

# TWO SESSIONS

SAR FOCUS

## SARs' advisers ready for active contribution

Xia encourages HK, Macao delegates to fulfill duties, engage in State affairs

By WILLIAM XU  
williamxu@chinadailyhk.com

Xia Baolong, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with the national political advisers from the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions in Beijing on Monday, calling on them to fulfill their duties during the two sessions.

The meeting coincided with the opening of the third session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The CPPCC National Committee, the country's top political advisory body, includes over 180 members from Hong Kong and 38 from Macao.

Xia encouraged the SARs' advisers to actively engage in State affairs and contribute to maintaining Hong Kong and Macao's long-term prosperity and stability, while supporting national development and rejuvenation.

He is also scheduled to meet with National People's Congress deputies from the SARs — 36 from Hong Kong and 12 from Macao — as the top national legislature opens today.

Upon their arrival in Beijing, the national lawmakers said they are eager to learn more about the progress of China's development and further advance the SARs' integration into national development.

Starry Lee Wai-king, a member of the NPC Standing Committee, noted that this year marks the end of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), which outlined key goals for strengthening Hong Kong's status as an international center.

China's annual political meetings provide a good opportunity for reviewing the city's contributions to national development and also offer a platform for putting forward constructive suggestions for the next five-year plan, she said.

Lee said she is looking forward to hearing the Government Work Report to be delivered by Premier Li Qiang during the two sessions. The report summarizes the work done in

the previous year and outlines the vision behind the path to Chinese modernization for the coming year.

Expressing her confidence in the country's ability to drive economic growth, Lee said she believes the central government will introduce more policies to stimulate private enterprises' investment on the Chinese mainland and in Hong Kong.

NPC deputy Ronick Chan Chun-ying, who is also a Hong Kong lawmaker, said he expects to see additional policy instruments introduced in the Government Work Report in order to drive domestic demand, which in turn would provide momentum for sustainable GDP growth.

Jimmy Ng Wing-ka, also an NPC deputy from Hong Kong, said he is interested in learning about how the country will utilize artificial intelligence and other technologies to accelerate industrial upgrades.

Many of the Hong Kong representatives attending the two sessions share a keen interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

NPC deputy Maggie Chan Man-ki emphasized the need to boost talent exchanges in the Greater Bay Area, while Peter Shiu Ka-fai, a member of the CPPCC National Committee from Hong Kong, expressed the hope for new measures to bolster the tourism industry in the area.

Ho Sut-heng, an NPC deputy from Macao, said she is confident in the country's high-quality development.

Ho said that during the NPC session, she will focus on new policies that will further advance the development of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, which is a vital platform for expanding Macao's economic diversification and facilitating its integration into national development.

Vong Kam-fai, also an NPC deputy from Macao, said he will delve into issues such as Macao's role in the Greater Bay Area's development and on how to leverage the city's connections with Portuguese-speaking economies to fuel the country's growth.



Xia Baolong, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses a meeting with national political advisers from Hong Kong and Macao at the National Political Consultative Hall in Beijing on Monday.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## High-tech manufacturing in spotlight

By FAN FEIFEI  
fanfeifei@chinadaily.com.cn

Further efforts should be made to optimize the financing environment for China's high-tech manufacturing sector, said Li Dongsheng, founder and chairman of Chinese consumer electronics maker TCL Technology Group Corp.

Li, who is a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, also called for Chinese high-tech manufacturing enterprises to increase the number of application scenarios for cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology.

He said that China's high-tech manufacturing sector has become a cornerstone in promoting high-quality economic growth, and Chinese enterprises are catching up

with leading global tech companies in fields such as integrated circuit manufacturing and semiconductor display.

China's high-tech manufacturing is a heavy-asset industry requiring large amounts of capital input.

However, manufacturing enterprises currently have some difficulties in terms of financing, Li said, highlighting the importance of increasing support for leading high-tech manufacturing companies to ensure that they gain a competitive edge amid fierce international competition.

Li suggested providing such enterprises with innovative services and assistance from the capital market, moderately easing equity financing restrictions, and improving the predictability of capital market financing.



A foreign reporter asks a question on Monday in Beijing during a news conference on the third session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body. The CPPCC annual session kicks off on Tuesday.

WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

## Top political advisory body pledges constant support for green progress

By HOU LIQIANG  
houliqiang@chinadaily.com.cn

China's top political advisory body has pledged to constantly offer wisdom and strength in support of the nation's ongoing efforts to foster a harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

Liu Jieyi, spokesman for the third session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, made the remark at a news conference in Beijing on Monday, one day before the opening of the annual session.

Reflecting on the significant achievements China has made in promoting environmental and ecological conservation, Liu noted that CPPCC members have made proactive contributions to these areas of progress.

In 2024, the proportion of days with fairly good air quality nationwide reached 87.2 percent, while the ratio of surface water with fairly good quality increased to 90.4 percent, he noted.

China's air quality index uses a scale of 0 to 500, and values at or

below 100 are considered fairly good quality with little potential to affect public health. The country has a five-tier quality assessment system for surface water, with Grade I being the best. Water with a quality of Grade III is considered fairly good.

In 2023, the proportion of days with fairly good air quality across the country stood at 85.5 percent, and the proportion of surface water with fairly good quality stayed at 89.4 percent, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

With its forest coverage rate exceeding 25 percent, China leads globally in artificial forest area and has emerged as the world's top contributor to increasing greenery, Liu added.

Attaching significant emphasis to environmental protection, he said that the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC has established a new panel for the environment and natural resources, comprising members from various fields such as ecological and environmental protection and energy.

CPPCC members have engaged

in political consultations over pivotal and future-oriented matters in building a beautiful China, and in tackling ecological and environmental challenges that resonate with the public, Liu noted.

Focusing on green, low-carbon and high-quality development as a fundamental solution to China's environmental issues, national political advisers have made great efforts to promote green production and lifestyles, foster consensus on transformation among enterprises and different industrial sectors, and aid in the green upgrade of industries, he said.

They have come up with proposals concerning a series of themes such as the new energy industry, recycling of resources, sewage treatment in rural China and desertification control, Liu added.

He also mentioned that the CPPCC National Committee has implemented a series of initiatives, including hosting thematic forums, to promote the nation's environmental policies and bolster social consensus on the importance of environmental conservation.

## Policy: Foreign investment to be facilitated

From page 1

"Over the past year, China has maintained its role as a key driver of global economic growth, fast-tracking the establishment of a new high-standard economic opening-up system," Liu said. "China remains the world's largest goods trading nation and the second-largest import market, making continuous strides in the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative."

"Through international events like the China International Import Expo, the country is actively fostering global economic cooperation, promoting economic globalization, and advocating shared prosperity and cooperation on a global scale," he added.

Zhou Mi, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of International

Trade and Economic Cooperation, said: "The government may roll out a series of policies for trade facilitation and liberalization, leading to further reductions in trade costs. Additionally, by enacting measures to ensure trade security, potential risks will be minimized."

Furthermore, barriers to foreign investment will be further diminished to streamline investment processes, enabling businesses to effectively leverage global resources, Zhou said.

The latest data from the General Administration of Customs showed that in 2024, the total value of China's goods trade imports and exports reached 43.85 trillion yuan (\$6 trillion), up 5 percent year-on-year, indicating that the country's foreign trade has reached a new high in terms of scale amid multiple challenges.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the number of newly established foreign-invested enterprises nationwide was 59,080 last year, a 9.9 percent increase year-on-year.

Charlie Zheng, chief economist at Samoyed Cloud Technology Group Holdings, said that further efforts are expected in expanding opening-up pilot projects — a mechanism allowing certain areas to invite foreign companies to enter the market — in telecommunications, healthcare, education and other service sectors, along with the comprehensive removal of foreign investment restrictions in manufacturing.

Zheng also suggested simplifying procedures in order to streamline approval of foreign investment projects and improve efficiency.

NATIONAL VISION,  
LOCAL ACTION

## Mayor says Shenyang plays key role in regional advancement

By YAN DONGJIE in Beijing  
and WU YONG in Shenyang

Months after being designated as a key international city in Northeast Asia by the State Council, Shenyang is reinventing itself through industrial and urban transformation, Mayor Lyu Zhicheng said in an interview with China Daily.

"Institutional innovation, technological breakthroughs and urban revitalization are the three pillars of Shenyang's transformation from a regional hub to a global player connecting domestic and international markets," said Lyu, who is also a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress.

Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province and a longtime industrial powerhouse in northeastern China, is leveraging its manufacturing strengths,

according to the city's mayor. "Our advanced manufacturing sector contributes to more than 50 percent of industrial output, with automotive, robotics and integrated circuit equipment leading national innovation," Lyu said.

With an investment of 5.4 billion yuan (\$740 million), the "Automotive Silicon Valley" in Shenyang's Tiexi district is driving technological advancement, as the 2.6-square-kilometer smart vehicle testing ground is incubating autonomous driving technologies.

"This is not just about cars; it's about redefining the mode of transportation for an artificial intelligence era," Lyu said.

Shenyang's pilot free trade zone has emerged as a hub for institutional reform. The Single Window for International Trade, a one-stop system for services, has reduced the time taken for customs clearance by 30 percent, while last year, cross-border e-commerce grew 52.4 percent.

Government data shows the volume of cross-border e-commerce transactions in the pilot FTZ exceeded 8 million orders in 2024, with a 32.4 percent increase in trade with Russia. The cargo route between Shenyang and Vancouver, Canada, moved 43.5 metric tons of goods on its first flight last year, and Shenyang is expanding to 10 new air routes this year.

The city has also strengthened international partnerships, forming technology collaborations with Novosibirsk in Russia and Daejeon in South Korea.

More than 1,500 foreign-funded enterprises, including over 100 Fortune Global 500 companies, have set up shop in Shenyang, Lyu said.

Despite Shenyang's GDP growth rate reaching 5.2 percent last year, challenges remain.

Speaking on pressing ahead with the reform of State-owned enterprises, Lyu said, "We reduced their numbers from 587 to 160 since 2001, and it has made us leaner and more competitive."

An aging population has added urgency to talent recruitment. The city's "Talent 3.0" initiative offers 100 million yuan in grants to top teams and streamlines visa procedures for foreign experts. Partnerships with Northeastern University aim to create a high-end talent pool for emerging sectors such as AI and hydrogen energy.

Lyu envisions Shenyang as a regional hub for technology and trade. "From producing 10,000-ton machinery to shaping digital trade rules, we're becoming the 'operating system' for regional development," he said.

"Shenyang's revival isn't just economic; it's about creating a livable, globally connected city," Lyu said, adding, "When international talent chooses to stay, that's the ultimate validation of our strategy."

Contact the writers at  
yandongjie@chinadaily.com.cn



Li Dongsheng

the global total, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

As fast-developing generative AI technology is spearheading a new round of industrial transformation and upgrading, Li said that TCL has applied AI technology in intelligent transformation and the upgrading of its manufacturing supply chain, as well as product research and development in order to improve production efficiency.

"We established an AI research

and development center in Poland in 2018. Prior to that, we set up an R&D center in the United States in 2011. As a manufacturing enterprise, we will focus more on the application of AI," Li said.

So far, TCL has established 46 R&D centers and 38 manufacturing centers around the world, with operations in more than 160 countries and regions.

He emphasized that Chinese enterprises' globalization is of vital importance in boosting the sustainable development of the Chinese economy, adding that globalization is a long-term strategy for TCL, and that domestic high-tech manufacturers should accelerate their expansion in overseas markets.

Against the backdrop of changes in global trade rules and reconstruction of the global economic pattern in recent years, Li said that Chinese enterprises should optimize their presence in global industrial and supply chains, and speed

up localizing production and operations, in order to enhance their competitiveness in the manufacturing sector globally.

He also highlighted the significance of technological innovation and capital input in bolstering the development of high-tech manufacturing.

Luo Zhongwei, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Industrial Economics, said that China's high-tech manufacturing sector is playing an increasingly pivotal role in bolstering technological innovation, safeguarding the stability of industrial and supply chains, and helping the country gain competitive advantages on the global stage.

He added that it is crucial to push the manufacturing sector toward higher-end, smarter and greener production through the adoption of new-generation information technologies, including AI, 5G, big data and the internet of things.