

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“The country’s development needs Hong Kong and will definitely help Hong Kong succeed.”

WANG ZHIMIN,

director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, speaking at the Liaison Office’s annual Spring Festival reception on Feb 6.



ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

“Heaven and Earth may be enormous, but without sincerity they will not be able to give life to thousands of things. Sages may be intelligent, but without sincerity they will not be able to transform thousands of people with their teachings. The relationship between parents and children may be intimate, but without sincerity they will drift apart. Kings are considered the noblest by status, but without sincerity they will not be respected. Hence, ‘sincerity’ is that which a superior person will honor, and it is also the foundation of a good government.”

Scroll 38: Sun Qing Zi

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.

Multiparty ties need new impetus, says Xi

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has called for multiparty cooperation to better meet the needs of the new era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.

Xi, who is also president and the chairman of the Central Military Commission, expressed the hope when he attended a gathering in Beijing on Feb 6 and extended Spring Festival greetings to representatives of non-Communist parties, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and those without party affiliation.

Non-Communist parties and their members have conducted in-depth research and made more than 150 policy suggestions in 2017, said Xi.

Leaders of the non-Communist parties introduced the latest successful elections of their party leaderships. They also briefed on how they are studying the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

President pledges to develop Sri Lanka ties

China is willing to work with Sri Lanka for better development of a strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, President Xi Jinping said in a message addressed to Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Feb 4.

In the message to congratulate Sri Lanka on the 70th anniversary of its independence from British colonial rule in 1948, Xi recalled the traditional friendship and mutual assistance between China and Sri Lanka. “I pay high attention to the development of China-Sri Lanka relations, and I am willing to make concerted efforts with President Sirisena to push the China-Sri Lanka strategic cooperative partnership of sincere mutual assistance and long-standing friendship to keep achieving greater development in the better interest of the two countries and the two peoples,” Xi said.

Dutch king hails Belt, Road opportunities

The China-Netherlands relationship stands at a new starting point with fresh opportunities for



General Secretary Xi Jinping attends a Spring Festival gathering with representatives of non-Communist parties, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and those without party affiliation, in Beijing on Feb 6. DING LIN / XINHUA

development, and it is hoped the two countries cooperate more this year through the Belt and Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping said on Feb 8.

Xi made the remark as he and his wife, Peng Liyuan, met with visiting Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima at the Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Beijing.

King Willem-Alexander said the Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to revive the ancient Silk Road trade routes, will bring more opportunities to the Netherlands.

The king’s two-day visit to China concluded on Feb 9, ahead of the Spring Festival.

He offered festive greetings to Xi and the Chinese people and voiced his hope for new achievements by China in the new year as well as progress in his country’s relationship with China.

Rural life a priority of Party and State

China’s central leadership on Feb 4 released a package of policies as the No 1 Central Document of the year, charting the road map for rural vitalization.

There is a lot of work to be

accomplished in Chinese villages, where opportunities for development have arisen as the country enters a new era, said the document, jointly released by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council, China’s cabinet.

The strategy of rural vitalization was first proposed as one of the major aspects of developing a modernized economy in a report delivered to the 19th CPC National Congress.

In this latest document, the strategy was described as a “historical task” essential to accomplishing China’s modernization goals and building a moderately prosperous society.

Ground-based missile defense system tested

China on Feb 5 launched its first ground-based midcourse missile defense interception test in four years, a move experts said would further improve China’s long-range missile defense capability during wartime.

The test met expectations and was conducted in Chinese territory, the Defense Ministry said in an

online statement on Feb 6. The test was defensive in nature and not targeted at any country, it added.

When asked about the test, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Feb 6 that China resolutely follows the path of peaceful development and upholds a defensive military policy.

China has conducted three similar tests, in January 2010, January 2013 and July 2014.

The latest test came amid the recent fruition of the \$453 million arms deal between the United States and Taiwan, which was approved in 2015.

Yuan hits 30-month high against dollar

China’s currency strengthened to a 30-month high against the US dollar on Feb 7, driven by capital flows into the country, with its improving economic fundamentals expected to provide solid support.

The yuan’s daily reference exchange rate set by the central bank appreciated to 6.2882 per dollar on Feb 7, the strongest since Aug 11, 2015. The onshore and offshore spot exchange rates both hit

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