

## Strong leadership core to build stronger nation

**Editor's Note:** *The People's Daily published an editorial on Friday defining the achievements of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China that concluded on Thursday. Excerpts:*

The Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee was a particularly important meeting held at a critical juncture when China is comprehensively deepening reforms and building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way.

The plenum highly praised the achievements of the Party in promoting stricter governance, comprehensively analyzed the situations and tasks facing Party building, and systematically summarized the theories and practices followed by the Party for stricter self-governance since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in late 2012. It also made a new, significant layout for strengthening the work of Party building in today's situations, thus fully embodying the top leadership's determination and historical responsibility in Party building and stricter governance.

Reflecting the common voice of the whole Party, the plenum made sure the CPC remains the strongest force of socialism with Chinese characteristics, moves forward with the country's comprehensive and well-conceived strategic layout, advances Party building and realizes the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Better governance of the nation must start from stricter governance within the Party. This was the defining theme of the plenum. As a ruling party with over 88 million members and governing a nation of more than 1.3 billion people, Party building is a very important mission for the CPC.

By focusing on promoting stricter governance within the Party, the plenum stayed true to the top leadership's vision of giving shape to the strategic layout to gradually unfold and more deeply advance its plans and strategies for better governance of the world's most populous nation. Strengthening and regulating the political life of Party members and improving intra-Party supervision are important tasks of Party building and stricter self-governance.

Introducing new rules and norms for its members is part of the Party's tradition and of great political advantage for stricter self-governance. To better govern itself, the Party must start by introducing rules and norms for the political life of its members.

As an important content of Party building, the introduction of intra-Party supervision guarantees comprehensive and stricter governance within the Party. And its status as the governing party means the CPC has to make intra-Party supervision the priority among various kinds of supervision of Party and State affairs.

The plenum introduced a set of norms for the political life of Party members and revised an intra-Party supervision regulation. This denotes a significant institutional arrangement to combine all efforts to promote Party governance in a stricter manner from ideological and institutional points of view.

Addressing the prominent problems in intra-Party political life and intra-Party supervision, and targeting the "key few" senior Party officials, the two documents signify the Party's fresh efforts to promote institutionalized, standardized and procedure-based intra-Party political life and intra-Party supervision. It also will facilitate comprehensive and stricter governance of the Party and raise the Party's cohesive and innovative capabilities.

For a nation or a party, the formation of a core central leadership is of vital importance. For a big nation and a big party like ours, there must be a core to ensure the CPC remains the leading force of the socialist cause with Chinese characteristics.

A series of significant achievements made by China under the leadership of Xi Jinping — in promoting reform, development and stability, and on the internal affairs, diplomacy and national defense fronts — have essentially elevated Xi to the status of core leader of the whole Party and nation.

That the plenum formally conferred on Xi the honor of core leader of the central Party leadership is a reflection of the common aspiration of the whole Party, military, nation and the people of all ethnic groups, and serves the fundamental interests of the Party and the nation. It will help consolidate the authority of the Party and ensure the nation enjoys lasting development, security and prosperity.

The formation of the central Party leadership with Xi as the core will facilitate China's efforts to realize the goals set for the 100th anniversaries of the founding of the Party and New China — that is, to build a moderately prosperous well-off society by 2021 and a modern socialist nation by 2049, and realize the Chinese dream of rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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ZHU SONGLING

## A silver lining in cross-Straits ties

Hung Hsiu-chu, chairwoman of the opposition Kuomintang Party in Taiwan, is scheduled to embark on a five-day trip to the Chinese mainland on Sunday. Her first visit to the mainland since becoming the Kuomintang leader in March will first take her to Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province, where the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum is located, and then to Beijing.

Both sides of the Taiwan Straits are working on the details of Hung's itinerary. She has already confirmed her participation in the Beijing-based Cross-Straits Peace and Development Forum, which will be jointly hosted by nongovernmental organizations from the mainland and Taiwan on Nov 2 and 3.

As cross-Straits exchanges, official and grassroots both, have continued to wane since Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen, also the chairwoman of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, assumed

power in May, Hung's visit to the mainland could serve as a silver lining in cross-Straits relations.

The primary aim of her visit is to deepen interaction between the Communist Party of China and Kuomintang in accordance with the common political foundation of the 1992 Consensus and help improve cross-Straits relations.

In other words, despite the high-level interaction being essentially confined to the two parties, its implications extend much beyond that. As An Fengshan, spokesman for the mainland's Taiwan Affairs Office, said on Wednesday, Hung's trip to the mainland will have a positive impact on maintaining cross-Straits peace and stability.

A lot depends on how the mainland sees the island's political situation and cross-Straits ties in the long run and what's on the agenda of the parties' leaders. If the meeting between the two

parties is held, as many observers expect, it would deliver a key message that the mainland stands firm on its one-China principle and opposition to separatist moves in Taiwan irrespective of which party governs the island.

Exchanges between the CPC and Kuomintang are possible because the latter also upholds the 1992 Consensus. And the change in the theme of this year's CPC-KMT forum — from "Trade, Economy and Culture" to "Peace and Development" — reflects the demands of the changing times.

The peaceful development enjoyed by both sides for the past eight years has more or less come to a halt since Tsai became the Taiwan leader five months ago. Rebuilding peace and trust is supposed to be a priority in cross-Straits relations, because without peace and trust, trade and cultural exchanges would simply not proceed. During Hung's visit to the mainland,

both sides are expected to consolidate their adherence to the 1992 Consensus, which Tsai has not yet consented to, and address thorny issues facing cross-Straits ties. As such, the island's divisive public opinions should be fairly evaluated.

That Tsai and her DPP won this year's leadership election does not necessarily mean they can turn a deaf ear to those who are against the "independence" campaign and in favor of a peaceful cross-Straits relationship.

The Kuomintang leader is qualified to represent their appeals and seek consensus with the mainland's governing party, which should be taken seriously by the Tsai administration.

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CHEN WEIHUA

## Anti-trade rhetoric in US a deep concern

It is surprising to see the strong protectionism sentiment propagated by the two presidential candidates in the United States, a country that has long touted itself as the champion of free trade. Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump may disagree sharply on many issues, but their protectionist and anti-trade rhetoric is quite similar.

Almost from the beginning of his electoral campaign, Trump has pledged to impose a 45-percent punitive tariff on Chinese imports, which is not only irrational, but also impossible given the possible Chinese retaliation, the strong opposition from the powerful US business community and the violation of World Trade Organization rules.

Clinton, meanwhile, has repeatedly accused Trump of outsourcing his products from 12 countries, as if everything Americans use must be made in the US. If outsourcing products globally is a crime, then Clinton is making a charge against tens of thousands of US companies. All the Fortune 500 companies, many of which have provided donations for the Clinton campaign, should be brought to justice because they are all producing goods and services in other countries including China.

What is even more ridiculous is that The Washington Post, which endorsed Clinton on Oct 13, ran a fact check last week before confirming the allegation to be true. The newspaper's "investigative journalist" not only found the names of the 12

countries, but also exposed "a complete inventory" of Trump products made overseas, from Trump shirts made in China, Bangladesh, Honduras and Vietnam, and Trump home articles manufactured in Turkey, Germany, India and Slovenia to Trump Vodka made in a distillery in the Netherlands.

That reminded me of what I discovered in the official merchandise store of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in late July. While T-shirts and mugs had "made in USA" markings, the labels of origin could not be found on golf balls, socks and caps. I'm

not sure if they had been taken off deliberately to avoid a debate on political correctness.

What Clinton and Trump also share is their opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement between the US and 11 other Pacific Rim countries.

Clinton once touted the TPP as gold standards but has made a U-turn since launching her election campaign, in a bid to win important union voters,

especially after people like AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka gave a call to stop TPP.

A Pew Center survey in January this year showed that the favorable view of trade deals among Americans is down 8 percentage points since 2014. It's anybody's guess whether Clinton's U-turn helped her win people's support, as most polls show her leading nationally less than two weeks before the Nov 8 election.

The Barack Obama administration doesn't have a good track record either. A Business Insider story last year quoted Credit Suisse and Global Trade Alert, a London-based independent academic and research think tank, as saying that the US has imposed more protectionist measures than any other country since the global financial crisis in 2008.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde expressed deep concern recently over the anti-trade and protectionist rhetoric by the US presidential candidates.

Ironically, for the last more than three decades, that is, since China launched its reform and opening-up, the West, especially the US, had been lecturing Beijing on the merits of free trade. It appears today that China is championing globalization and free trade as the West opposes them. The G20 Leaders Summit in Hangzhou, East China, in early September, too, made people realize the depth of China's belief in globalization.

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ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN

## Why open development is still important

Why is "Open Development" the fourth of the Five Major Development Concepts — President Xi Jinping's guiding strategy to transform China's economy and society — when "opening-up" has been the core of China's policy for almost four decades?

In the 1980s, opening-up meant allowing overseas capital to manufacture low-cost products with cheap labor. Now that China has become the world's second-largest economy, but faces complex structural problems such as industrial overcapacity and higher labor costs, a new kind of opening-up is required.

What exemplifies China's new kind of opening-up? Free trade zones, the Belt and Road Initiative and Chinese companies going abroad.

I visited Shanghai to explore China's first free trade zone, established in 2013. What's the FTZ's impact on opening-up? I met the then chairman of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Shen Xiaoming, also secretary of the Party's Pudong committee (he is now deputy Party secretary, Ministry of Education). I began by asking: Why are we still talking about "opening-up" when reform and opening-up started

in 1978, 38 years ago?

"The same wording conveys different meanings today," Shen said, offering four aspects. "First, in 1978, 'opening-up' went in only one direction: we were only bringing in — not going out. Today, we both bring in and go out — two directions. Second, our original 'opening-up' meant importing overseas capital. Today, opening-up includes technology, trade facilitation, financial system reform, and more. Third, we used to depend on cheap labor and attracting overseas companies. Today, we forge our competitiveness in trade and systems. Fourth, opening-up back then was under strict government regulation. Today, the market plays a decisive role."

I asked Shen how the Shanghai FTZ exemplifies opening-up?

"The very core of an FTZ is to open up," he said. "We push for more reform through opening-up. For example, the concept of a 'negative list' — where the government specifies industry categories that are not allowed and you can do whatever you like as long as it is not on the list. The FTZ needs to be the 'ice-breaker': make breakthroughs and solve problems that used to seem unsolvable. The central government uses the FTZ as

a 'field test' for new policies and a 'pressure tester' for international rules that may not work in China."

In 2015, China's foreign trade topped 24 trillion yuan (\$3.54 trillion), unimaginable during the original opening-up. Now new FTZs have been established in Tianjin (for Beijing and Tianjin municipalities, and Hebei province), Guangdong province (coordinating with Hong Kong and Macao) and Fujian province (trade with Taiwan, the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road). More FTZs are in the works in six provinces and Chongqing municipality.

At the same time, China is building new models for international cooperation. In Xi's Belt and Road Initiative, China works with other developing countries, including some of the least-developed countries, to form a community of common interests seeking mutual prosperity. Building infrastructure is fundamental — roads, high-speed rail, seaports, airports, power plants and telecommunications. These are what developing countries need and this is where Chinese companies can compete. Leveraging domestic experience and economies of scale, China offers quality construction, rea-

sonable prices, attractive financing and rapid timetables.

China is also opening up, when Chinese companies purchase foreign companies, acquiring technology, management, brands, markets and channels of distribution.

China is not further opening up to please foreigners. It is doing so as a domestic necessity. Today opening-up means much more than it meant three decades ago; it now means making it easier, faster and better to do all kinds of business.

Opening-up also means foreign companies should enter more industries in China, and have fewer restrictions, so that intensified market competition will pressure Chinese companies to innovate and improve. The ultimate winners? Chinese consumers!

In short, China's new kind of opening-up means expanding the mind and enabling China's economic transformation.

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