

New leadership of China

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The 16th national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the first CPC congress of the 21st century, has produced new leaders and determined the basic orientation of China's economic and social development in the coming years. It will have a far-reaching influence on the political and economic structure of the Asia-Pacific region as well as the world at large.

Jiang Zemin, General Secretary of the 15th congress of CPC, delivered a keynote report entitled "Build a welfare society in an all-round way and create a new situation in building socialism with Chinese characteristics."

In his report, Jiang Zemin said: "We must move forward, or we shall fall behind." Given this, China will concentrate on building a welfare society of a higher standard in an all-round way in the first 20 years of the 21st century, in order to benefit its 1.3 billion citizens. This means China will quadruple the current GDP by 2020, approaching half of America's current GDP.

The CPC, during the last 55 years has theoretically developed from Mao Zedong Thought to Deng Xiaoping Theory to Jiang Zemin's "Three Represents", which will determine the CPC's governance.

The "Three represents" as propounded by Jiang are: The CPC must always represent the development trend of China's advanced productive forces, the orientation of China's advanced culture and the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people."

The 16th congress included "Three Represents" in the newly revised constitution of the CPC and listed it together with Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory as the theoretical basis of the CPC.

In his report, Jiang Zemin stressed to open up new prospects for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. He said that the implementation of "Three Represents" is, in essence, to keep pace with the times, and blaze new trails for the development of the Marxist theory.

The first generation of CPC leadership with Mao Zedong at the core, founded the People's Republic of China through armed struggle, enabling China to remove the label of "the Sick Man of Asia", and stand like a giant in the world.

The second generation of CPC leadership, with Deng Xiaoping at the core, led the Chinese people in carrying out reform and opening up, stressing that pauperism is not socialism, encouraging people to get rich before others, thus achieving com-



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mon prosperity. Deng led China on to the road of modernisation.

The third generation of CPC with Jiang Zemin at the core, led China to a new historic stage of building a welfare society in an all-round way. Jiang said in his report to carry out the thought of "Three Represents" has become a guiding ideology; the CPC will follow in future. Although this thought has become a guide to action in China's modernisation drive, Jiang leaves room for the next generation of leaders to make innovations in the future. The next generation will certainly surpass ours. This is an inexorable law governing social development. Jiang said: "We should unite with the people of all social strata who help to make the motherland prosperous and strong. It is necessary to admit into the Party advanced elements of all social strata." He also pointed out that "the legal system for protecting private property" should be improved.

Delegates at the Congress held that accomplishing a per-capita GDP of over \$ 3000 in two decades would be a remarkable achievement. As a socialist country, China follows a path of common prosperity. If the Chinese people, who form a quarter of world's population, become well off, it will be an extraordinary contribution of China to the world.

Under the 13-year leadership of Jiang Zemin China achieved sustained and high economic growth, basic internal stability and smooth opening up, crediting him for his good performance as an outstanding national leader.

Jiang Zemin thanked the Party Central Committee for accepting his resignation as Chairman of the Central Military Commission. Already he had resigned as the General Secretary of the CPC and President of the People's Republic of China. Thus the supreme leadership passed onto Hu Jintao, who holds the three posts of the General Secretary of the CPC, the Chairman of the Central Military Commission and the President of the People's Republic of China. Hu Jintao has built his popu-

larity and charmed the nation with a refreshing people-first style, as he said: "Use power for the people, show concern for the people and seek benefit for the people."

President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao now guide the world's most populous nation and Asia's fastest growing economy to a soft landing.

"We must do a good job of ushering in a new leadership to replace the old," said Jiang Zemin. He has accomplished the task wonderfully well. He has himself retired gracefully from all posts, thus setting a good example for future leadership.

More than 2100 delegates elected a new 356 member CPC Central Committee. This is hailed as a smooth, successful transition of the CPC leadership.

Jiang Zemin (76 years old); Li Peng, 74; Zhu Rongji, 74; Li Ruihuan, 68; Wei Jianxing, 74; Li Lanqing, 70, were not included on the list of candidates for membership in the 16 CPC Central Committee. They were all members of the old Political Bureau. They all retired without making any fuss. The delegates expressed admiration and respect for their political vision and sterling quality.

Hu Jintao introduced the eight newly elected members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau. When he introduced Li Changchun (58 years old), he said: "He is the youngest member." When he introduced Luo Gan (67 years), Hu said with a smile: "He is our elder brother."

Delegates to the 16 CPC Congress recognized that the new C.C. is a promising, enterprising trustworthy, collective leadership full of youthful spirit; its members have high educational level, high moral standards, close ties with the masses and an upright and honest work style.

Hu Jintao, the new General Secretary of the CPC said: "The CPC will show the rest of the world its sound image of keeping pace with the times and its pioneering spirit. The whole party and people from all ethnic groups will unite more closely and concentrate on construction and development so as to continue pushing forward China's reform, opening up and modernization drive. China will certainly have a more splendid future. China's further development will contribute more to world peace and development."

This is the voice of new Chinese leadership under Hu Jintao, and this voice speaks about world peace. Hu Jintao expresses the heartfelt desire of the people of the entire world.