

40 YEARS ON

Editor's Note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the launch of China's reform and opening-up policy.

China Daily profiles people who experienced or witnessed the important drive.

BORN:

June 13, 1944

**Ban Ki-moon**

Eighth secretary-general of the United Nations

EDUCATION:

- 1970: BA in international relations from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea (ROK)
- 1985: Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, United States

CAREER:

- 1987-90: Counselor at the ROK embassy to the United States
- 1990-92: Director of American affairs at the ROK Foreign Ministry
- 1995-96: ROK vice-minister for Policy Planning and International Organizations
- 1996-98: National security adviser to the ROK president
- 1998-2000: ROK ambassador to Austria
- 2000-01: ROK vice-minister of foreign affairs
- 2003: Foreign policy adviser to the ROK president
- 2007-16: United Nations secretary-general
- 2018: Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia

Ban urges China to raise global profile

Former UN head praises Beijing's efforts in diplomacy, climate change, poverty alleviation



Ban Ki-moon (second left) visits the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and China's Peacekeeping Police Force in Port-au-Prince in 2007 during the first year of his tenure as UN secretary-general. CHEN YANGHONG / XINHUA

By **PAN MENGQI** in Seoul
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Ban Ki-moon, former United Nations secretary-general, summarized China's 40 years of reform and opening-up by using one of his favorite phrases — "With great success, comes great responsibility."

He added: "It's hard to describe the phenomenal changes and development China has made with the reform and opening-up of Chinese society and the economy since 1978."

Describing China's economic achievements during the past four decades as "a miracle", Ban said that in addition to making its own people richer, the country's contribution to the world has been to set a development model for other developing nations.

He noted that in 1978, the year

the policy was adopted, China's GDP accounted for just 2 percent of the global total, and many people in the country were living below the poverty line.

However, economic and social development in China has grown in leaps and bounds as a result of the policy.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China's GDP rose by 6.9 percent to \$12.06 trillion last year, one-fifth of the global total and surpassing the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan to retain the country's position as the world's second-largest economy.

Moreover, the monthly per capita disposable income of China's urban workers rose to \$5,245, 104 times higher than in 1978, while rural monthly per capita net incomes rose to \$1,935 from \$20.

"One of the greatest achievements

of China's economic growth is that it has lifted more than 700 million people out of absolute poverty, accounting for 70 percent of global poverty reduction during the period," Ban said.

Stressing the importance of China's poverty-alleviation efforts, he added that the country has also made a commitment to accept more responsibility within the international community.

Nearly two years after leaving the UN, the 74-year-old still appreciates China's continued leadership and multilateral engagement within the organization in support of resolving regional and global challenges.

Ban held office from 2007 to 2016, and during his tenure he was a keen promoter of tackling climate change and other global challenges.

"During my two terms as UN secretary-general, I am proud to have

prioritized and expanded the importance of the organization's global development efforts," he said.

In 2015, the UN and its 193 member countries passed the 2030 Agenda and its 17 sustainable development goals. Ban said the goals offer the world a way to confront the most critical issues of our time, including poverty reduction, education, inequality, climate change, improvements in public health, and gender equality.

The initiative called for "multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries", Ban said.

He added that in the three years since the goals were adopted, progress remains uneven and some sec-

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