

19th CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

Event bolsters Party's path

Congress will set stage for accomplishing the goal of realizing a moderately prosperous society by 2020

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The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), to be convened in Beijing on Oct 18, is set to be a new milestone in the Party's success and in national rejuvenation.

The CPC, with more than 89 million members, is not only the largest political party in the world and in history, but more importantly, it is the ruling party in the largest developing country — home to nearly one-fifth of the world population.

The all-important meeting provides the Party with an opportunity to explicitly declare which policies it upholds and which path it will take in the next five years before the next congress and beyond, according to experts and researchers. As China is the second-largest economy, contributing over 30 percent to global growth since 2008, answers to these questions concern the world.

Its rise along its own path over the past five years, while drawing points from many other countries, represents the constant improvement of that path. This is shown not only in stable growth and productive restructuring, but also in a larger say and role in global governance that has accompanied China's new type

of major-country diplomacy, active participation in multilateral mechanisms, and the Belt and Road Initiative — the China-led drive to boost connectivity along the historical Silk Road trade routes.

The path, which is officially termed "socialism with Chinese characteristics", is by no means a vague concept. It is a pragmatic path that has been adhered to and enriched by different generations of leadership since 1978, when the third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee convened in Beijing. That session addressed the historical issues left by the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), ushering in a new era of reform and opening-up.

Meetings are of vital importance to good governance in China. Some, though held decades ago, like the 1978 plenary session, remain fresh in the public's memory. They represent paradigm shifts in the operation of the country and influence people's lives.

A recent example is the 18th CPC National Congress five years ago. It prioritized clean governance, innovative growth, green development and national confidence. The new leadership has since demonstrated the corresponding executive power to transform ideas into realities in an increasingly sure and predictable manner.

The 19th CPC National Congress,



Pupils and teachers pose for a selfie in front of a "smiling face wall" exhibit in the eastern Anhui province on Oct 11. The exhibit, in the former New Fourth Army Memorial Hall, celebrates the 19th Party Congress, starting Oct 18.

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which comes at a decisive moment in the construction of a moderately prosperous society by 2020, and at a key period in the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, is expected to chalk up new guidelines, if not action plans, along the path.

The meeting's results will directly concern three challenges deciding China's future: The driving force and innovative power of social development; the balance, harmony and stability of social development; and good governance of society and the country, Han Qingxiang, a member of the administration committee of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, wrote in *People's Daily*.

Han said the meeting, while a Party gathering, will certainly inject new vitality into Chinese society. This will be seen in better solutions to problems in education, caring for the elderly, housing, medical care and income distribution. It also will be seen in advancing good gover-

nance in the fast-changing country by improving its efficiency and abilities in solving problems.

Li Lin, director of the institute of law at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the rule of law, which will definitely top the agenda of the congress, is a "profound revolution" in the realm of governance.

He said the Party will unwaveringly deepen the rule of law as one of the most important ways to modernize its governance system. It will send a clear message showing the Party's resolve in advancing the rule of law, Li said.

China's political party system, a key component of the path, will be further strengthened by the meeting, Yuan Tinghua, former deputy head of the Central Institute of Socialism, said in *People's Daily*.

Experience has shown the complexity of China's modernization requires a political party system that has an exceptional capacity for integration, always uniting different

forces to strive for a common goal. China's political party system has just that ability, Yuan said.

The system can only be strengthened with China's development, he added. Neither a two-party system nor a multiparty system fits China's national conditions, and would split society. The success of China's political party system provides a new paradigm for the development of party politics.

The meeting is also expected to stick to some judgments that have not been changed.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has reiterated the necessity for Party members to understand the "largest practical national conditions". This could be summarized in the following points: China has remained and will remain in the primary stage of socialism; the main social conflict remains the gap between needs and production; and China has been and will continue to be the largest developing country.

CPC embraces greater openness

Media center to facilitate interviews with delegates, publish regular updates via website and WeChat

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Domestic and overseas reporters will have a chance to interview delegates to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) as a special "delegates' passage" will be set up for the first time at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing — the venue of the congress — to boost its transparency.

Journalists have been advised to arrive an hour early. Timings and other details will be released by the

congress's press center via its website and WeChat account, according to the Service Guide for Journalists issued by the press center, which opened on Oct 11.

Registered reporters from home and abroad started arriving at the press center on Oct 11 to pick up their press cards for the all-important political event that is expected to map out China's development path in the coming years.

Wang Dongmei, deputy head of the Press Center of the 19th CPC National Congress, said introduc-

ing the delegates' passage will help diversify coverage of the congress.

At the two sessions in March, also held in the Great Hall of the People, a passage allowing media to ask questions of minister-level officials attending the annual gatherings of the top legislature and top political advisory body was introduced with success.

The "ministers' passage" won praise from media and observers by giving reporters a greater chance to raise questions on urgent public concerns.

Also on Oct 11, the press center's

website and WeChat account were put to use.

Hu Xiaohan, head of the press center, noted this is the first time the congress' press center has opened an official account on the popular social network WeChat.

The WeChat account will inform reporters of the agenda, latest updates, announcements, notices and relevant information.

To echo the trend of media integration and rising need to bring news to social networks, the press center for the first time has also set

up an interview room offering access to 20 specially prepared Internet cables, Hu said.

Yu Guoming, executive dean of Beijing Normal University's School of Journalism and Communication, said the new passage demonstrates the Party's efforts to embrace greater openness.

While spokespersons make informational briefings in an official style, delegates come from various vocations, levels of expertise and places, and may offer answers that better respond to public concerns, he said.