

LI ZHENGUANG

Sun Yat-sen's spirit calls for better cross-Straits ties

The 150th birthday of Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), the forerunner of the Chinese democratic revolution and founder of Kuomintang, will be celebrated on Saturday and could open a window of opportunity for the two sides of the Taiwan Straits to strengthen their cultural bond.

Dr Sun devoted his life to the cause of reunification that was also the aspiration of all Chinese people who fell victim to the endless clashes between warlords and the West-led invasion back then.

In particular, Dr Sun's "Three Principles of the People" — Nationalism, Democracy, and People's Livelihood — have a lot in common with the Chinese Dream proposed by top leader Xi Jinping in 2012, who again highlighted Dr Sun's contribution at Friday's memorial conference in Beijing to mark his 150th birthday.

Xi spoke highly of Dr Sun's unwavering stance on national unity, pledging that "we would never allow any individual, organization or political party, in any time, with any form, to separate any piece of Chinese land from the mainland".

People on the mainland are now enjoying the benefits of a rising, stronger nation, and reunification will be realized, sooner or later, so long as the two sides of the Straits seek to put their ties back on track.

While meeting with a delegation led by Hung Hsiu-chu, chairwoman of the opposition Kuomintang in Taiwan, in Beijing earlier this month, Xi underscored the need to adhere to the 1992 Consensus that there is only one China and maintain the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations.

And Hung paid tribute to Dr Sun at his mausoleum in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province, on Oct 31 in the pursuit of "peaceful development of cross-Straits relations".

Hung's five-day visit to the mainland, which first took her to Nanjing before Beijing, came at a time when her party is facing problems. As the third Kuomintang leader to pay homage to Dr Sun at his mausoleum in Nanjing, Hung hoped her visit would help her party regain some footing after it lost the island's leadership election to the Democratic Progressive Party in January.

Dr Sun's pursuit of national reunification and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation despite the trials and tribulations he faced could inspire people in Taiwan, especially Kuomintang members, to tide over the current crisis. And by choosing Nanjing as the first stop of her mainland visit, Hung has added weight to her commitment to restoring "peace, hope and mutual trust between the two sides", which she reiterated in Nanjing.

That Hung and her party firmly support the reunification of the Chinese nation is well in line with Dr Sun's legacy for the nation. And during their Beijing talks, Xi said it can be sorted out with resolve and sincerity while conceding that the mainland and Taiwan still have some "complicated political disagreements".

Indeed, the official cross-Straits communication channels are basically closed and grassroots exchanges have declined sharply after the DPP's Tsai Ing-wen took office as the island's leader in May and Kuomintang is struggling to survive a series of attacks by the DPP. But as the largest opposition party in Taiwan, Kuomintang still has the political prowess to seek consensus with the Communist Party of China, in order to keep cross-Straits relations from deteriorating further.

The fruitful, peaceful development of the cross-Straits bond in the eight years before Tsai assumed office — thanks to the island's former leader Ma Ying-jeou and his adherence to the one-China principle — has benefited compatriots on both sides of the Straits. Now, compatriots across the Straits have to take forward the shared quest to make the benign cross-Straits exchanges permanent.

And honoring Dr Sun's patriotic spirit should be a promising start for them.

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ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN

Shared development as the last concept

Why is "Shared Development" the fifth and final of the Five Major Development Concepts — President Xi Jinping's guiding strategy to transform China? After all, China cannot realize its overarching goal of becoming a "moderately prosperous society" until poverty is eliminated and economic and social imbalances are reduced. Nowhere is this need more acute than in healthcare, a focus of reform.

To investigate the Five Major Development Concepts, I spent a week in Northwest China's Qinghai province — Xining the capital and Yushu in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture — meeting people, from senior provincial officials to hospital administrators to village doctors.

China still has about 50 million people living in poverty. Qinghai is one of the poorest provinces — 15 of its 48 counties are below the national poverty line. Compounding the problem, its population is less than Chicago's but its area is larger than France's, Qinghai's vast rural areas of 700,000 square kilometers are home to half of its 5.8 million people, most of whom are ethnic minorities. Many still live on the grasslands, herding

cattle and horses.

Qinghai's rural people enjoy few benefits of modern urbanization, especially healthcare. Locally, shared development means urban areas helping rural areas. Nationally, shared development means developed regions helping less-developed regions. I saw both kinds of sharing at work in Qinghai.

To eliminate poverty, the government implemented, in 2009, a series of measures aimed at providing affordable, easy-to-access healthcare services. Healthcare now takes up more than 7 percent of Qinghai's GDP; in other provinces it accounts for only about 5 percent.

Today, 98 percent of Qinghai residents have universal healthcare coverage. For government subsidy recipients, the coverage could reimburse as much as 95 percent of their medical costs. A new emergency response system and telemedicine utilize latest technologies.

However, for some Qinghai residents, providing quality healthcare is challenging. This is especially true for highland herdsmen, who live in tents and have no modern appliances, not even radios or televisions. That's where help from other sectors of society comes in.

Foundations and individuals from all

walks of life come to Qinghai to donate, contribute, assist and invest. Exemplifying shared development, more-advanced provinces and municipalities, such as Shanghai, are assigned by the central government to help Qinghai's autonomous prefectures.

The most daunting problem is a shortage of doctors at the grassroots level. According to Qinghai healthcare standards, there should be two general practitioners per 10,000 residents. By this standard, a single doctor working in rural areas would have to cover an area of 1,200 sq km.

The government pays doctors' salaries through a multi-level structure that transfers and allocates national tax revenues. In addition to healthcare, fiscal transfer payments cover poverty-reduction programs, equal and affordable educational opportunities, environmental protection, and targeted infrastructure development for China's less developed geographic regions, social classes and ethnic groups.

China's government says that it can effect continuous and robust poverty relief, which requires strategic consistency, because the CPC maintains long-term political power. It's an argument.

Sharing is a way of thinking. It begins by taking seriously society's responsibility for its poorest and most vulnerable members, and it operates at all levels. That's why healthcare in Qinghai is a microcosm of shared development in China.

Shared development is the last of the Five Major Development Concepts not because it is least important, but because it requires the prior success of the previous four concepts — innovative development, coordinated development, green development, and open development. A society needs robust resources to help its poor.

Only when poverty is eliminated and socioeconomic imbalances are reduced will the Five Major Development Concepts have fulfilled their mission. The target date is 2020, when the advent of a "moderately prosperous society" would mean that the first part of the Chinese Dream has been realized.

The author is a public intellectual, political/economics commentator, and international corporate strategist, and the host of Closer to China with R.L. Kuhn on CCTV News (Sundays at 9:30 am and 9:30 pm).

ZHANG ZHOUXIANG

Candidate Donald vs president-elect Trump

Before: "I will build a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words."

"My IQ is one of the highest — and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure; it's not your fault."

After:

"We will get along with all other nations, willing to get along with us ... We will have great relationships."

"Every single American will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential."

These contradictory statements are made by the same person, Donald Trump, who has just won the 2016 US presidential election and will become the 45th US president on Jan 20.

Trump was famous for being a big mouth during the presidential election campaign. Yet as soon as he won the election, he changed his style. He gave a victory speech like all normal US politicians and he is no longer the "reckless" campaigner.

On Thursday, after his first face-to-face meeting with US President Barack Obama in the White House, the president-elect even said he had "great respect" for Obama and called him a "very good man". That was in total contrast to his vitriolic barbs against Obama during the election campaign.

In fact, quite a number of scholars and media outlets say the outrageous comments by Trump were just campaign rhetoric. There will, of course, be changes in policies, but the US political

system will remain the same and US interests will still be supreme.

So did Trump use the outrageous remarks as a strategy just to win votes? Nobody knows. But if he did use them as a strategy, it has worked.

As Darrell M. West, a senior researcher at Brookings Institution, said, Trump has won a very important group of voters, white blue-collar workers. Those white blue-collar workers believe they

lost their jobs because of globalization and because Obama adopted favorable policies toward the minorities such as African Americans.

That's why Trump's remarks appealed to them: He called for trade protectionism and promised to curb immigration into the US.

But white blue-collar workers are not the only group that supports Trump. His supporters include many college graduates trying to find a job, war veterans

who feel lost and all those who believe they have been deprived by globalization.

Trump won also because his supporters turned up in greater numbers to vote than those of Clinton. While Clinton focused on the elite group, Trump sought help from people living at the bottom of American society. Remember the slogan, "We are the 99 percent".

Trump's success has a lot to do with social media, too. Few, if any, TV channel dared to broadcast his racist, misogynistic and politically incorrect

remarks in full for reasons of propriety. But they spread quickly on Twitter, perhaps because they appealed to Americans who are tired of elite politicians and their overused politically correct statements that do not solve any problems.

Furthermore, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation decided to drop the charge against Clinton in the email scandal on Nov 6, some people protested on Twitter, with one even launching a hashtag: "Hillary for Prison". The creator used "prison" instead of "prison" to bypass as well as make fun of the censorship on Twitter, which further damaged Clinton's image and pushed Trump toward his victory.

China Daily's editorial on Thursday said president-elect Trump may be different from Trump the presidential candidate. Trump will be sworn in as US president on Jan 20, 2017, and he has plenty of time to adjust to his new job.

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LIU XINYI / FOR CHINA DAILY

SHAN JUAN

Reducing cervical cancer threat through vaccine

About four months ago, Chinese women expressed their happiness at the approval of a long-awaited vaccine which protects against the cancer-causing human papillomavirus, better known as HPV.

Their happiness, however, didn't last long. It turned to disappointment, if not anger, as they learned early this month that the vaccine was being phased out in the United States.

GlaxoSmithKline has confirmed that it will no longer supply the US market with Cervarix because of the declining demand, after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended the vaccine Gardasil 9.

Gardasil 9 is produced by US-based company Merck, and offers protection against nine strains of HPV, including the two main cancer-causing types, type 16 and 18. Cervarix offers protection against only type 16 and 18, which account for about 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases.

Although it has been available for many years in the US and other parts of the world, including even some less-de-

veloped African countries such as Rwanda and Uganda, it has taken more than eight years from the initial application for GSK to get the final approval to sell the Cervarix vaccine in China.

Now despite its proven effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer, the Chinese public is complaining that they still will not have access to the HPV vaccine which provides the broadest protection. And as one online post said, the vaccine that has been approved has become outdated before it becomes available.

China reports more than 130,000 cervical cancer cases each year, which account for 28 percent of world's total, according to official statistics. But Qiao Youlin, an acclaimed epidemiologist of oncology, who sits on the expert panel for HPV vaccine assessment and approval of the country's top drug authority, said Merck has not yet begun the approval process by applying to register Gardasil 9 with the Chinese authorities.

Qiao stressed that Cervarix protects against the major cervical cancer-causing HPV types and thus would reduce cervical cancer in China. But he said it is unlikely

the vaccine will be integrated into China's routine immunization program as is the case in many other countries. So people will have to pay to have the vaccine.

Of course, given the sheer size of China's population, affordability is a practical concern. But the government should at least work more efficiently to introduce vaccines with proven effect internationally to enable the people to buy them at home.

Vaccines save lives and prevent infectious diseases, and save money on medical bills for the government. For cost-effectiveness, the government should gradually integrate the HPV vaccine into the routine immunization program, which works best to increase coverage and thus improve equity in people's rights to health.

Hepatitis B provides an example in this respect.

The world's first recombinant hepatitis B vaccine, still in use today, was introduced and approved in the US in 1986. In China, the vaccine was available and put on the recommended vaccination list by the government in 1992.

Worldwide, individuals infected with hepatitis B number 350 million; one-third of those live in China and most of them were infected in the 1980s. Many eventually developed liver cancer, costing lives and money.

As the world's second-largest economy, China shouldn't allow a similar scenario to happen again.

Over the decades China's drug management capacity, particularly the post-marketing evaluation, has been significantly strengthened and become more efficient, and streamlined approval procedures can be expected to strike a balance between safety and efficiency.

Last month, the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, the country's Cabinet, issued the "Healthy China 2030" blueprint, which promises to assure residents get equal access to basic health services by 2020. Let's start with accelerated introduction of new drugs, like the latest HPV vaccine.

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