

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“The accusation is groundless and doesn't conform to the facts.”

GAO QING,

executive director of the Confucius Institute US Center in Washington, saying there were attempts by some in the United States capital to “politicize education matters”. US Senator Marco Rubio warned in a Feb 5 letter of “the Chinese government's increasingly aggressive attempts to use Confucius Institutes and other means to influence foreign academic institutions and critical analysis of China's history and present policies”.



ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

“Rather than listening to hearsay, it is better to observe the events. Rather than observing the events, it is better to observe the actors. When listening to hearsay, one must investigate the sources of the hearsay and identify their motives. When observing events, one must verify their authenticity. When observing the actors, one must investigate their stories thoroughly. A careful analysis of the information gathered from these three aspects can help to minimize the occurrence of mistakes.”

Scroll 49: Fu 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.

Beijing 2022 learns from Pyeongchang

Benefiting from hands-on involvement in its neighbor's best practices running a winter Olympic, Beijing has taken over the stage as it prepares to present its own version of the Winter Olympics.

The 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics concluded following 18 days of action on Feb 25. But the expertise in planning and operations sent to Beijing from the Republic of Korea (ROK) is just beginning. Beijing will stage the gala event in 2022 with co-host city Zhangjiakou, North China's Hebei province.

Organizers from Beijing are bringing and sending home piles of notes, documents, video footage and extensive know-how about Pyeongchang's operation gained through the Olympic Games Knowledge Management system to facilitate their own delivery of the 2022 Games.

The observer program of the knowledge-sharing system enabled 147 staff members from Beijing to tour different venues and closely observe the practices of their ROK counterparts.

Supporting CPC leadership essential

The top task of deepening institutional reform of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the country is to enhance the Party's leadership in all areas and ensure its leadership becomes stronger, said a statement released after a key meeting concluded on Feb 28.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered an important speech at the Third Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, which was held in Beijing from Feb 26-28. The session was attended by 202 members and 171 alternative members of the Central Committee.

The leading officials listened to and discussed the report delivered by Xi on authorization of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The CPC Central Committee's decision to deepen institutional reform and the resulting plan was also reviewed and adopted. Parts of the plan will be submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC) for further review in accordance with legal procedures.



The Olympic flag used at the Pyeongchang Winter Games, which concluded in the Republic of Korea on Feb 25, begins its tour of China at a ceremony in Beijing on Feb 27, leading up to the city's Games in 2022. ZHANG CHENLIN / XINHUA

The NPC, China's top legislature, and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body, started their annual gatherings, collectively known as the two sessions, on March 3 and March 5.

Construction starts on Beijing-Xiongan rail

Construction began on Feb 28 for an intercity railway between Beijing and the Xiongan New Area in neighboring Hebei province, marking the beginning of major infrastructure construction in the eastern area.

The rail line, which will stretch about 92 kilometers, is the first major transportation project involving Xiongan since its establishment in April, according to the contractor, Beijing-Shenyang Railway Passenger Transport Beijing-Hebei Co.

The railway will cut the travel time between the capital and Xiongan by more than 60 percent to about 30 minutes when it begins operations by the end of 2020.

With an investment of 33.53 bil-

lion yuan (\$5.3 billion), the rail line will have five stops from the southern Daxing district in Beijing, via Langfang in Hebei, to the Xiongan New Area.

US doesn't seek trade war: Treasury chief

Washington wants to reduce its trade deficit with China by raising US exports rather than seeking a confrontation, United States Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told a group of US governors who were in Washington on Feb 27 to discuss foreign investment.

“Our objective is not to get into a trade war. This is an important relationship. It's a complex relationship, and it's a big market,” he said.

Six governors traveled to Washington to discuss their experiences with foreign companies in their states, and four of them talked about Chinese investment specifically.

“I do trade missions on a regular basis to China, to Asia and to Europe,” said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, who has led seven trade missions to China. “It is not

about transactions. Good trade is about win-win. It's not about win-lose.”

Communist Manifesto hailed as 'lightning'

China marked the 170th anniversary of the publication of the *Communist Manifesto* on Feb 22.

The document has been hailed as the guiding political document for the communist movement. With its publication by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in February 1848, Marxism emerged “as if lightning cut through dark sky”, an article published by Xinhua News Agency said on Feb 22.

Chinese communists today can still learn a lot from the manifesto and be inspired by it, according to an article published by *Study Times*, which is run by the CPC Central Committee Party School.

The Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China published a post headlined “Happy Birthday, *Communist Manifesto*” on its WeChat public account, which was read by more than 100,000 people and liked by thousands.



China Daily Asia Weekly's circulation is audited by BPA Worldwide



A member of the Asia News Network

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VOL 9 • NO 8

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