

# Five-Year Plan's aim to deepen reform is hailed

Shanxi official says province to move to new economic model that develops diverse sectors



By YUAN SHENGGAO

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was held in Beijing from Oct 26 to 29.

The session adopted the CPC Central Committee's proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, according to a communiqué released from the conference.

Outlining the blueprints for national economic and social development for the next five years and the long-term goals for the next 15 years, the plenary session has provided an important signal of China's future development.

In Shanxi, as well as the rest of the country, the meeting has evoked a warm response and consensus among local officials and residents, who said they are encouraged by the objectives.

Zhang Jiuping, chief of the Shanxi Market Regulation Bureau, said the plenary session is a crucial meeting to help realize the great rejuvenation of the nation and offer guiding principles for the development of various regions.

"The communiqué of the plenary session said that China will continue to take the real economy as the focus of its economic development, build itself into a manufacturer of quality and enhance its strength in

cyberspace and digital technology.

"Guided by this direction, our market regulators in Shanxi will try our best to serve the real economy, pushing forward the growth of the advanced manufacturing industry and using digital technologies to foster new growth areas and upgrade local traditional industries," Zhang said.

The official noted that Shanxi is shifting its focus from resource-reliant industries to a new economic model featuring the development of diverse sectors.

Gao Zhichun, another official from the same bureau, said the conference has outlined guidelines for market regulation.

"The communiqué said China will nurture a strong domestic market and establish a new development pattern, and will comprehensively deepen reform in pursuit of a high-level socialist market economy.

"In my understanding, deepening reform in many fields and sectors is crucial to establishing a high-level market economy," Gao said.

Wang Xiu, deputy chief of the Shanxi Department of Commerce, said the conference's proposal on opening-up offers guidance to the work of Shanxi's foreign trade authorities.

"The communiqué said China will pursue high-level opening-up and explore new prospects of win-win cooperation," Wang said, adding that Shanxi's foreign trade authorities will carefully study the current situations in global and domestic economies to realize high-level opening-up.

"As international trade faces challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese authorities have proposed a dual circulation develop-



Farmers in Yicheng harvest chrysanthemum flowers. Chrysanthemum is a major cash crop in the county. HU BO / FOR CHINA DAILY



We should make full use of domestic and international resources to solve the pressing challenges in economic operations and forge win-win cooperation with our partners at home and abroad."

Wang Xiu, deputy chief of the Shanxi Department of Commerce

ment pattern, highlighting both domestic and international markets.

"We should make full use of domestic and international resources to solve the pressing challenges in economic operations and forge win-win cooperation with our partners at home and abroad," Wang said.

To facilitate international trade, Gao Jike, head of Taiyuan Customs, said customs officials in the city of Taiyuan will devote their best efforts in promoting growth in trade while strengthening pandemic prevention and control.

"We will try our best to upgrade our services for import and export enterprises, contributing to Shanxi's overall improvement in business environment for traders and investors," Gao said.

Wang Yanjun, an official at the Shanxi Department of Industry and Information Technology, said Shanxi should follow the guidance of the fifth plenary session to highlight the development of high-tech and emerging industries.

Wang's opinion was echoed by Gao Jianbo, an employee at Jinneng Holding Group based in Datong city. "From my experience as a worker

in a manufacturing company, high technologies featuring digitalization and internet connectivity are a crucial part to push Shanxi's manufacturing industries to a more advanced level," Gao said.

Hao Dengming, an official in charge of rural affairs at the CPC Shanxi Committee, said he is most happy with the agricultural and rural development-related policies proposed by the plenary session.

"The communiqué said China will prioritize the development of agriculture and rural areas, and fully advance rural vitalization.

"As an official working for agriculture and rural affairs, I'm fully aware of the importance of my mission. I'm also fully confident that rural development in Shanxi will be offered stronger momentum with the support of the CPC Central Committee and the central government," Hao said.

"We have felt the great changes happening in the countryside over the past five years. I'm sure people will find rural Shanxi a better place to live in in the years to come."

Guo Yanjie contributed to this story.

## Online platform smooths sales of coke products

By YUAN SHENGGAO

On Nov 6, Golden Earth Tianjiao Technology, a subsidiary of Taiyuan-based Shanxi Coking Coal Group, posted an auction announcement for its coke products on the group's Coking Coal Online e-commerce platform, attracting dozens of enquiries from clients.

The transaction was made during the Singles Day buying spree, a shopping festival unique to China that centers around Nov 11.

"The number of enquiries is not comparable with those for consumer goods during this special shopping festival. However it's a significant number considering we are making transactions for bulk commodities," said An Ping, director for sales at Golden Earth.

Xia Qiufeng, vice-president of Coking Coal Online, said the platform does not feature a trendy design in line with the e-commerce boom. However, it has brought deals of considerable value.

During the first three quarters of this year, a total of 154 million metric tons of coke and coal have been transacted on the platform, Xia said. He added that the number of registered users on the platform has surpassed 7,700.

Founded in 2012, Coking Coal Online is an e-commerce platform featuring transactions and information service.

"The platform is designed to make transactions easier and more convenient," Xia said.

Clicking through the platform's home page, users can easily access

information related to products — prices, transportation and dynamics of supply and demand, according to the executive.

Duan Junjie, an executive of Shanxi-based trade company Botai Trading, said his company is a registered user of Coking Coal Online. He talked about the convenience brought by the platform.

"I used to travel a lot — almost once a week — to connect with buyers and promote products. But today all this can be done online and I travel only a few times each year.

"In addition, intermediary agencies are no longer needed for the transactions, which helps to cut costs," Duan said.

During the past eight years, Coking Coal Online has gathered a large quantity of data resources and has developed into one of the authoritative e-commerce platforms in the industry.

In July 2018, it was designated by the price monitoring center of the National Development and Reform Commission and Xinhua News Agency to release the national coking coal price index.

The release of the price index has further improved Coking Coal Online's reputation among traders, leading to substantial growth in transaction volume on the platform, Xia said.

With the expansion of its business, Xia said Coking Coal Online has also extended its operations to such fields as financing, insurance, logistics and after-sales.

Guo Yanjie contributed to this story.



Coking Coal Online launches a coking coal price index in 2018. WANG XIYONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Spirited portrayal of ancient techniques

A staff member from a time-honored distillery in Shanxi province demonstrates a liquor production process featuring ancient techniques and local ingredients during the third China International Import Expo held in the eastern metropolis of Shanghai between Nov 5-10. The province dispatched a 4,610-member delegation to this year's expo. The delegation organized 30 events for exhibiting products, investment promotion and cultural exchanges targeting buyers and partners from across the world.

SHI XIAOBO / FOR CHINA DAILY



## Poverty alleviation projects create jobs

By YUAN SHENGGAO

He Ruiqing, a resident of Lingquan township in Shilou county in Shanxi province, said she is happy to find employment near her home.

"The garment factory I work for is a stone's throw from my home," she said. "After working several hours in the day, I can still take care of my family in the evening."

The factory, invested in by a businessman from the city of Yiwu in East China's Zhejiang province, is among the projects targeting residents from impoverished families in Shilou, said Zhang Xiaojiong, chief of the county's poverty reduction office.

The official said there are 24 such companies specifically designed to help alleviate poverty in Shilou, offering jobs to more than 500 people and creating more income for the workers involved.

In Shanxi province as a whole, there are 410 enterprises shouldering a similar responsibility for poverty relief. They have offered jobs to more than 75,000 people, according to the Shanxi Poverty Alleviation and Development Office.

In Xinsui township in Daning



Farmers in Lyuliang city attend a training course for domestic service. GAO XIAOMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

county, Ma Fan'ai, a 64-year-old woman, is among workers packaging gloves off the production line in a factory near her home.

"My job involves sorting, packaging and applying labels," Ma said. "The workload is light and work is flexible as payment is measured by pieces."

"I'm neither young nor skilled," Ma added. "I cannot find a job better than this one."

According to Zhang Jiancheng, deputy chief of the Shanxi Poverty Alleviation and Development Office, these special businesses are designed for laborers with little or no skills.

"The factories are mostly labor-intensive," Zhang explained. "Rural laborers can easily get used to their jobs after a short period of training."

But for those who are young and comparatively better educated, they

are also offered training options for more complicated jobs.

Long Shifang, a resident of Tongxingyuan community in Shuping county, took part in a baking training course organized by the local community.

She finished the three-month course with a baker's certificate. "I plan to open a bakery in the neighborhood," Long said.

Li Huizhao, a resident of Zhangyuan township in Qinxian county, is now a certificated mason five years after he finished training courses in a local vocational school.

He recently entered a nationwide poverty-reduction skills competition.

"Although I didn't win any awards as I expected, the participation itself is a confirmation of my skills," Li said.

Li said he is currently a master mason at the construction company he works for.

"As a bread winner, it gives me and my family pride," Li said.

"I helped my family overcome poverty and I hope I can be a role model for my fellow villagers, encouraging them to learn more skills and find better jobs that can boost their family revenues."

Li Yali contributed to this story.

By YUAN SHENGGAO

When the Yellow River enters Jixian county in Shanxi province, it is embraced by a mountain and forms the most spectacular waterfall in its course of more than 5,400 kilometers.

Every year, millions of tourists visit the river and the renowned Hukou Waterfall.

The mountain, which is called Renzu, is a less popular site for tourists, who may not be aware that it has similar historical and cultural significance as the Yellow River.

Renzu, which literally means "ancestors of humans", was so named because locals believe the mountain provided a home for Fuxi and Nyuwa, the legendary ancestors of the Chinese people. Residents there have built temples to worship these figures.

The mountain's lesser-known legendary background was given a boost in 2001 with a major archaeological discovery.

In one of several sites that archaeologists explored, wall paintings with the images of Nyuwa were discovered.

Nyuwa is the mother goddess in Chinese mythology and is said to be the creator of human beings.

Also unearthed were stone tools pointing to a period between 100,000 and 80,000 years ago, a transitional period from the Old to the New Stone Age.

Geng Shiwen, a former boss of a local coal mine, said he has been

enchanted by the mountain since the discovery.

In 2011, he signed an agreement with the county government, and invested almost all his wealth in developing the mountain into a tourist destination.

Renzu Mountain has an area of 203 square kilometers and the core area as a scenic spot covers about 45 sq km.

The scenic area includes a main peak that stands more than 1,700 meters above sea level and groups of ancient buildings.

The Nyuwa Temple is the major ancient structure complex in the scenic area. While the statue of Nyuwa sits in the main hall, the statue of Fuxi is in the side hall.

According Geng, Nyuwa and Fuxi are symbolically sister and brother and also wife and husband in Chinese mythology.

He reckoned that the temple was built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), although there are not enough historical documents to support his judgment.

"I made the judgment according to the architectural styles and records of some preserved stone tablets," Geng said.

On every 18th day of the lunar calendar, there are grand ceremonies to pay tribute to Nyuwa and Fuxi, and the ceremony is currently a major cultural festival in the area, attracting tens of thousands of visitors, according to Geng.

Li Yali contributed to this story.



The historical Renzu Mountain offers a startling landscape when the leaves turn red in autumn. LYU GUIMING / FOR CHINA DAILY