

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“This is an honor not only for myself, but also for Chinese folk music. It exemplifies the increasingly closer cultural exchanges between China and the United States.”



PENG LIYUAN, wife of President Xi Jinping and a well-known soprano, after receiving an honorary doctorate from New York's Juilliard School at the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, on Dec 6.

ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

Confucius said: 'Filial piety is the foundation of all virtues, and the source of all teachings.'

Scroll 9: Xiao Jing

Editor's note: This is an extract from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*, based on 360 passages excerpted from the original compilation of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. *Qunshu Zhiyao* or *The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, commissioned by Emperor Tang Taizong of the Tang Dynasty in the seventh century, contains advice, methods and historical notes on the successes and failures of the imperial governments of China. Today it continues to be relevant as a source of inspiration for self-improvement, family management and interpersonal relations.

Moon's visit to help improve relations: Xi

The visit of the Republic of Korea's President Moon Jae-in will provide opportunities for the two sides to improve bilateral ties that were affected "for reasons known by all", President Xi Jinping said on Dec 14.

Analysts said that Moon's first state visit to China marks the start of a new stage for China-ROK relations jeopardized by the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system on the Korean Peninsula. Moon's four-day visit came amid escalating tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile program.

"I hope and believe that your visit will provide important opportunities for the improvement and development of China-ROK relations," Xi said.

China and the ROK signed seven documents, witnessed by the two presidents, to boost cooperation in such areas as trade, health and agriculture.

The two countries will launch the second phase of negotiations on building the China-ROK free trade zone, according to a memorandum of understanding.

The fluctuation of China-ROK relations has provided a lesson for the two nations to usher in a better future for their ties on the basis of respecting each other's core interests, Xi said.

Chengdu tops list as China's happiest city

Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, came top this year in *Oriental Outlook* magazine's annual ranking of the 10 happiest cities in China.

Beijing and Shanghai, which both made it into the 2015 and 2016 lists, were pushed out by second- and third-tier cities.

Oriental Outlook works with the Liaowang Institute, a think tank, to do research for the ranking. This is the 11th consecutive year it has been published. More than 13.95 million people nationwide answered questionnaires evaluating 194 cities. There were 10 categories, including education, living quality, employment, environment and public security.

Wang Qiguang, deputy editor-in-chief of *Oriental Outlook*, said the list shows that urbanization in China has brought about significant



President Xi Jinping accompanies Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in at a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Dec 14. WU ZHIYI / CHINA DAILY

improvements in small cities over the past five years, in areas including education, employment and medical services.

Premier calls on pilot FTZs to do better

Premier Li Keqiang called on China's 11 pilot free trade zones (FTZs) to improve market management, including the negative list for market access and Internet-related services, to build a better business environment and stimulate market vitality.

Li made the comment during a two-day inspection in Central China's Hubei province that ended on Dec 12.

On Dec 11, he presided over a meeting in Wuhan, Hubei's capital, focusing on pilot FTZs. Li called on the zones to build a modern economic system and promote higher quality development, as stipulated by the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, held in October.

The FTZs have made a lot of progress, promoting new growth

momentum in the past few years by adhering to improving government services and streamlining administration, Li said.

Improve lives with big data: President

Implementing a big data strategy to better serve the country's development and improve people's lives should be accelerated, President Xi Jinping said at a key meeting.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remark at a collective study session of the CPC Central Committee's Political Bureau on Dec 8.

"We should target cutting-edge technology and mobilize prime resources to make breakthroughs in developing core big data technology, and accelerate building an independent and controllable industrial chain, value chain and ecosystem of big data," Xi said.

The president called for efforts to advance a national big data strategy, improve digital infrastructure,

promote integration and sharing of digital resources, and safeguard data security.

China well on track with air-quality goals

China has confidence in reaching its ambitious air pollution reduction goals as scheduled, based on data for the first 11 months, the environmental protection minister said on Dec 10, crediting the scientific and comprehensive efforts taken in the past years.

The five major goals set by the national Action Plan Against Air Pollution in 2013 are likely to be achieved by the end of 2017, with a huge improvement in air quality in China, said Environmental Protection Minister Li Ganjie at the annual meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development on Dec 10 in Beijing.

The council is a high-level international advisory body that brings together foreign experts to promote China's sustainable development.



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