

19th CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS | International perspective

Editor's note: The Communist Party of China will hold its 19th National Congress on Oct 18. In the run-up to the meeting, China Daily asked two foreign diplomats for their views on the event and what will be of particular interest to them.

'Iron brother' shows the way

By MO JINGXI
mojingxi@chinadaily.com.cn

China is a giant that has moved with great ease and has achieved the type of success few other countries have, according to Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua.

Pakistan can learn from the hard work and commitment of its "iron brother", she said, as she hailed China's "amazing development".

"With a population the size that China has, it's difficult for that kind of leap forward to be made," she said. "China has made that leap. We congratulate its leadership and people for that."

Speaking of the changes that have taken place in China over the past five years, Janjua said lifting millions out of poverty to a higher level of development is a strategic global event that China has taken the lead in.

She was also amazed at the urbanization programs that have taken place, as "China has done what few countries have been able to do at a national level".

"Take a look at Chinese cities. They match those of any developed country," she said.

Janjua said a key factor is "commitment at all levels".

China has always been an important player on the global stage, but has recently assumed its legitimate and rightful leading role, she said.

"This has been demonstrated not only in its relations with various



Tehmina Janjua,
foreign secretary of Pakistan.

parts of the world, but also at the United Nations."

The diplomat said China's greater role on the international stage will help in promoting the legal aspects of the global order.

"We are happy with this role because China is a country whose activities are within the UN system and based on the principles identified in the UN Charter," she said.

Janjua said the Belt and Road Initiative is an example of China's readiness to support the rest of the world. The China-led trade, infrastructure and connectivity plan aims to revive the ancient Silk Road routes.

Projects under the initiative will benefit Pakistan and the entire region, she said.

Support for free trade gives NZ confidence

By HU YONGQI
huyongqi@chinadaily.com.cn

New Zealand expects to see China's continuous commitment to free trade and multilateralism at the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress this month, said John McKinnon, the country's ambassador to China.

Given China's position in the global economy, the signals sent by the congress for the nation's approach to its own economic situation as well as globally will be of considerable interest, McKinnon said.

"The congress provides a strong sense of direction to where it's going," he added.

President Xi Jinping's speech in January at Davos in Switzerland advocated China's commitment to multilateralism and the importance of globalized trade, McKinnon said.

"That's really important for New Zealand," he said. "We are an open economy. We rely on the trading system to be fair and equitable in terms of how to deal with different countries and different markets."

China is New Zealand's largest trading partner for goods. The countries signed a free trade agreement in 2008, and negotiations on upgrading the document started in April.

"Now, both China and New Zealand have engaged in the negotiations. We want to make sure the



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JOHN MCKINNON
New Zealand's ambassador to China

agreement is fit for 2017 and 2018 as well," McKinnon said.

"The words China has been saying and the president has been saying are an important context that gives us confidence."

The ambassador noted United States President Donald Trump will visit China shortly after the congress, in November, and then

meetings such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum will be held in the region.

"These will be occasions shortly after the congress when what has been discussed and concluded at the Party congress will be addressed internationally," he said.

Meanwhile, McKinnon keeps a close eye on how China's legal system works. In light of the major anti-corruption campaign of the past few years, New Zealand is interested in how China is governing itself, he said.

"It's interesting to see how the Party congress sums it up and what it might want to do in terms of taking the work forward."

The ambassador said he will also be interested to see how the congress addresses the issue of environmental protection. China has changed its attitude and policies and is focused on improving the quality of air, water and soil.

In December, New Zealand will host the second New Zealand-China Mayoral Forum, the theme of which is how to balance economic development and protection of the environment.

"This is an area that we think about a lot in New Zealand, and we see China thinks about too," McKinnon added.

"That's a basis for some interesting exchanges on how you deal with the fact that you want to grow the economy and protect the environment."

Generous community spirit impresses expats

By ZHOU WENTING
zhouwenting@chinadaily.com.cn

Longtime foreign residents in the Gubei area, one of Shanghai's largest expat communities, said they have witnessed marvelous changes in the district and its local citizens in the past few years, changes that might be difficult to find elsewhere.

These residents are among the first group of expats to settle into their second homes in Shanghai, as the Gubei area, which is between the city center and Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, was formed

as the first large-scale international community of high standard in the country in the mid-1990s.

Michelle Teope of the Philippines said the area, as well as the country at large, has changed dramatically in the 17 years since she arrived.

"The country's transformation in economic strength and cultural diversity has, in turn, changed the way I live, as well as that of all the other individuals and families," she said.

Teope is chairwoman of a volunteer organization formed by expats in the Gubei area and dedicated to raising money for children with congeni-

tal heart disease, so they can receive surgery. She said the most obvious change is that the local community shows more enthusiasm for charity.

"We have 40 volunteers, and in the past five years we had 10 Chinese joining us for the first time," said Teope, 55. The group, Beacon of Love, has raised enough since 2002 to provide surgeries for 350 children from the Chinese mainland, each costing about 30,000 yuan (\$4,550).

Sachiko Ozaki shared Teope's feeling. The Japanese housewife, who moved to Shanghai 16 years ago with her husband and 2-year-old son, is

a member of a group of Japanese women who hold a charity bazaar and donate the money to schools in impoverished inland regions.

"The bazaar first came into being 20 years ago, but it was only in recent years that local residents started to become interested," said Ozaki, 48.

Teope said how people give also has changed. "Local influential Internet companies, such as Tencent and Sina, have set up charity platforms where people can publish verified information of a family in need and Internet users can donate money online."

Ozaki said the changes in Shanghai in the past five years were faster than what she ever found in Tokyo, where she comes from.

The expats said they looked forward to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China to further steer the country's development.

"The Belt and Road Initiative (for a trade and infrastructure network along the Silk Road routes), which I understand as a way to share wealth and distribute benefits, and China's high-speed bullet trains will bring China new developments and global influence," Teope said.