

Xi's Spring Festival visit vitalizes Jiangxi



President Xi Jinping (3rd L, front) receives a calligraphy work by a girl with the Chinese character "Fu", meaning blessings, while visiting a community activity room in Donghu District of Nanchang City, east China's Jiangxi Province, Feb. 3, 2016.

General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, also Chinese president, paid a visit to east China's Jiangxi Province from February 1 to 3, just ahead of the Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year.

Top leaders traditionally visit ordinary people in both urban and rural areas ahead of this most important holiday for Chinese people. Xi visited Gansu Province and areas of Beijing in 2013, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in 2014 and Shaanxi Province in 2015.

The three-day tour covered the cities of Ji'an, Jinggangshan and Nanchang, where the president toured villages, enterprises, schools, local communities, revolutionary base museums, as well as military units, extending holiday greetings to all Chinese citizens.

Poverty alleviation stressed

"Not a single family living in poverty is to be left behind on our path to combating poverty," he told people in Shenshan, a village in Jinggangshan City where 13 out of 54 households still face great poverty.

"Endeavors of poverty alleviation must be carried out in a precise manner, with different measures targeting different characteristics of different people and households," said Xi.

"The CPC serves the Chinese people wholeheartedly. We are committed to supporting development of the old revolutionary base areas and making your life better day by day," he assured a huge crowd of villagers.

"Poverty alleviation will be the most important of the top priorities in the next five years, otherwise expected moderate prosperity nationwide will be a blank check, or an empty promise," said Zhu Lijia, a public management professor with the Chinese Academy of Governance.

New development concepts highlighted

Addressing a meeting of provincial officials, Xi called on them to uphold and implement the newly identified development concepts - innovation, coordination, green development, opening up and sharing - as well as to deliver structural reform on the supply side and industrial upgrading.

During a stay in Jiangzhong Medicine Valley, Xi hailed its effort on developing new products and urged all pharmaceutical enterprises to contribute to the health of Chinese people with quality products.

While visiting the National Engineering Technology Research Center for LED on Si Substrate under Nanchang University, Xi stressed the key role of higher learning institutes in technological innovation and talent training.

Highlighting green development in the new concepts, he urged the province to strike a balance between environmental protection and economic growth.

Meanwhile, Xi called for continued efforts in improving people's livelihood, upgrading public services and ensuring everyone can share the fruits of development.

According to Professor Xie Chuntao with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, the president's remarks were a signal for further development of Jiangxi, a province well-known for revolutionary bases, of great significance in the building of a moderately prosperous society in all aspects.

Revolutionary legacy cherished

During his stay in Jinggangshan, the president said the city was the cradle of the Chinese Communist revolution and the Jinggangshan Spirit was the greatest legacy of the city's history for today's generation. It was Xi's third visit to the city after trips in 2006 and 2008.

"We must uphold the spirit of heroes, who sacrificed their lives for the Party, the country as well as the Chinese people," he said, when meeting the offspring of martyrs and moral models.

"We must carry forward the Jinggangshan Spirit in a modern context," Xi stressed, calling on every Party member and leading official to better serve the people.

He also underlined the province's revolutionary tradition in forging the soldiers' spirit while meeting with senior officers at local military units in Jiangxi, and told the military to better support poverty relief in the province's less-developed areas and advance civil-military integration.

Xi's call for further civil-military integration not only relates to the management of military affairs, but also is a pivotal aspect of realizing the Chinese



President Xi extends holiday greetings to villagers while visiting Shenshan Village in Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province, Feb. 2, 2016.

Also in this issue

Xi visits state media organizations in Beijing

> **PAGE 2**

Premier pledges reform when meeting foreign experts

> **PAGE 2**

Local sessions highlight national concerns

> **PAGE 3**

FDI, inflation growth show economy warming up

> **PAGE 3**

Rescue diver Guan Dong, 'Touching China' award winner

> **PAGE 4**

Book about Xi's quotations launched

> **PAGE 4**

Getting to know China through keywords

> **PAGE 4**

Major events in February

> **PAGE 4**

Dream. "Only when we achieve coordinated development of the armed forces, national defense, and economy, can the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation be finally realized," noted Luo Yuan, standing vice chairman of China Strategic Culture Promotion Association.

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Xi visits state media organizations in Beijing



President Xi Jinping (2nd L) talks with villagers of Chixi Village in Ningde of southeast China's Fujian Province via video link while visiting the People's Daily in Beijing, on Feb. 19, 2016.

General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, also Chinese president, visited the country's three leading media providers on February 19 and urged them to strictly follow the leadership of the Party.

In the morning, Xi visited the People's Daily, the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Xinhua News Agency, the state news agency, and China Central Television (CCTV), the country's national broadcaster.

In the afternoon, Xi presided over a symposium on the Party's media work. Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, accompanied Xi on the media tour and also attended the symposium.

Encouraging media staff

During his inspection of the general newsroom of the People's Daily, Xi encouraged media staff to continue to improve the quality of the flagship newspaper of the CPC.

While visiting the headquarters of the newspaper, Xi used its new media broadcasting system to extend his Lantern Festival greetings to the public.

At Xinhua News Agency, Xi used Xinhua's remote news reporting command system to talk with an agency correspondent currently reporting from a village in Lankao County, Henan Province.

In Xinhua's new media newsroom, Xi clicked a "Like" button on the agency's mobile app, extending his appreciation to all Chinese journalists for their diligence.

The final stop of Xi's media tour was the headquarters of CCTV. He made a video call to CCTV's Washington-based North America branch, praised the branch for its work and sent his greetings to the staff.

The president also visited the studio where the CCTV Evening News Bulletin, or "Xinwen Lianbo," is filmed and encouraged the production team to continue to strive for excellence.

Guiding media work

According to Xi, the mission of the Party's media work is to provide guidance for the public, serve the country's overall interests, unite the general public, instill confidence and pool strength, discern right from wrong and connect China to the world.

"Truthfulness is the life of journalism, and the facts must be reported based on the truth," Xi noted at the symposium.

Calling for innovative concepts, content and methods, Xi told media groups to make use of the new media's edge in publicity, amplify their voices on the international stage, tell stories about China well and build flagship media groups with strong global influence.

Xi also urged the journalism industry to foster workers with firm political beliefs, outstanding professional skills and moral excellence whom the Party and people can trust.

Stressing Party's leadership

The fundamental issue of the Party's media work is to strictly adhere to the Party's leadership, Xi told attendees of the symposium.

All news media run by the Party must work to speak for the Party's will and its propositions and protect the Party's authority and unity.

They should enhance their awareness to align their ideology, political thinking and deeds to those of the CPC Central Committee and help fashion the Party's theories and policies into conscious action by the general public while providing spiritual enrichment to the people, he said.

At a meeting held on February 21, Liu Yunshan said the key to doing a good job in media and publicity is to strengthen officials' ideological and political foundations.

Vice Premier Liu Yandong said publicity and culture departments should better serve the country's efforts of stabilizing growth, promoting reform and preventing risks.

Liu Qibao, head of the publicity department of the CPC Central Committee, emphasized that the media should stick to guiding public opinion on the correct path, adopt innovative methods and improve their abilities.



President Xi Jinping (2nd L, front) talks with a correspondent who is just back from reporting in Zhengding County of Hebei Province, at the headquarters of Xinhua News Agency in Beijing, on Feb. 19, 2016.



President Xi Jinping (R, front) shakes hands with staff members at the control room of China Central Television (CCTV) in Beijing, on Feb. 19, 2016.

Premier pledges reform when meeting foreign experts

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged China will continue to deepen reforms by streamlining administration, delegating powers, improving regulation and providing better services.

"This will trigger market vitality and ingenuity, and will create a level playing field for all market players," said Li during discussions with foreign experts working in China at the Great Hall of the People on February 5.

Li extended New Year greetings to foreign experts and their families, as well as sincere thanks to friends from other countries given support to China's reform, opening-up and modernization drive.

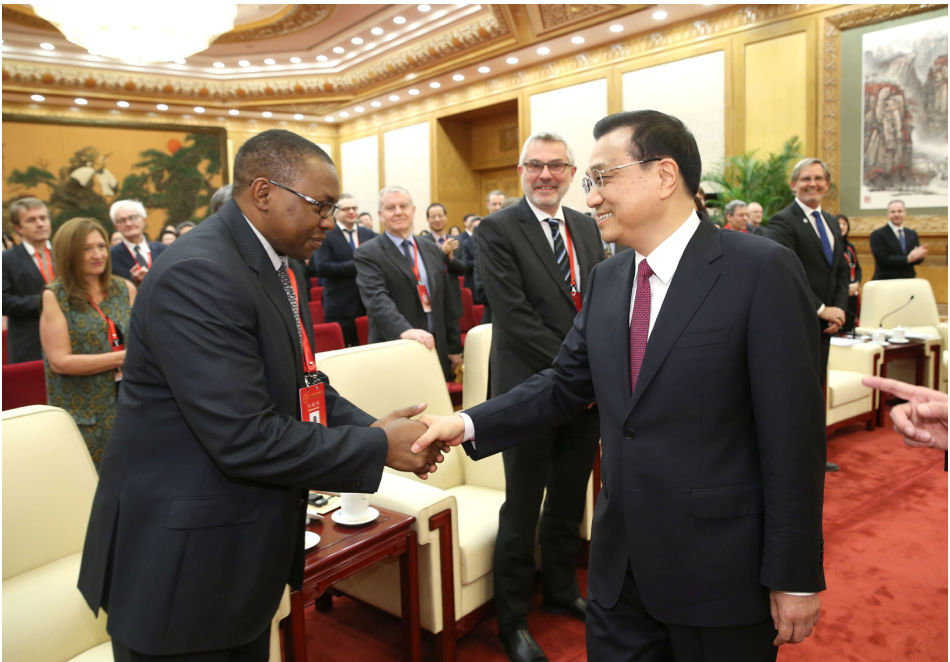
During the meeting, Li listened to advice from four experts on issues concerning China's economic competitiveness, the "Made in China 2025" strategy, the training of applied talents, China's industrial transformation, and how China's story could better reach the world.

The four experts were Christopher Pissarides, holder of the Nobel Prize in Economics and professor at the London School of Economics, Falk Hoehn, German expert on industrial design and guest professor at Hefei University, Jongseong Lim, Canadian expert from China's 1000 Talent Plan for High-Level Foreign Experts and deputy head of the Geely Automobile Research Institute, and John Lydon, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and an American expert working at China Daily.

Li also responded to questions raised by Daniel Dudek, U.S. expert on environment protection, and Tatsuhito Tokuchi, a Japanese financial expert, about the Chinese economy and the RMB exchange rate.

Li said that, last year, despite a sluggish world economy and prominent structural problems facing the domestic economy, China's GDP realized medium-high growth on the basis of 10 trillion U.S. dollars.

New economic sectors and new business models had grown rapidly, he said, noting the Chinese economy is growing in a more balanced fashion, and is being driven more and



Premier Li Keqiang (1st R) attends a seminar with foreign experts working in China, in Beijing, Feb. 5, 2016.

more by domestic demand, innovation, as well as the service sector and the green economy.

Although facing some difficulties and challenges, China's new type of industrialization, IT application, urbanization and agricultural modernization would unleash enormous development potential and provide much impetus in driving drive world economic growth, he said.

China was pushing ahead with structural reform, especially reform on the supply side. "It is in the process of implementing a strategy of developing through innovation and of encouraging mass entrepreneurship and innovation".

Efforts were being stepped up to foster new development drive mechanisms while traditional ones were being upgraded and improved.

Li said China's basic state policy of opening up would remain unchanged.

"China will bring in more talents in an all-round way, and will provide them with services that are more convenient and up to international standards," he said.

Intellectual property would be better protected according to law, he said, adding that the pooling of collective wisdom and strength would help the Chinese economy move away from over-dependence on natural resources and become increasingly driven by human resources and talents.

Li also hoped foreign experts working in China would continue to share their ideas and insights with China for the common development of the Chinese and global economy.

Local sessions highlight national concerns

The provincial people's congress of Anhui ended on Feb. 21, concluding all local legislative and political consultative sessions in China. That means the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, known as the "two sessions," are imminent.

Analysts say that local hot topics are often closely connected with those deliberations at the national level. The following is a roundup of highlights from the work reports of the 31 provinces (or municipalities and autonomous regions).



Vehicles run on a fog-shrouded road in Beijing, China, March 17, 2013.

Curbing air pollution

Curbing air pollution is found in the work reports of all 31 provinces.

The State Council released the "Action Plan for Air Pollution Prevention and Control" in 2013, in which it marked a red line for PM2.5 density for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei cluster, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta.

At this year's local "two sessions," Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei all showcased their performance sheets for smog control during the 12th Five Year Plan (2011-15). In 2015 alone, the average PM2.5 density in Hebei dropped by 28.7 percent from the 2013 level; the figure for Tianjin was 27.1 percent and the density for particle matter (PM) in Beijing in 2015 was lowered by 15.8 percent against 2012.

The air quality in both the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta both improved overall.

Hebei has promised that its PM2.5 density will have fallen 40 percent from the level in 2013 by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan, and the heavily polluted cities in the province would seek to disappear from the national worst 10 list. Beijing has promised this year's PM density would drop by around five percent.

Poverty reduction

Metadata helps precisely implement poverty reduction measures.

Poverty alleviation is the top-priority project during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20). To improve the life quality of all impoverished, take off counties from the poverty-stricken list, and solve overall regional poverty will be the most demanding undertaking for the building of a comprehensive well-off society during the period.

Guizhou is central to the task, for it is one of the most poverty-stricken provinces. Its provincial government work report made clear, for the first time, poverty alleviation would be at the top of the agenda, and the No. 1 livelihood project for a province with 6.23 million impoverished people.

The goal of Sichuan Province's poverty alleviation for this year is "to lift more than 1.05 million people out of poverty and delist more than 2,350 impoverished villages and five impoverished counties."

Construction of clean government

Rules and regulations will become much stricter.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the anti-corruption campaign has been intensified. The effort to build clean government has naturally been an issue of most concern.

Almost all the 31 provincial government work reports mentioned increasing the effort to build clean government. Beijing will focus on grass-root agencies and departments that directly serve the people to rectify "negligence and reckless governance." Economic audits will be applied to all agencies, including leaders leaving or who have already left their posts.

Henan Province stressed Party and government officials would have the responsibility for the Party's work style and the building of clean government. Inspection and supervision will have no boundaries or restricted areas, and there will be no tolerance of violations of Party discipline or laws.

Coordinating urban-rural development

Gradually reducing the urban-rural gap, facilitating fair exchanges of urban and rural elements, ensuring fair access to reasonable resource

allocation and basic public services are the key to a comprehensive well-off society.

In Beijing, the goal of "everyone enjoys social security" has largely been met in the senior care and medical care systems for both urban and rural residents. The urban and rural minimum living standards have been unified. There is now no difference in the public services and social security policies for urban and rural residents.

For those less developed provinces, perfecting rural infrastructure and public service systems are the main undertaking for coordinating urban and rural development and in shaping a beautiful countryside.

Bringing cultural products to rural areas to build a public cultural service system that covers all residents is an important assignment in coordinating urban and rural development. Heilongjiang Province plans to launch a digital wireless network of radio and television, facilitating the merger of telecommunications, radio and TV networks and the Internet.

Investment in people's livelihood

Investment in people's livelihood has always been a hot topic and focus of discussion for delegates to people's congress and representatives to political consultative conferences.

The government work report of Jiangsu Province said the government will expand such investment to "patch up the short board," ensure basic social welfare, increase the supply of public services and complete 10 major undertakings involved. Noticeably, for the care and protection of the underprivileged, the province will set up 100 provincial e-commerce model stations of women volunteers, who will provide specialized care for left-behind children and women, single and impoverished women, and senior people without children to care for them. The province will also fully implement the aid and protection system for children living in difficulty.

Also in 2016, Guangdong Province will set aside 210 billion yuan (US\$32.3 billion) from its financial budget to raise the basic living standard, enhance assistance to vulnerable groups, ensuring housing for low-income people, improve living and production conditions in rural areas, and improve grass-root medical services, among the 10 major tasks for enhancing people's livelihood.

Sichuan will go on increasing the expenditure on items concerning people's livelihood. The share of such expenditure in the provincial budget will remain at around 65 percent. The provincial government will launch 20 major undertakings for improving people's livelihood.

Simplifying governance and decentralizing powers

Simplifying governance and decentralizing powers have always been hailed as the first moves in the comprehensive deepening of reform and the transformation of government functions. They take up much space in the government work report each year.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan, Guangdong will implement a provincial-city-county third-level management system of government agencies' responsibility list, continue to reduce the items requiring administrative approval, rectify intermediary services and standardize administrative approvals.

Beijing's effort in this regard will be characterized by docking with the central government in that Beijing will also accommodate the powers that the central government devolves to.

Jiangsu, Henan, Hunan, Tianjin, Xinjiang all promised they will resolutely simplify governance and decentralize powers to lower agencies to ensure "minimal approval items, highest efficiency and best services."

It is foreseeable that simplifying governance and decentralizing powers will carry more weight this year. And this issue will attract national attention during the national "two sessions."



The orchestra of the Duan Village Primary School in northern China's Hebei Province puts on a performance on Sept.13, 2014, the first day of the school term.

FDI, inflation growth show economy warming up



Weight training

China's economic indicators put up a mixed performance in January, with FDI and inflation growth showing recovery signs.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) continued to grow steadily in January. Excluding investment in the financial sector, it rose 3.2 percent year on year to US\$14.07 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

Investment in the burgeoning service sector accounted for 67.6 percent of total inflow, while that in the high-tech service industry more than doubled to 7.2 billion yuan (US\$1.1 billion).

The FDI is a key measure of general overseas investor interest. The January figure showed foreign corporate confidence in the world's second largest economy despite months of cooling.

The consumer price index (CPI), main gauge of inflation, grew 1.8 percent year on year in January due to rising food prices, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported on Feb. 18.

This marked a slight increase from the 1.6 percent in December and represented a five-month high.

Food prices grew 4.1 percent in January, much faster than the rise of 2.7 percent in December and 2.3 percent in November. Prices in the non-food sector rose 1.2 percent, marginally higher than the 1.1 percent a month earlier.

Pork prices surged 18.8 percent year on year, contributing 0.44 percentage points of the CPI growth while vegetable prices jumped 14.7 percent.

The rise in vegetable and fruit prices was due to supply setbacks during January's extreme cold, while demand for pork and transportation rose before the Lunar New Year celebrations, said NBS researcher Yu Qiumei.

However, despite the higher CPI, inflation growth will remain at a low level in 2016, according to Lian Ping, chief economist at the Bank of Communications, adding, "rising food prices are caused by seasonal factors."

The Producer Price Index (PPI), measurement of inflation at the factory gate, dropped for the 47th consecutive month to 5.3 percent in January. The reading however did ease a little from the 5.9-percent contraction seen from August to December last year.

This narrowing was mostly driven by a lower comparison base last January, the NBS said.

While prices in upstream industries, such as oil, continued to fall, some products downstream, such as ferrous metals, saw slight recovery in January, which might have been a result of China's latest efforts to pursue supply-side reform, including cutting overcapacity in specific industries, according to a study by the investment bank China International Capital Corp (CICC).

"Overall, deflationary pressure remains and leaves room for further monetary policy easing," said Wendy Chen, a Nomura research analyst.

Although the rising CPI in January signaled an easing of deflationary pressure, the market still worried growth might not last.

"The uptick reflects more a seasonal shock to food prices and a reduced drag from commodity costs than strengthening in demand using up spare capacity," said Bloomberg economist Tom Orlik in a research note.

"With virtually the entire increase coming from food prices, it's not an increase that's likely to be sustained for long," he said.

To stimulate the economy, China's central bank cut the benchmark interest rates five times in 2015. Since the last reduction in October, the central bank also lowered the short-term money market rate many times to inject more liquidity into the financial system.

Rescue diver Guan Dong, ‘Touching China’ award winner

The annual “Touching China” award ceremony held on Feb. 14 honored 10 Chinese inspirational role models in 2015, including Guan Dong, a member of the Communist Party of China and a rescue diver who was awarded for his outstanding contribution to the search and rescue mission following the Eastern Star disaster.

Guan, born in 1990, works in the diving and rescue team at the Naval University of Engineering in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in central China. After the cruise ship Eastern Star capsized on the Yangtze River on June 1 last year, he rescued two passengers and gave his own diving equipment to help a stranded person rise to the surface. Without his equipment, Guan was almost swept away by the current, but finally managed to surface, with his eyes bloodshot and nose bleeding.

“People born in different eras may differ in ideas and behaviors, because they grew up under different social conditions, but I believe that most of us who were born in the 1990s can be just as hardy, responsible and dedicated as our elders,” Guan said during an interview after he became famous nationwide for his heroic behavior.

Guan was born in a common family in Ningguo City, Anhui Province. His father works in the local city administration department. His mother works in a private company. He has an elder sister, who works in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province.

Guan’s father didn’t know his son had participated in Eastern Star’s rescue mission. “I saw him on TV and felt very proud,” he said. “But when I saw blood running out of his nose, I also felt worried.” The next day, Guan’s father sent him a message, telling him to work even harder but reminding him to ensure his safety.



Guan Dong (L) and his colleagues



Guan Dong during a diving exercise.

In the eyes of his friends, Guan is a robust, warm-hearted young man.

Zhang Pengyuan is a close friend of Guan. The two became friends because of an accident. Zhang joined the rescue team six months later than Guan. As a newcomer, he had inferior diving skills. During an exercise, he dived too fast and almost hit a barrier underwater. At the very point, Guan jumped into the water and saved him. After the accident, Guan began to teach him various diving skills.

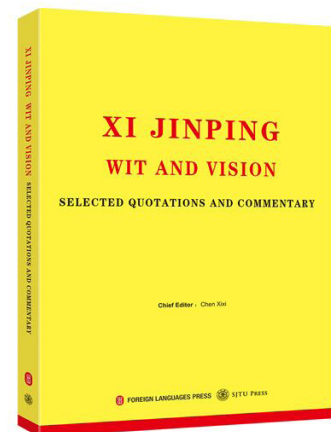
Despite his young age, Guan is experienced in diving and works very hard. Therefore, he gradually took on a teaching role in the rescue team, responsible for all new members. He participated in almost all major emergency missions and was always the first to dive into the water.

Diving has occupied most part of his life. In his spare time, he likes playing sports and looking for delicious foods still unknown to the public. Of all sports, Guan likes soccer and cycling most. He has been to almost all scenic spots in Wuhan by bike.

After watching A Bite of China, a popular documentary TV series on the history of food, eating and cooking, Guan made a plan, vowing to have a bite of all delicious foods in Wuhan. The first weekend he developed the plan, he went to a restaurant some eight kilometers away by bike to have a bowl of chow mien (stir-fried noodles). Sadly, his gourmet plan has made no progress due to his busy work and exercise schedule.

Although he has received the “Touching China” award, he remains simple and earnest. “I’ve never had the thought that I can be one of the ‘Touching China’ award winners, because I simply did what I should,” he said after receiving the award.

Book about Xi’s quotations launched



The English edition of a book of President Xi Jinping’s quotations with accompanying commentary was launched in New Delhi on Jan. 10, on the sidelines of the 24th World Book Fair in the Indian capital.

The book, entitled “Xi Jinping Wit and Vision – Selected Quotations and Commentary”, highlighted keywords in the president’s major speeches since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and illustrated their implied meanings and theoretical value.

President Xi frequently uses analogies and storytelling to express profound truths in his speech. His colloquial, straightforward language clarifies ideas that many find puzzling, and his quotations from China’s traditional culture well summarize his topics and expound his proposition. His speeches express wisdom in simple language that packs a powerful, penetrating punch.

At its launch ceremony, Lu Cairong, vice president of the China International Publishing Group (CIPG), lauded for the launch of its English version which enables foreign readers to understand Chinese culture and President Xi’s way of governance through simple and vivid language.

Liu Jingsong, minister at Chinese embassy in India, noted that China-India friendship will be boosted if more Indian people know about China through reading this book.

The book is composed of four sections: Overview, Imagery and Metaphors, Everyday Saying, and Quotations from the Classics.

The English edition published by Foreign Languages Press in cooperation with SJTU Press followed its Chinese version that hit the market in late 2014.

The Chinese version is edited by Chen Xixi, distinguished professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and a senior researcher of Marxism.

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

Supply-side reform:

The goal of reform on the supply-side (supply and production) is to unleash productivity and maintain a competitive edge.

[More>>](#)

Coordinated Development for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region:

Coordinated development for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region aims at orderly relocating all non-essential functions from Beijing, the national capital, to neighboring locations.

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Major events in February

Feb. 4: Li makes inspection tour to Ningxia

Keywords: Li Keqiang, Ningxia

Premier Li Keqiang urged efforts to upgrade traditional industries and make them more competitive through technological innovation during an inspection tour to northwest China’s Ningxia.

Feb.6: Chinese, US presidents hold phone conversation

Keywords: Xi Jinping, Obama

President Xi Jinping held a telephone conversation with his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama, during which the two leaders exchanged Lunar New Year greetings.

Chinese, South Korean presidents talk relations on phone

Keywords: Xi Jinping, Park Geun-hye, South Korea

President Xi Jinping and his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye agreed to keep making efforts to jointly promote China-South Korea ties to a new high.

Feb. 19: Australia urged to be impartial on South China Sea disputes

Keywords: Yang Jiechi, Julie Bishop, Australia

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi urged Australia to be impartial on territorial disputes in the South China Sea in his meeting with visiting Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

Feb 24: Xi urges implementation of reforms

Keywords: Xi Jinping, reform

President Xi Jinping ordered officials at all levels to implement reform measures and address lingering problems to ensure the reform drive is successful.

Feb. 25: Chinese Foreign Minister visits US

Keyword: Wang Yi

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has met with US President Obama in Washington. Wang is in Washington for his first US visit of the year.