

THURSDAY MARCH 19 2015

NPC and CPPCC Sessions in 2015

VOICES OF DEPUTIES AND MEMBERS

The sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature are usually timed to occur with the meetings of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, and are often referred to as the "Two Sessions." These annual meetings provide an opportunity for deputies and members to present proposals and opinions.

Though "rule by rites" (*lizhi*) as a strategy of running the state has become a thing of the past, rites that concern differences in terms of age, gender and family status complement the **RULE OF LAW** while playing a significant role in regulating personal behaviors and maintaining social stability.

Rites, virtues and rule of law together form a socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics. Virtues cultivate one's moral character; rites create harmony in terms of family and interpersonal relationships, and the rule of law is the basic principle for governing the state and the world.

Ma Min, CPPCC member and secretary of the Party committee of Huazhong Normal University

Since 2013, China has held many seminars on neighborhood **DIPLOMACY** and Central Conferences on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs, signaling new trends in its foreign policy.

First, the new central leadership has emphasized the strategic importance of relations between China and neighboring countries, and it is committed to building a community with a common destiny in political, economic and security fields.

Second, China will work to form a new model for relationships with great powers based on mutual respect, trust and cooperation, among which the most important and the most complicated is the China-America relationship. We will promote cooperation with America while improving the relationships with other great powers, such as Russia, India and Japan, as a bulwark to China-America ties.

Third, as it gains more influence on the world and makes a greater contribution to global interests, China can no longer afford to confine its diplomacy to regional relationships. And China should take more initiative and play a larger role.

Zhang Yunling, CPPCC member and a member of the Academic Division of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

The "**NEW NORMAL**" has become a hot word for the two sessions. However, some have misinterpreted this to mean that we should completely slow down economic growth.

In fact, a slowdown does not necessarily need to be a drastic or long-term decline. Since China is a developing country with a large territory and population, its economy is resilient to some extent, and there is much room for development in the future.

A constant decline in the growth rate could greatly sabotage economic and social development. For instance, if such a situation were to happen, it could reduce social expectations and thus affect enterprise investment.

Liu Shucheng, CPPCC member and a member of the Academic Divisions of CASS

As incubators of new knowledge, technology, disciplines and culture, **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES** should prioritize innovation and scientific research in order to provide high-end products for the knowledge-based economy and technical support for industrial development.

To fulfill their role as an accelerator for economic development, an engine for social progress and a think tank for government decision-making, we should strengthen cooperation among government, enterprises, colleges and universities, and research institutes, further studies on real problems and promote the commercialization of scientific and technological results.

Li Yuanyuan, NPC deputy and president of Jilin University

The Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Advancing the Rule of Law adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee has explained the necessity of entrusting a third party to draft laws and regulations. The move can help remedy defects in **LEGISLATION** and make legislation more scientific.

The current legislative bodies in China include people's congresses and their standing committees as well as governments and government departments at the national and lo-

cal level. Introducing a "third party" into the legislative system will bring neutrality, professionalism, and democracy into law-making.

The third party refers to organs, associations and organizations whose interests are not related to those of the objects of laws and regulations to be enacted, which can further enhance the justice and authority of legislation and law enforcement.

Tang Weijian, CPPCC member and professor from Renmin University of China Law School

China currently faces problems in terms of **ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION** in three aspects: the goal is ambiguous; the disciplinary system is yet to be developed; and the environment needs to be improved.

In response to this, the law on promoting entrepreneurship should be put on the legislative agenda as soon as possible. The law shall provide policy support for graduates of higher education in particular who seek to start their own businesses. Also, discipline construction is important, and universities specializing for entrepreneurship should be encouraged. Moreover, we should incorporate entrepreneurship education into the overall college evaluation system.

Chen Jun, NPC deputy, member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and president of Nanjing University

The Personal Information Protection Act is necessary in light of the current situation and the public expects it. This legislation can help China develop into a great power in terms of the Internet.

The legislative work should conform to three principles: open policy, balance between privacy protection and industrial development, and conformity to international laws on personal **INFORMATION PROTECTION**. For detailed rules and regulations, we should clarify the purpose of collecting personal information, protect special groups such as minors, empower users with the rights to freedom of choice and control, strengthen the notification of data security breaches, set clear boundaries between private

and public data from cloud computing, protect personal information on APPs, set up a protection agency and supervise the cross-border dissemination of personal information.

Yang Zhen, NPC deputy and president of Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications

International competition for talent has become increasingly fierce as globalization progresses. However, China lacks

advantages when it comes to introducing internationally competitive talent. And its laws and regulations in this respect have yet to be improved. For this reason, China should improve the legal system on **FOREIGN TALENT** management and conduct a skills-based migration program.

We should prioritize the introduction of skilled workers on the agenda to further China's opening up and attract more foreign investment.

Also, we can draw upon the successful experience of skills-based migration laws in developed countries while establishing a legal framework for skills-based migration, permanent residence status and simplified visas in order to provide legal support for the management of foreign talent in China.

Wu Jiang, CPPCC member and vice-chairman of the China Talent Research Society

Rites are at the core of Chinese traditional culture and constitute a source of cultural confidence. Carrying on the **TRADITION OF RITES** is conducive to enhancing self-cultivation and social morality.

Therefore, we should include rites into the civil education, making it an important part of family, school and social education. Through family education, children can develop good manners. Through school education, students can learn basic principles of being human. Through social education, citizens can learn etiquette in the workplace. Thus, every citizen will be informed of behavioral norms.

Wang Yongchao, NPC deputy and curator of Guanzhong Folk Art Museum

