

# 19<sup>th</sup> CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

## Expanding jobs, helping pensioners

Boosting employment a priority as government aims to cut disparity in social security of retirees

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China will continue its policies to boost employment and make further efforts to coordinate pensions across provincial regions to help cover more people, a top human resources regulator said on Oct 22.

"We will continue the strategy to prioritize employment, especially to integrate with macroeconomic, industrial and financial policies, to create more jobs," Yin Weimin, minister of human resources and social security, said at a news conference hosted by the press center of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Professional training will be enhanced to help labor improve occupational skills and the ability to transfer to new posts, he

said. Yin also said that in the next three years, more than 15 million jobs are needed every year, as the number of college graduates starts to exceed 8 million next year.

The government will also encourage business startups by promulgating favorable policies in loans, financing and the use of land, he said. "Meanwhile, we will provide high-quality services in employment, especially in Internet-based services, to provide help to everyone who wants to find a job," he said.

Recent years have seen a slowing in the growth of the Chinese economy, but the country has managed to keep creating new employment opportunities. More than 13 million new jobs were created every year in the past five years in urban areas.

Yin said economic development helps create more jobs, which also



Central government officials take questions from reporters at a news conference about people's livelihoods on Oct 22. They are, from left, Guo Weimin, vice-minister of the State Council Information Office; Yin Weimin, minister of human resources and social security; Chen Baosheng, minister of education; Huang Shuxian, minister of civil affairs; Wang Menghui, minister of housing and urban rural development; and Li Bin, minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission. EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

benefit from administrative reforms to stimulate market vitality and social creativity. The central government has promoted business system reform to lower the threshold for startups and innovation, he said.

According to the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, about 16,000 enterprises are registered each day in the world's second-largest economy, enlarging employment. Journalists at the news

conference also asked about retirees after hearing about the minister's blueprint to increase jobs for the younger generation.

The country's pension insurance fund has an accumulated surplus of more than 4 trillion yuan (\$605 billion), but differences among provincial regions make it necessary to coordinate programs, Yin said.

Next year, the central government will fine-tune pensions among differ-

ent regions as the first step to coordinate regional disparity, he said.

Eight provinces have entrusted the National Council for Security Fund to invest 400 billion yuan from their pension funds, as approved by the State Council, to maintain and increase their value.

More State-owned assets will be allocated to the social security fund to enlarge the scale of pensions, the minister added.

## Foreign journalists witness a global event

By XINHUA

"China's role in international affairs is becoming more important in all directions, especially in economic and political fields," said Andrey Kirillov, Beijing bureau chief of Russia's TASS news agency.

"China is the second-biggest economy, and for this reason, the situation inside China influences the whole world." The congress is a "global event", and it has attracted plenty of attention from foreign journalists because of its content, the issues raised and the problems being solved, Kirillov said.

All these issues are of great importance, including changes in China's economic approach, formation of a new economic development model, changes in society, poverty relief and political issues such as a new leadership, he said.

"Journalists are also interested in

China's foreign policy," he added.

The Russian news agency published 15 to 20 reports and a major summary on the first day of the congress on Oct 18, according to TASS journalist Nikolay Selishchev.

More than 3,000 journalists were in Beijing to cover the congress. Among them, 1,818 were from outside the Chinese mainland, including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, 6.7 percent more than at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Foreign reporters came from 134 countries, 19.6 percent more than at the previous congress, according to the congressional press center.

"Now China has a strong voice in foreign affairs, including politics and economics," Kirillov said. "This is connected with the policies the country takes. So it is interesting to know what decisions about foreign policy and approaches to the

world's market development will be made at the congress."

The Chinese currency has joined the elite reserve currency basket of the International Monetary Fund, or the Special Drawing Rights basket. Kirillov noted that it is an important shift for the yuan to become a currency unit used not only in trade inside China, but also in international financial operations.

For all these reasons, according to Kirillov, decisions made at the congress will be very important not only for China but for the whole world.

Ana Goguadze, a Georgian Sinologist and founder and president of Georgian-Chinese media platform Sinomedia, said that China has opened its door to the world and "showed its power and humanity".

"The world is curious right now. I think we all want to see how far China can go. Everyone agrees that the country with the great past is

becoming stronger and stronger every year," Goguadze said.

Yuksel Mansur Kilinc of Turkey's Yon Radyo radio station said that the Communist Party's openness to foreign journalists is a display of confidence.

Yasuhito Watanabe, of Japan's Kyodo News, agreed.

"We usually hear the official words from officials of the Foreign Ministry, but here at the congress, we get to hear the voices of grassroots CPC members," Watanabe said.

Zhang Xixian, professor with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, said that one of the reasons the congress has drawn so much global attention is that China's "comprehensive national strength" is rising.

"China's contribution to world economic growth and its power in leading world development are on the rise, and the world is beginning

to shift its focus to China," he said.

"The advantages of the CPC political system are gradually showing, which brings attention to the Communist Party," he said.

Zhang said that for almost 70 years, the CPC has helped developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Belt and Road Initiative to revive the ancient Silk Road trading routes has also attracted the attention of many countries.

Abdulwaheed Odusile, president of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, said China and Nigeria are increasingly close and China has helped a lot with construction work in Nigeria. That is partly the reason their journalists came to cover "such an important event", Odusile said.

"The 19th CPC congress is one that is open and transparent to the entire world, and it accepts acclaim as well as criticism," Zhang said. "Such openness has a big impact on the world."