

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“More business is expected to be attracted to Guangxi, especially to Beibu Gulf, as the Southern Passageway proceeds. That will also help Guangxi to further integrate with the Belt and Road Initiative.”

LIU HONGWU,

director of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region's Development and Reform Commission, on the new Chongqing-Guangxi-Singapore route which was opened in September to reduce logistics costs and promote trade with Southeast Asian countries.



ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

“Zengzi said: ‘When the people are careful about observing all final rites and rituals for their parents, and continue this reverence even after the ancestors and parents are long gone, the virtue of the people will return to its simple kindness.’”

Scroll 9: Lun Yu

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.

Boost clean governance, Xi tells Political Bureau

Members of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee must take an active role in working hard to serve the people and boost clean governance, General Secretary Xi Jinping said after his recent reviews of their work reports.

It is the first time that the top officials of the 25-member Political Bureau reported their work to Xi after the adoption of a CPC regulation late last year.

Under the regulation, which aims to enhance the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, Political Bureau members have to submit annual work reports to the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Xi reviewed their reports and made requirements regarding their duties and improving work styles. The Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee has the great trust of the whole Party, the whole country, and people of all ethnicities, and they have great leadership responsibilities, Xi said.

Xi urged the members of the Political Bureau to stay true to their original goals, keep their missions firmly in mind, work for the people, have the courage to take responsibility and boost clean governance.

Party plans to deepen institutional reforms

The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee unveiled a massive plan on March 21 to deepen institutional reform of the Party, the top legislature, the central government, the top political advisory body and the armed police forces.

The institutional reform will focus on enhancing the Party's overall leadership, modernizing the State governance system and capacity, promoting the coordination of the institutions and improving their work efficiency, according to the plan.

“The Party exercises overall leadership over all areas of endeavor in every part of the country,” the plan says.

A national supervisory commission will be established to enhance the Party's leadership over anti-graft work and place all people who exercise public power under super-



Farmworkers pick Longjing tea leaves in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province, on March 20, as the massive annual harvest of the renowned Longjing tea begins. The tea is expected to sell for 6,000 yuan (\$950) per kilogram.

LI ZHONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

vision, according to the plan.

A central committee on advancing the rule of law will be set up to enhance the CPC Central Committee's centralized and unified leadership over building the rule of law in China. The committee's office will be located at the Ministry of Justice.

China-Philippines ties in 'best shape': FM

China-Philippines ties are in the best shape they have ever been, and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte will visit China in April to attend the Boao Forum for Asia's annual conference, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

China welcomes Duterte's upcoming trip, and it will further promote the development of ties, Wang said in a joint news conference on March 21 with visiting Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano following their talk.

Cayetano was in China from March 21 to 25. He is the first foreign minister to visit since the new lineup of China's central government took office.

Wang told reporters the two sides agreed to boost dialogue and cooperation on maritime affairs and advance cooperation in areas such as the exploitation of oil and gas.

Regarding cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative, Wang said Beijing is willing to work more with Manila and boost the synergy in their development strategies to better benefit their people.

IMF chief calls for calm on trade front

The top official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is calling on countries to remain calm as relations simmer between the United States and its trading partners, especially China.

A statement issued on March 20 by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde came amid widespread concerns that the Trump administration is about to impose up to a \$60 billion punitive tariff annually on China for its intellectual property policies and practices, as well as Trump's recent orders to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in the name of national security.

“I joined others in reiterating that we should avoid the temptation of inward-looking policies and, rather, work together to reduce trade barriers and resolve trade disagreements without resorting to exceptional measures,” Lagarde said in the statement issued at the

end of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Her message, without naming a country, is viewed by experts as being directed at the US.

Premier stresses need for effort to meet goals

Premier Li Keqiang called for efforts to accomplish the goals set in this year's Government Work Report as he presided over the State Council executive meeting on March 21, the day the new Cabinet assumed office, according to a statement released after the meeting.

Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, State Council departments and units should implement the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in full and see the Government Work Report through, the statement said.

It also called for greater efforts to promote high-quality development, deepen reform and opening-up, cultivate new growth engines via innovation and entrepreneurship and improve people's well-being.

The meeting, the first since the new State Council lineup was

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CONTACT US

Published by China Daily Asia Pacific Limited, Unit 814-815, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Tel: 852-2518 5111

Fax: 852-3543 0702

Feedback:
editor@chinadailyapac.com

Subscriptions:
852-3465 5430
subscription@chinadailyapac.com

Advertising:
852-2518 5128

SUBSCRIPTION

Australia: 1800-843 933
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Thailand: 66-(0)2-3901678