

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

"I have seen countries' very positive reaction to the initiative so far."

ANWAR IBRAHIM,

former Malaysian deputy prime minister, lauding the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, saying it has "a lot of wisdom" and that it aims for shared development for countries.



ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

Confucius said: 'For teaching the people to be affectionate and loving, there is nothing better than filial piety. For teaching them propriety and obedience to their elders, there is nothing better than fraternal duty. For changing their manners and altering their customs, there is nothing better than music. For securing the repose of superiors and the good order of the people, there is nothing better than the rules of propriety. The rules of propriety are simply the principle of reverence. Therefore the reverence paid to a father makes all sons pleased. The reverence paid to an elder brother makes all younger brothers pleased. The reverence paid to a ruler makes all subjects pleased. The reverence paid to one man makes thousands of men pleased. The reverence is paid to a few but the benefit extends to many. This is what is meant by an 'All-embracing Rule of Conduct.'

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.

Xi vows to support private businesses

President Xi Jinping sent a strong signal of maintaining supportive policies toward private businesses, including such measures as tax reductions, at an unusual meeting with entrepreneurs on Nov 1.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, was briefed by 10 entrepreneurs, mostly from small and medium-sized companies, at the Great Hall of the People. He talked with them about their difficulties and required that related government departments study how to address the problems properly.

After the briefing, Xi delivered a speech pledging to support the development of private businesses as always.

Private businesses' status and role in China's economic and social development are unchanged; the Party's policies of unwaveringly encouraging, supporting and guiding the development of private businesses are unchanged; and the Party's dedication to improving the environment and providing more opportunities for private businesses is unchanged, Xi said.

CPC leaders reassure foreign investors

China will continue proactively attracting foreign investment and safeguarding the legitimate interests of foreign-invested businesses as part of an effort to shore up the economy, the top leadership of the Communist Party of China decided on Oct 31.

The meeting, chaired by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, also stressed making greater strides in reform and opening-up, effectively coping with changes in the outside economic environment and ensuring stable economic performance.

The country will unwaveringly promote high-quality development and ensure good implementation of a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy, according to a statement released after the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of remaining committed to the general principle of pursuing



Students in Handan, North China's Hebei province, play with a miniature waterwheel made from a plastic bottle and recycled wood to celebrate World Thrift Day on Oct 31. The day promotes economy and helps raise people's awareness of the scarcity of resources around the globe. HAO QUNYING / FOR CHINA DAILY

progress while ensuring stability and the main task of furthering supply-side structural reform.

Women told to help rejuvenation dream

A congress attended by President Xi Jinping on Oct 30 has urged Chinese women to have firm ideals and contribute to fulfilling the dream of national rejuvenation.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the opening ceremony of the 12th National Women's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Xi's important speeches and remarks on the contributions of the nation's women have provided fundamental guidance for the works of women's federations, said Zhao Leji, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

To achieve the goals set at the Party's 19th National Congress, all Chinese people need to make joint efforts, Zhao said in his speech at the opening ceremony.

The women's congress, which convenes every five years, concluded on Nov 2.

Australian state signs Belt, Road agreement

China welcomed the signing of a cooperation agreement on jointly building the Belt and Road by the Australian state of Victoria, the first Australian state to sign such a deal.

"The Victoria government has seized the opportunity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said on Oct 29. "Deepening cooperation with China will definitely bring more chances and benefits to the state."

China is optimistic about the broad prospects of mutually beneficial cooperation with Victoria, Lu said at a regular news conference in Beijing. On Oct 25, Cheng Jingye, Chinese ambassador to Australia, and Daniel Andrews, the premier of Victoria, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on joint construction of the Belt and Road between the National Development and Reform Commission and the State of Victoria.

Beijing protests contact between US, Taiwan

Beijing firmly opposes any form of official or military contact between the United States and Taiwan, a Chinese mainland official

said on Oct 31 in response to two US warships passing through the Taiwan Straits last month.

"Our position is always consistent and clear," Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said at a news conference.

"The Taiwan question concerns China's sovereignty and national solidarity," he said. "I must stress once again that those who rely on foreign forces to build themselves up and undermine the peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits will certainly pay a price for their deeds."

It was the second time this year that the US has sent its warships through the Taiwan Straits. The first operation was in July.

Factory index drops to lowest in 2 years

China's official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) came in at just above 50 in October, the lowest level in more than two years, according to the National Bureau of Statistics on Oct 31.

Analysts attributed the low PMI to slower economic expansion and the escalating US-China trade disputes and said if the situation con-

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