

ZONES OF PROGRESS

Xi urges further efforts at pilot FTZs to generate more innovative outcomes to apply nationwide

By CHINA DAILY and XINHUA

President Xi Jinping has called for more coordinated planning, reform and innovation to develop China's pilot free trade zones (FTZs) into new leading areas of reform and opening-up for the new era.

In an instruction released on Oct 24, Xi, who is also the general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, urged greater efforts to free people's minds and proactively explore ways to continue raising the level of development for pilot FTZs.

The instruction came as a meeting was held in Shanghai on Oct 24 to mark the fifth anniversary of the development of pilot FTZs in China. The country unveiled its first pilot FTZ in Shanghai in September 2013.

Xi said the development of FTZs is a strategic measure adopted by the CPC Central Committee to push forward reform and opening-up.

In the past five years, pilot FTZs have been dedicated to implementing decisions and plans made by the CPC Central Committee, and they have remained enterprising and courageous in order to achieve breakthroughs, he said.

He said work related to the zones has seen major progress. A large number of innovative results at the institutional level are being promoted nationwide, making the zones a testing ground for comprehensive deepening of reform.

Xi said more work should be done at pilot FTZs to summarize and evaluate progress and generate more institutional innovation outcomes that can be applied nationwide.

Premier Li Keqiang said in an instruction to the meeting that the achievements of pilot FTZs over the past five years must be recognized.

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