

## Special Issue: The Party and the World Dialogue 2015

**Editor's note: The Party and the World Dialogue 2015, held in Beijing from September 8 to 10, gathered more than 80 scholars, experts and prominent political figures from all over the world, who discussed anti-corruption and Party discipline with experts and leaders from the Communist Party of China (CPC). This issue gives you coverage of the event.**

### CPC seeks int'l opinions in self-purification



Scholars, experts and political figures at the Party and the World Dialogue 2015 held in Beijing on Sept. 8-10.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has found itself in the limelight in the wake of its intensifying anti-corruption campaign which started in 2013 after China's new leadership headed by General Secretary Xi Jinping of the CPC Central Committee, took office. In the anti-corruption campaign aimed at self-purification, the Party's disciplinary watchdog, the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) has so far brought down a handful of Party and government officials, both senior and petty, better known as "tigers and flies."

While the Chinese public has witnessed the CPC's resolve for a clean government, as well as its frankness in admitting that corruption is a serious issue in the country, the international community has still yet to be informed of just how the CPC, the only ruling Party of China, will carry out this self-purification as a means of achieving self-perfection, including those successful experiences worth sharing and challenges ahead.

The annual Party and the World Dialogue, launched for the first time last year, was just such a communication-enhancing event. The Party and the World Dialogue 2015, themed around "To Discipline the Party: Responsibility of the Party," which was held jointly by the China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the International Cooperation Department of CCDI in Beijing on Sept. 8-10, offered a platform for Chinese and international parties as well as government officials and scholars to discuss how Party discipline and national laws could cooperate with corruption reduction, and how different countries should consolidate their cooperation in fighting corruption, a global concern.

#### Disciplining the Party key to Party purification

"As the ruling Party in China for more than 60 years, the CPC faces challenges of a lack of supervision and the growth of bureaucratic and resilient corruption," said Wang Jiarui, vice chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and minister of IDCPC, during the opening ceremony of the Dialogue. "The CPC has to resolve these problems with self-reformation, self-purification and self-discipline. We have done this and will continue to do it. But we need your help to build clean and effective politics while cracking down on corruption," he told the audience.



Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and IDCPC Minister Wang Jiarui delivers an opening remark at the Party and the World Dialogue 2015 in Beijing, on Sept. 8.

He said that the intensified anti-corruption campaign has been effective, also saying "this is why the CPC will not lose its people and the people will continue to support us." Hosting the Party and the World Dialogue was a means to seek opinions, including criticism," he said. "as long as they are kind-intended."

Wang has also invited the participants to do some field trips in addition to indoor meetings during their stay in China in order to have a full picture of the country's development and comprehensive understanding of China's economic slowdown.

China's anti-corruption drive also features the tightening up of intra-Party disciplines, including the provision that Party members are not allowed to hold extravagant weddings and funerals, among other activities not actually prohibited by law.

"We used to compare this gap [between Party discipline and the law] to relay race training," said Jiang Licheng, deputy secretary of the Jiangsu Provincial Discipline Inspection Commission and director general of the province's Bureau of Inspection, on Sept. 8 at the Party and the World Dialogue.

"The relay zone during training is smaller than that of actual races. Runners accustomed to stricter zones are less likely to break the rules during actual races. This is how we discipline the Party members," said the provincial discipline chief, adding that observing Party discipline that are stricter than China's national laws could help preserve Party officials' integrity and therefore increase the public's confidence in them.

Most people might take it for granted that tightening up Party discipline amounts to busting corrupt officials, especially those in major cases. However, discipline watchdog officials such as Jiang as well as scholars of social governance believe that strictly disciplining the Party lies in "stepping up daily supervision to prevent trivial misconduct from happening."

Similarly, to strictly discipline the Party should not simply rely on the Party's disciplinary agencies, "but on the 87 million Party members among the 1.3 billion Chinese people," according to Wang Shaoguang, chair professor in the Department of Government and Public Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

#### Global cooperation in combating corruption

While the CPC is looking inward in a bid to spot all "tigers and flies," strengthening cooperation with other countries in combating corruption was an important agenda for this year's Party and the World Dialogue, and an important reason why the annual international cooperation mechanism is in place.

"Corruption does not exist only in China or in developing countries. It's a universal problem, irrespective of ideology, religion, or culture," said former Australian Prime Minister and leader of the Labor Party Kevin Rudd, who urged for "universal solutions, apart from national solutions" to curb it.

Rudd, with other former international leaders attending the Party and the World Dialogue, said on Sept. 8 that the "universal problem" was also "universally considered wrong" because corruption damages all countries from individuals and families to the economy and the credibility and legitimacy of a political system.

Hence, different countries are strengthening ties to fight against corruption, evident in the China-Australia negotiations on the extradition rights to bring back corrupt Chinese fugitives, according to Rudd.

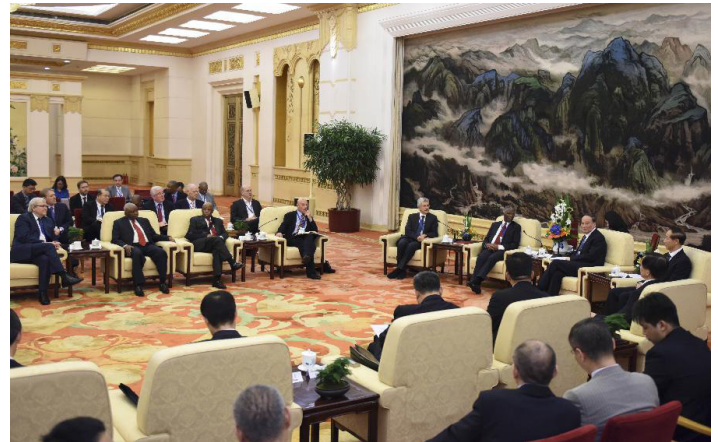
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# Wang Qishan meets overseas Dialogue attendants



Wang Qishan (R) meets with overseas attendants of the Party and the World Dialogue 2015 in Beijing, Sept. 9, 2015.



Wang Qishan meets with overseas attendants of the Party and the World Dialogue 2015 in Beijing, Sept. 9, 2015.

Wang Qishan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), received more than 60 overseas participants of the Party and the World Dialogue in Beijing on Sept. 9.

During their meeting, Wang pledged to exercise stricter disciplinary measures in the CPC and expressed the Party's determination to clamp down on corruption.

CPC members must observe the "superior line" of core values and never cross the "bottom line" of Party discipline, said Wang.

Wang said strict discipline of the Party requires observation of both the "superior line," which

incorporates the core values of ideals, faith and tenets to serve the people, and the "bottom line," or regulations of the Party.

"Responsibility of the Party means we have to strictly discipline the Party. The responsibility of the CPC as the ruling Party in China is its commitment to the people. To fulfill the commitment, the Party must be strict with itself," said Wang Qishan.

The CPC discipline chief also said that Party regulations and rules should be first priority so that members will promptly be warned of minor misconduct and immediately disciplined for major wrongdoing.

Wang said the legitimacy of the ruling Party lies in history, its popular base and the mandate of

the people. He said in the course of rejuvenating the nation, the CPC has to enhance its leadership and win the trust and confidence of the people so as to address complex situations and overcome various challenges.

Wang Qishan left deep impressions with his overseas guests, among whom, Pierre Defraigne, Executive Director of the Madariage-College of the Europe Foundation in Belgium recalled, saying that Wang's remarks covered all aspects. "In fact, he is a leader with deep insights on Chinese social issues," Defraigne said.

It was not Defraigne's first meeting with a senior Chinese leader. He said that Chinese leaders share one common feature – their ability to comprehensively address various

economic and political issues.

"The CCDI chief told us that the CPC must meet the people's demand for the ruling Party, such as solving the imbalance of development, and resolutely promoting comprehensive and deepening reform," Defraigne recalled, saying "this is why the CPC is extremely resolute in its anti-corruption campaign while developing its anti-corruption mechanism."

Professor Flemming Christensen from the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany has been studying China since 1978. In his view, Wang Qishan's remarks provided an approach to govern a political party, in that to strictly discipline the Party should become an internalized habit practiced by all Party members.

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"Among the 100 most wanted fugitives involved in corruption cases, 10 have been extradited and arrested," said Huang Shuxian, deputy secretary of the CCDI and the minister of supervision, on Sept. 8, revealing the figure for the first time.

Former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki praised the Chinese new leadership's courage in admitting that corruption is a serious issue and their determination to tackle it in a diligent way.

"It is an important lesson for us too, because corruption is everywhere, including my own country," he said. "I think the CPC sets a good example in terms of a comprehensive anti-corruption program, which I haven't seen anywhere else in the world."

Mbeki added that he did think that the CCDI has been playing a central role in China's nationwide anti-corruption campaign, as "discipline is very central" to the CPC and indeed, to any political party.

While strengthening international cooperation on anti-corruption, deputy head of the IDCPC Guo Yezhou warns off possible politicization of such cooperation. He said on Sept. 10, at the closing ceremony of the Party and the World Dialogue that, "one should not mix political factors into the global fight against corruption, as each country lives by different

political and legal systems."

"The difficulty in eradicating corruption lies in various areas, such as the weakness of human nature, the development of the economy, loopholes in the legal and institutional systems, the absence of morality and an inability to supervise," said Guo, explaining how corruption as a global issue can hardly be solved by one country without the cooperation from others.

"The Party and the World Dialogue is like a revolving door, plentiful information goes in and out. What we, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government, have learned from you is that there is no single solution for corruption across the world. What you may have learned from us is that the CPC is determined to fight against corruption by starting to strictly discipline its own members," he concluded.

The Party and the World Dialogue 2015, including its various events such as policy interpretation presentations, discussions, and field visits, opens an important window for the rest of the world to understand the CPC's ideas and practices in governing China, fulfilling the role of a high-level platform for the official interpretation and communication of information regarding the CPC.

# Tapping ‘Chinese wisdom’ to discipline the Party



Chinese and international panelists talk and debate during a symposium “Governing the Party according to rules: state laws and Party Discipline” on Sept. 8, 2015 in Beijing.

With the theme of “Disciplining the Party: Responsibility of the Party,” the Party and the World Dialogue 2015 discussed the self-supervision of political parties, the relationship between Party discipline and national laws, and the issue of how best to discipline the Party.

### System approach for concrete actions

During the dialogue, a participant shared an interesting case concerning Party discipline. A ministerial-level official was invited to attend his nephew’s wedding and to be a witness. His first reaction was whether, as a Communist Party of China (CPC) official, he could attend the wedding and whether he could act as a witness. Only after he learned it was not against the Party discipline did he agree to attend the wedding.

“Building the Party from an ideological base is a prominent feature of the CPC. The Party’s democratic life meeting, the mass-line education, and inter-Party criticism and self-criticism are all key methods in self supervision,” said Li Junru, former vice president of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee. “Additionally, we need a system to clarify what the relevant do’s and don’ts are.”

The CPC has been making intense efforts to crack down on Party officials violating such systems. By the end of July this year, a total of 94,000 violations of the “eight point rules” were being investigated, 125,000 CPC officials had been disciplined, and 45,000 officials given Party or administrative penalties, according to Huang Shuxian, Deputy Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The “eight point rules” was launched by the CPC in December 2012 with an attempt to encourage austere work practices and cutting back on extravagance.

Ten of 100 most wanted corrupt fugitives listed on the Interpol Red Notice have been arrested so far, he added.

### Stricter admission and promotion

Strict admission of new Party members and officials is believed the best way to start disciplining the CPC.

“The organization departments rigorously scrutinize potential Party members. The general

information about prospective members is disclosed so as to place it under the supervision of the general public, thus carrying out the CPC Central Committee’s requirements of ‘capping the total number, optimizing the structure, enhancing the quality and playing a due role’,” said Chen Xiangqun, Deputy Head of the Organization Department of CPC Central Committee, which is responsible for the selection and promotion of key CPC officials.

When asked by foreign scholars about the selection and appointment of Party officials, Chen revealed that the organization department had sought to strengthen the related systems. For instance, disclosure by officials of their financial situation and general information of their family members will now be examined item by item. Any official seeking promotion will be denied if found to have made false disclosures.

Apart from that, the organization department will seek the opinion of the discipline inspection commission before promoting officials.

### Combining Party discipline and national law

The relationship between Party discipline and national law also featured in the three-day dialogue. Tao Kaiyuan, Vice President of the Supreme People’s Court, argued that they work alongside each other to constitute the basis of rule of law in China.

“National law stands higher than Party discipline. Strict implementation of national law will reinforce the penalizing function and authority of Party discipline,” Tao said, adding that a total of 232,000 Party officials received Party and administrative punishments in 2014, and 12,000 officials were suspected of committing crimes. “If Party discipline is implemented smoothly, national law can be better guaranteed and the rule of law better promoted.”

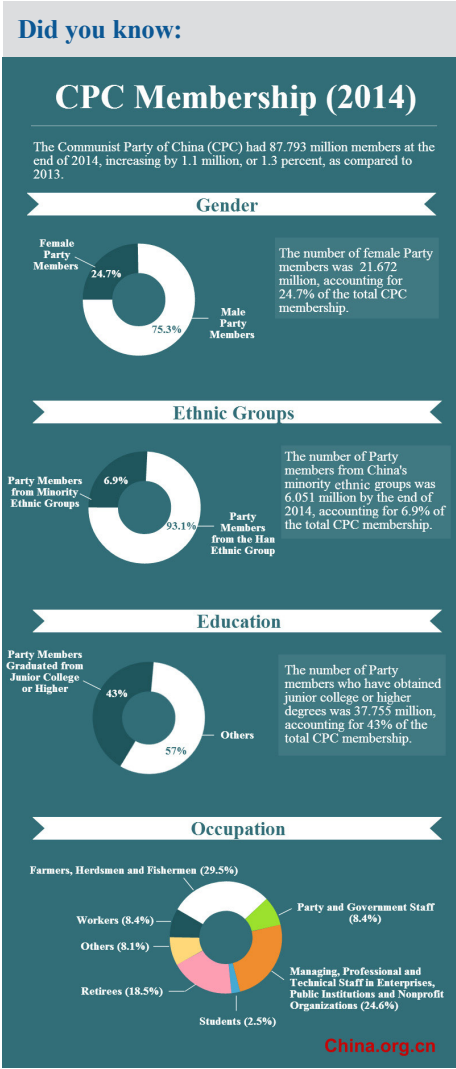
To discipline the Party is not only about cracking down on corrupt officials or chasing down major corruption cases, but about strengthening the supervision on all CPC members on a regular basis and nipping malpractice in the bud, argued Wang Shaoguang, a professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Besides relying on the disciplinary departments or inspection agencies, the Party should also seek the help of all ordinary Party members and the general public who constitute the key force of disciplining the Party. In addition, more study should be carried out to add more detailed Party punishment measures as the existing ones are sometimes inadequate, he added.

Apart from exploring Party discipline and the rule of law from a legal perspective, moral issues should also be taken into consideration, said Kerry Brown, director of the China Studies Center of the University of Sydney. The CPC has strict moral requirements on its members while political parties in Europe and the United States often do not have such rigorous requirements and the general public has fewer expectations in this regard, he said. Thus, the CPC faces challenges in winning over the understanding and support of ordinary people in its anti-corruption campaign, he added.

During the three-day dialogue, foreign scholars spoke highly of the achievements the CPC in self-discipline. Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said: “There are more than 80 million CPC members in China, while the entire population in Australia is only 24 million. The management of political parties is a very complicated issue. The ‘China story’ is going pretty smoothly so far and it is a good story.”

Other former political figures have also praised the ideas and actions the CPC has taken in disciplining the Party. They also hailed the dialogue as a demonstration of the CPC’s confidence and openness.





# Dialogue participants make an inspection tour of E. China's Zhejiang



Participants of "The Party and the World Dialogue 2015" holding a salon discussing "Political Party Governance and Local Development" by the West Lake in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on Sept. 11.

Participants of "The Party and the World Dialogue 2015" took a field trip on Sept. 11 in east China's Zhejiang Province. The tour provided a better understanding of the basic-level organization of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and local economic and social development.

Zhejiang Province, located in the eastern coastal area of China, has a population of 54 million. The province's total GDP reached 4 trillion yuan in the past year. Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui and Shanghai have currently formed the Yangtze River Delta City Group to become one of the six largest city groups in the world.

The province enjoys a stable economic development; as a result, the people here live in peace and contentment. The situation is inseparable with the leadership of the Party and state policies. While meeting with more than 30 visiting Chinese and foreign scholars on Sept. 11 to discuss the topic of "the ruling Party and local development," Ma Guangming, deputy secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Commission for Discipline Inspection and head of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Supervision remarked, "As the ruling Party of China, the CPC takes the development as its main task."

Ma said the grassroots Party building and local development are closely linked, and the main line of thought is to promote the development by strengthening and transforming the grassroots Party building into motive force of local development.



Participants of "The Party and the World Dialogue 2015" visit Wusi Village, Zhejiang Province, on Sept. 11.

"Good policies need to be implemented by the Party organization at all levels, so we attach great importance to the Party building at the grassroots level," said Ma, adding that according to present provincial regulation, a Party organization can be established at a working place as long as there are more than three Party members.

It is the Party's purpose to serve the people, said Ma. Currently, there are about 30,000 villages in Zhejiang, and each village has a help center where the Party members serve as volunteers with the number of service items topping one hundred. "Instead of traveling too far into the county for help, villagers now can have their problems solved at their doorsteps.

These measures both benefit the people and improve the working efficiency of the Party organization," Ma said.

Promoting democracy was also a major topic of discussion. Rural areas in Zhejiang are financially better-off compared with other parts of China, with each village having considerable amounts of collective assets valued from 600,000 yuan to 100 million yuan. Village heads here have considerable powers; therefore, supervision over their power has been greatly strengthened. Villagers' autonomy plays an important role in this regard, and each village has a supervisory committee, which is elected by villagers themselves.

When asked by Flemming Christiansen, head of the Institute of East Asian Studies of Germany's University of Duisburg Essen, "Who leads the villagers' supervisory committee?" Ma told that the committee was completely autonomous and all affairs were shared by the villagers.

Speaking of corruption, Eugenio Bregolat, former Spanish ambassador to China, believed that the more involved the governments are in the development of an area, the more corruption opportunities they would generate. He questioned whether there were comparatively fewer corruption cases in Zhejiang since its private economy was comparatively more developed.

"The private sector accounts for 90 percent of Zhejiang's economy, as a result, Zhejiang has higher degree of marketization, more laws and legislatures are there to regulate the economy and the operation is more standard," Ma said. "Officials have fewer chances of rent seeking and there are relatively fewer corruption cases in Zhejiang."

In response to a question raised by a Thailand guest, Ma said that Zhejiang's developed economy has produced a large number of outstanding enterprises, and the Party organization has also been established inside these enterprises. Ma gave an example of Alibaba - China's biggest online enterprise founded by Jack Ma, saying "Alibaba has the Party organization, too."

On Sept. 11, the delegation of experts and scholars paid a visit to Deqing County in Zhejiang.

"Deqing has beautiful horticultural communities, picturesque villages, and the country's first 'museum of advanced culture and ethics'," said Xiang Lemin, secretary of the Deqing County Party Committee.

Sun Wenguo, secretary of the Wusi Village Party Committee, explained that among the total 1,529 villagers, 66 are the Party members. "The village's disposable income reached 1.19 million yuan in 2014, and the village has achieved a 100 percent centralized garbage processing and waste classification," he said.

Festus Mogae, former president of Botswana, was surprised with the situation of this small village, saying that rural ecological construction and economic development have enabled more and more Chinese people to give up urban life to move to the countryside.



A participant of "The Party and the World Dialogue 2015" talks with residents of Wusi Village, Deqing County of Zhejiang Province on Sept. 11.

Pierre Defraigne, executive director of the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation, said that the area is an extension of China's Silk Road, so the marketing of agricultural products of Deqing County and Wusi Village was particularly his concerns.

According to local officials, rural reform involves a wide range of topics including the villagers' welfare benefits, housing, lands, cultural and ideological construction. The interests of the villagers have been well protected over the past years thanks to the efforts of the Party organizations at all levels.