

19th CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS | International perspective

'Unified, together, vision'

Nation's formula for progress includes a caring and inspiring leadership

Despite only arriving in China three years ago, Australian professor Jeffrey Reimers has already had a significant impact on Shanghai's scientific community.

His research center has published a series of academic papers in major scientific journals, including *Nature*, which has helped raise Shanghai University's international profile.

He has also forged greater cooperation between the university and the University of Technology Sydney, where he is also a faculty member.

He currently works on a project that involves protein crystallography, a vital element in drug design, and also collaborates with prominent Chinese scientist Hong Guo on research into silicon electronics.

"Hopefully when I'm done with my work here, the connection between the two universities will be further strengthened, and through that I will leave a legacy," Reimers said.

"I'm very happy to work on the advancement of science in China. It's all part of developing a better world."

The scientist was awarded the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award, on Sept 6, for his contribution to the city's efforts to build a global science and technology hub.

What do you feel has been China's biggest achievement in recent years?

I read a report that about 95 million people were taken out of poverty in China over the past decade, and that's a really significant achievement that reflects 40 years of amazing achievements in China. To see that happening and to be a part of it in my own little way is very special.

I find China to be an extremely friendly place. Three or four years ago, when my family and I were on the subway or a bus in Shanghai, people around would talk to us.

But what I have found disturbing is that this happens rarely today, as everyone is glued to their phones. Society has become much more insu-

lar, and people are more focused on themselves and their toys.

Traffic is also becoming much more pleasant. When we first came, it was chaos. I once had a student come visit me and he was almost in tears after having to cross a road.

But all that is changing for the better due to efforts from the Shanghai government. Similarly, the ban on car horns happened overnight, and it made life so much more pleasant.

What three words would you use to describe China?

Unified, together, vision. People have very different incomes, but everyone you talk to is interested in building a better China, and they see that as their job. People moving together as one, and with a vision, is a great strength to have indeed.

What's the biggest challenge China faces today, and how do you think the country can overcome this?

People focusing too much on themselves and the building of wealth, instead of interest in the community and the country. That is a great problem in the West, and I feel it is becoming more prevalent in China.

In terms of challenges in the field of science, environmental damage and sustainability would be core issues. Coming up with better, cleaner methods for creating chemical reactions when generating power is going to be important.

All these things are global issues that affect China, and China is doing its share to address these key issues.

To have real development in the applied scientific fields, we need to continue funding the core science underpinning it. To turn your back on that and just focus on applica-



Jeffrey Reimers, director of the International Research Center for Quantum and Molecular Sciences at Shanghai University.

tions is the demise of science and technology.

You have met President Xi Jinping. What was your impression of him?

It was a wonderful meeting. President Xi is very learned in many areas. He showed interest in the recommendations and comments that were put together by the foreign experts and even described how the recommendations would be looked at by the appropriate committees.

He made you feel valued. Being at that meeting made us scientists feel like we were contributing to China and, in turn, to the world. President Xi came across as someone who cares for his people, his country and the world.

How do you view China's role in today's world?

China needs to become a world leader and inspire other countries, particularly in terms of friendship and cooperation to show countries how not to be bullies, and how to be friends. China needs to expand its reputation and abilities in these areas.

Do you believe some of China's experiences or practices could be used to solve pressing global problems?

Many countries are in the position China was 40 years ago, and the lessons learned here in China are certainly appropriate for them.

China needs to teach people in these countries how to go about managing certain issues, such as ensuring good government, how to prevent corruption and how to focus on development in a sustainable way with clear end goals.

China's five-year plans provide a purpose and focus, and any developing country needs such plans to have a long-term future. China needs to teach other countries how to do this.

Milestone in Party's development

By YU SUI

The National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), held every five years to draw the road map for national development, is the most important political meeting for China. And the upcoming 19th CPC National Congress will be a milestone in China's peaceful development.

The Party National Congress is important for the following reasons.

Since the 18th Party Congress in 2012, dramatic changes have taken place in the Chinese economy, foreign relations and political ecosystem under Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. His philosophy and practice of national governance have resulted in remarkable achievements. His grand goals and outstanding leadership have earned Xi the trust, respect and admiration of the Party and the people.

The People's Republic of China has witnessed substantial twists and turns since 1949. Between 1949 and 1976, under Chairman Mao Zedong, China established its socialist political and economic foundation. From 1978 to 1989, under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the country formulated socialism with Chinese characteristics through reform and opening-up. And thanks to Xi's leadership beginning with the 18th Party Congress in 2012, China is set to become an intermediately developed country.

At the first news conference after assuming the Party leadership, Xi put forward the concept of the Chinese Dream, emphasizing that the wish of the people to lead a better life will be the primary foundation of the Party's goals.

Extraordinary progress has been made toward those goals in the past five years: Corrupt officials have received due punishment, people's livelihoods have improved and China's military prowess has grown and global standing risen. And future achievements will likely be based on innovative, coordinated, eco-friendly, open and shared development.

China has benefited tremendously from Xi's mission to build a relatively well-off society, deepen reforms, enforce the rule of law and implement strict self-discipline within the Party "in an all-round manner".

The Party's grand ideals derive from the leadership's confidence in

the path it has taken, and its theories, systems and culture. To this end, the report of the 19th Party Congress is expected to be comprehensive.

First, the Party is likely to address how to fundamentally eradicate poverty while maintaining steady and healthy economic development. Thanks to the four decades of reform and opening-up, the number of people living below the poverty line has drastically decreased, but about 50 million people still struggle to make ends meet. According to the country's poverty alleviation plan, the Party will not only end the predicament of the poor people and regions by 2020, but also lay a strong foundation for a sustainable relief mechanism.

Second, the 19th Party Congress is expected to discuss how to institutionalize the fight against corruption while maintaining a democratic system, as the people are expecting that Xi's promise to "put power in the cage of law" will be honored at the upcoming Party Congress.

Third, in all likelihood the Party Congress will examine how to strengthen the military, so as to safeguard national security, facilitate national reunification, and protect regional and global peace.

And fourth, the leadership is bound to seize the occasion to demonstrate China's sense of responsibility as a global power.

Xi has proposed to build a human community of shared destiny. True to the objective of building such a community, peace, development and "win-win" cooperation have been the consistent principles of China's diplomacy. Of course, preserving peace is not the same as outright appeasement, and so there is no room for compromise when it comes to national sovereignty. Similarly, promoting development does not mean giving indiscriminately and promoting cooperation does not mean supplicating anyone. Seeking win-win outcomes must be based on sincerity.

China is promoting globalization with the Belt and Road Initiative to revitalize ancient trade routes, and is actively participating in global governance, particularly with its leadership in the fight against climate change. The 19th Party Congress will usher China into a new period of history that will be marked by prosperity and peace.

The author is a professor at the China Center for Contemporary World Studies.

Source: chinausfocus.com

>> FROM PAGE 8

monitoring and restraint as an economy grows, not less.

It also shows that the central government must not abdicate its responsibilities to protect its own people from such forces, and must also be vigilant in ensuring the industrial base and economy as a whole do not suffer from unfair patterns of international trade.

China's government has proven to be highly successful and responsible

in carrying out these core obligations.

On the contrary, it is US growth rates that have remained at miniscule levels for decades.

According to Wall Street analyst Gerald Celente, median US income is now at 1999 levels; 51 percent of all people working full time in the US now earn only \$30,000 or less and household ownership is at a 50-year low.

China's economic policies have raised a larger number of people out

of poverty in a shorter period of time than any other recorded period in history.

The current slowing of overall growth rates and the success of the anti-corruption campaign, therefore, need to be recognized as the inevitable and desirable outcomes of this remarkable success.

The author is a senior fellow at the Global Policy Institute in Washington, US