one's heart.

HOW?

The highest level officials will set an example for lower ranking officials.

The highest level officials will act as models to motivate lower ranking officials.

Party Committee (Party group) secretaries above county level take the lead and give special lectures about Party affairs regarding the "Three Stricts and Three Honests."

Party Committee's (Party group's) central study groups and Party organizations of internal bodies hold special seminars to study the "Three Stricts and Three Honests."

Party members and leaders above county level in government organs, public institutions, state-owned enterprises and their internal organizations hold annual democratic life meetings and organizational life meetings on how to practice the "Three Stricts and Three Honests."

Rectification and implementation measures:

Strengthen rectification and implementation, as well as establishing and enforcing rules and laws; persist in studying, checking and correcting at the same time. Main leaders and officials should take the lead and list their problems. They should correct their problems one by one.

Those leaders who are "slack and dishonest," need to be educated and improve, and should be urged to make a change.

Those leaders who have angered the masses and who didn't seriously check or find problems and didn't make clear improvements should be demoted.

Regarding the problem of "slackness and dishonesty," a system must be established as well as rules and laws, and then the rigid enforcement should be strengthened.

China's fight against corruption goes mobile

The official app of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC

The Communist Party of China's disciplinary watchdog and its Ministry of Supervision of China unveiled an anti-corruption mobile app in mid-June that allows the public to more easily report corruption, extravagant consumption by government officials and other disciplinary violations.

With just a few clicks, phone users can submit photos, videos and corresponding text that show officials violating Party discipline under 11 categories, including spending public money on expensive dinners and travel, hosting luxury weddings and funerals, violating protocols on the use of official vehicles, building new office buildings without permission and visiting private clubs.

The app does not require users to provide their real names when uploading reports, a clear message that the disciplinary watchdog wants to protect users' anonymity while encouraging them to help keep an eye on Party officials' behavior.

Meanwhile, a number of local CPC disciplinary bodies have started using other popular social media platforms, such as the WeChat messaging app and Weibo microblog, to make their affairs more transparent. For instance, Beijing's disciplinary body recently opened a WeChat account. In one of its first moves, it published the contact details of six of its inspection teams.

These are just a few of the many attempts the CPC has made to use new technology to help crack down on corruption, and the measures have produced positive results so far.

According to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC (CCDI), the new mobile phone app function has led to an instant increase in the number of public reports on corruption. On the first day the function was launched, the watchdog received nearly 700 reports via the phone app, compared to a daily average of 250 to 300 reports through its website and phone app previously.

The first tip-off the watchdog received was about an expensive new local government office building flouting the central leadership's frugality policy. "The informant sent clear details, and the case was clear-cut, so we handed over the lead to investigators in about 10 minutes," said a CCDI official.

The CPC investigated and prosecuted tens of thousands of officials across the country last year, yet it is showing no signs of letting up and has turned its attention to petty graft among low-level officials.

In May, the CCDI published an article on its website requiring discipline inspection agencies at local levels to strictly implement the Central Committee's anti-corruption policies, so that even the smallest wrongdoings can be discovered, and those who commit can be punished according to the law.

These attempts have been welcomed by China's social media users. A Weibo user named Maosijia said, "I clap my hands for every little bit of progress," while another named Shuzuideshengling said, "I may try the mobile phone app to report transgressions one day."

In addition, the Interpol's National Central Bureau of China released a wanted list of 100 persons worldwide on April 22 this year as the country intensifies hunt for economic fugitives. The move was part of the "Sky Net" anti-corruption campaign that aims to repatriate Chinese suspected of official or economic corruption.

Since the current leadership took office in late 2012, the CPC has been engaged in a fierce anti-corruption campaign, taking down both senior leaders and minor bureaucrats, ranging from Zhou Yongkang, a former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, to county-level officials.

In 2014, CPC discipline inspection agencies nationwide investigated about 50,000 cases of minor violations and punished more than 20,000 officials.

No escape

1 2 3 4

China, Australia herald historic FTA deal



China's Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng (L), Australia's Trade Minister Andrew Robb (R) and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the signing ceremony of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement at the National Gallery in Canberra June 17, 2015.

The finalization of a free trade agreement in June between China and Australia after a marathon ten-year negotiation period points to a need for the world to think differently about how to engage with China economically.

The Sino-Australian FTA is considered a breakthrough in China's free trade strategy which aims to build a high-standard FTA network across the globe. So far, China has signed 14 FTAs with 22 partners, including New Zealand, South Korea, Chile and Switzerland.

The FTA will be a "historic step in the development of the Sino-Australian comprehensive strategic partnership," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

China's Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng hailed the agreement as "comprehensive, high-quality and balanced." "It has the highest degree of liberalization among all the FTAs China has signed so far," Gao said.

It is estimated that US\$1.66 billion in tariffs on Chinese exports will be eliminated with about US\$1 billion in tariffs cut on the Australian side within 3 years after the FTA enters into effect.

Tariffs will be progressively abolished for Australia's wine industry within five years. In the future, the average tariff for Australian agricultural products will drop to 0.51 percent from the current 12.94 percent and 93.7 percent of the agricultural products on the tax list will be exported tariff-free.

The Sino-Australian FTA will also unlock

huge potential for many Australian companies, with 40 sectors in China open to them, including medical and healthcare services, finance, engineering and legal services.

Research shows that Australia will gain the biggest benefits in cereals, woolen products, yarns, minerals and nonferrous metals, while China will benefit in the manufacturing industry, especially the manufacturing of textiles, clothing and other products such as toys and sporting goods.

"China and Australia have mutually dependent economic development and the commodity trade between the two countries is complementary in structure," said Dr. Zhang Lin from the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

In 2014, China became the largest trade partner of Australia and Australia the eighth largest trade partner to China.

As a Chinese saying goes, "The road to happiness is strewn with setbacks." The two countries have experienced many twists and turns since negotiations started April 2005. Talks were halted in 2008 and 2009 due to sticking points such as agriculture and investment admission.

When the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ) opened in September 2013, many heralded China's first FTZ within its border as the start of a new wave of economic reforms and opening up. Now, this historic free trade agreement is a further indication of the country's economic liberalization.

African ambassadors to China visit Hunan

Ambassadors to China and other diplomatic officials from 36 African countries, including Uganda, Algeria, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, visited central China's Hunan Province from June 11-13, with the aim of building closer cooperation.

During their trip, the African officials paid a visit to the former residence of Mao Zedong in Shaoshan in the province on June 13.

Charles Madibo Wagidoso, head of the delegation and Ugandan Ambassador to China, spoke highly of Chairman Mao, saying that not only Chinese people but also Africans admire this great man. The ambassador added that he had wanted to visit Shaoshan for a long time.

The African ambassadors presented flowers at the foot of the bronze statue of Chairman Mao before taking a group photo in front of it.

The delegation received a warm welcome from Chinese tourists.

The visit is part of the series of activities "Hunan Tour of African Ambassadors to China," which lasted from June 11 to 13.

The tour, co-hosted by the Department of Commerce of Hunan Province and the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Hunan Province, has been seen as a major move for Hunan to take the opportunities offered by the national "Belt and Road" initiatives and infrastructure industrialization cooperation between China and Africa. The province hopes to improve international cooperation in productivity and equipment manufacturing, and to promote the development of Hunan enterprises in Africa.

In recent years, Hunan has deepened cooperation with African countries in agriculture, infrastructure construction, mineral exploitation and processing, personnel training and other areas. The level of cooperation is improving constantly. In 2014, Hunan's foreign trade volume to Africa totaled US\$3.425 billion. By the end of 2014, 81 Hunan enterprises had invested in Africa.

Du Jiahao, deputy secretary of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee and governor of Hunan Province, said he hoped the event could help African countries and Hunan boost connections and cooperation in fields including agriculture, infrastructure construction, mineral resources development, tourism, and cultural exchanges to speed up the endeavor of Hunan's competitive enterprises to go global.

Previous to the Shaoshan visit, an exchange meeting was held on June 12 between the African diplomatic officials and representatives of over 50 Hunan-based enterprises in engineering manufacturing and housing industrialization, such as Sany Heavy Industry and Hunan Construction Engineering Group. The attendees had an extensive discussion on resources sharing, complementary advantages and co-development in Africa.

At the exchange meeting, Charles Madibo Wagidoso expressed on behalf of the delegation their willingness to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between African countries and Hunan in various sectors.

He said that though African countries have abundant resources, they lack the necessary techniques to convert them into value-added products. He hoped the complementary product portfolios between the two sides could help increase the value of 'Made in Africa' products.

During their stay in Changsha, capital of Hunan, the delegation visited Sany Heavy Industry Co., Ltd. and Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd, two of the province's most competitive enterprises.

The ambassadors were impressed by the houses Sany built in seven days using its housing industrialization technology. They inquired in detail about the safety, life cycle and cost of such houses.

"Housing construction is the top priority in Algeria's infrastructure construction," said Algerian Ambassador to China Hassane Rabehi. He added that Algeria plans to build 1.6 million houses from 2015 to 2019 and welcomed more Chinese companies to play an active role in the construction.

Hassane Rabehi said that the "Belt and Road" initiatives call on the people of the world to come together for common development. African countries, including Algeria, all consider it a very good opportunity.



Ambassadors to China and other diplomatic officials from 36 African countries taking a group photo in front of the statue of Chairman Mao on June 13, 2015.



Origin of the agreement



China and Australia officially established diplomatic relations in **1972** and the total volume of bilateral trade was **72 million** dollars.

The twenty-first century has witnessed a more rapid development in China – Australia bilateral trade.



In 2014, bilateral trade between China and Australia reached **136.9 billion** dollars, **16 times** of that in 2000.



By 2014, Australia had become the **8th** largest trade partner of China and China the **largest** trade partner of Australia.



On June 17, 2015, China and Australia officially signed the "China – Australia Free Trade Agreement" (ChAFTA).

Signing process



China – Australia FTA negotiation was initiated in April, 2005, and it has seen **10** years and **22** rounds of negotiations so far.

The agreement

Popular Australian exports will enter China tariff-free



1. Beef
As the main source of beef import in China, Australia occupies **56.8%** of the total market share in China.

Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 15.5% to zero.



2. Dairy product
Australia is the 4th largest source of dairy products for China representing **4.4%** of China's dairy imports.

Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 12.3% to zero.



3. Wool
As China's main source of wool, Australia makes up **68.8%** of total wool imports into China.

Customs tariff policy:
Country quota applies to Australian wool products and is duty-free within quota.



4. Wine
Australia is the second largest wine provider for China occupying **15.2%** of China's wine importing.

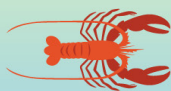
Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 34.7% to zero.



5. Orange (fruit and juice)
Ranked fifth largest orange and orange juice provider for China, Australia shares **7.1%** of orange and orange juice imports into China.

Orange (fruit)
Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 11% to zero.

Orange (juice)
Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 22.5% to zero.



6. Shrimp and crab
In 2013, China's import of lobster from Australia amounted to **220** tons.

Tax cut upon liberalization:
From current level to zero.



7. Abalone
In 2013, China's import of abalone from Australia amounted to **413** tons.

Tax cut upon liberalization:
From 14% or 10% to zero.



8. Minerals

Coking coal
Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 3% to zero.

Steam coal
Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 6% to zero.

Alumina
Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 8% to zero.



9. Retail packaged cat and dog food

Tax cut upon liberalization:
From the current 15% to zero.

Five Chinese export categories to Australia enjoy considerable tariff concession



Costume and leather



Electronics and machinery manufactured goods



Other



Steel and metal work



Chemical products

Tariff concession for the above products amounts to **1.66 billion** dollars, **91.88%** of total concession amount.

Service industries involved in the FTA

40 types of services in China will be open to Australia including :



Medical treatment



Law



Elder nursing

Sources: China's Ministry of Commerce, China.org.cn, China Daily

Produced by China.org.cn

College graduate turns to village affairs

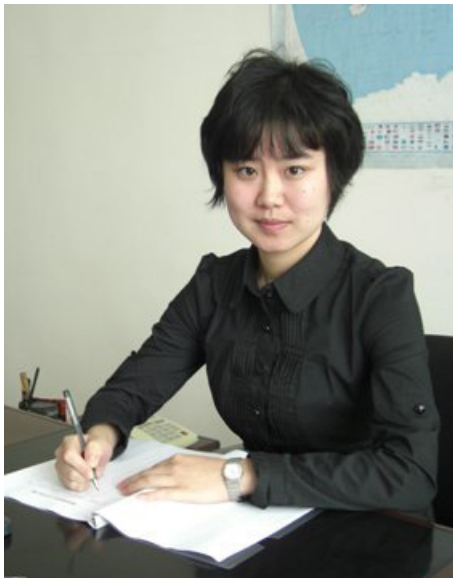
When Wu Shuxiang went to work in the villagers' committee of Guanlipu Village in northeast China's Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, in 2008, local villagers had never seen a college graduate working as a village official. They couldn't understand what the girl was there for, and Wu, despite her enthusiasm in using her knowledge to help the villagers, had no clue where to start, as she had no experience of village life before.

To familiarize herself with village affairs, Wu decided to start with the villagers themselves. But after several visits, she found it very difficult to locate villagers' houses, because in rural China, houses are usually not numbered but named. To sort out the house numbering system, she spent nearly a month visiting all households in the village and asking the local civil affairs department to produce 1,300 number plates and nailed the plates one by one above the doors of each house.

Wu was simply doing her job, but one day, a villager came to thank her, because the night before his house caught fire, and firefighters reached the scene just in time thanks to the address system. Since then, Wu realized that although some practices were common in cities, they were new to the villagers, and meant a lot.

After working in the village for a few days, Wu discovered that although the villagers' committee had done a lot of work, the officials felt it unnecessary to show the results of their work to the villagers, which in turn, made the villagers feel like the officials were doing nothing all day. To enhance the communication between the two sides, Wu volunteered to make the village affairs known to the public. Every month, she put all kinds of committee documents on a billboard and stood next to it, telling every passer-by what the committee had done. She also asked villagers about their problems, found solutions and publicized the results on the billboard. Due to her efforts, villagers began to understand the officials, and even the pickiest ones sometimes came to thank her for her hard work.

The Guanlipu Village is famous for rice production, and the job of village officials involves a lot of work in the rice fields, but growing up in a big city, Wu had never set foot on farmland. She didn't know how to walk in a rice field, so she had to ask a villager to follow her and help her pull her boots out of the mud with every step when she worked in the rice field. After overhearing some villagers



Wu Shuxiang, 19th Youth May 4th Medal Award winner in 2015

ridiculing her for being arrogant, she felt very sad and was determined to become a real farmer. For a long time during her initial days in the village, people could see her practicing walking in the rice field after lunch every day. Her perseverance caught villagers' attention and earned their respect.

As the days passed, Wu found most of the young people in the village went to work in big cities and had grown apart from their family. To help these people, she established a chat room on QQ, a popular instant messaging application. At first, the young villagers were suspicious about her intention and 'didn't talk much, but as Wu organized more and more online activities and sent them many useful and touching messages, they began to open their hearts to her, and she gradually became the bridge between them and their parents. "I want to share with the young villagers the latest changes in the village, so as to renew their love for their hometown," Wu said. "Some of them are thinking about coming back to start a new career at home."

To help the villagers make more money, Wu established a mechanized agricultural cooperative and a rice seed cultivation center in 2010. She also created a brand to market the rice produced in the village and clinched a deal with a shopping website to sell the branded rice online.



Wu Shuxiang at work

Major events in June

June 1: China, S.Korea sign FTA

Key words: free trade agreement, FTA

Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng and his South Korean counterpart Yoon Sang-jick formally signed the bilateral FTA in central Seoul, three years after the two countries began the talks.

June 4: Xi urges 'all possible measures' in rescue

Key words: ship, sink, Yangtze River

President Xi Jinping and other senior Communist Party of China leaders have called on rescuers to "take all possible measures" to save lives from the cruiser ship that capsized on the Yangtze River.

June 10: China, Angola pledge win-win coop

Key words: Xi Jinping, Angola

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his Angolan counterpart Jose Eduardo dos Santos and they pledged to boost win-win cooperation between the two countries.

June 11: Russia, China agree to promote all-round cooperation

Key words: Zhang Dejiang, Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with visiting top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang on promoting all-round cooperation between the two countries and achieving common development.

Xi meets Myanmar's Suu Kyi

Key words: Xi Jinping, Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi,

President Xi Jinping met with a delegation from Myanmar's National League for Democracy (NLD), headed by NLD chair Aung San Suu Kyi.

June 24: King Philippe of Belgium visits China

Key words: Xi Jinping, King Philippe

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with King Philippe of Belgium, looking forward to "even better" ties between the two nations.

China, US wrap up annual high-level talks on ties

Key words: S&ED

Top Chinese and U.S. officials concluded their two-day high-level talks in Washington D.C., achieving substantial outcomes in strategic and economic sectors, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

June 29: CPC has 87.79 mln members

The Communist Party of China (CPC) had a total of 87.793 million members at the end of 2014, the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee said.

For her outstanding work, Wu has won many honors including the 19th national Youth May 4th Medal Award in 2015.

Wu is now a mother of two children. "When I first went to work in the village, I had no idea how it would change my life," she said. "The experience made me love my family more, helped me understand the tough side of life and taught me to do my job honestly."