

CHINA

Editor's note: Tuesday marked the 104th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China, as the number of the world's largest political party surpasses 100 million. This page showcases the dedication and diligence of grassroots Party members who fulfill their vows when joining the Party — to serve the people.

Decade-long commitment turns icy town into hot tourism spot

Party chief finds innovative ways for her hometown's development

By ZHOU HUIYING in Harbin
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Wen Zhu, 36, a delegate to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and Party secretary of Beiji township of China's northernmost city, Mohe, Heilongjiang province, has grown from college-graduate village official to an excellent township official, building Beiji into a popular tourist destination and transforming it from an internet famous spot to a long-lasting one in over a decade.

After graduating from Mudanjiang Normal University in 2013, Wen gave up job opportunities in prosperous southern cities and instead chose to dedicate herself to building her hometown — Beiji township.

Wen's first position was as an assistant to Party secretary of Luoguhe village in Beiji, which she obtained after passing the province's recruitment examination in 2013.

Enduring a bumpy ride, she finally reached the small village with only 47 households and 84 residents.

"Despite growing up in urban Mohe, I had never been to Luoguhe before," she said. "It is located around 90 kilometers away from the urban area, and the transportation was extremely inconvenient."

She quickly threw herself into the village's work, visiting each household to understand the village's situation, and organizing an art team collaborating with stationed troops to carry out activities, which greatly enhanced the sense of belonging and cohesion among the youth.

Wen was committed to establishing a good family atmosphere for the villagers, nurturing good civic virtues, improving the overall image of Beiji and enhancing the comprehensive quality of villagers through projects like ethics lectures and night schools.

On May 20, 2017, Beiji launched the activity of "Party Building in Scenic Areas" to strengthen Party work in the border area and provide better education and services for tourists. In a prime location of the Beiji Scenic Area, the Beiji Red Station was established with Wen as the station master.

Under Wen's leadership, the station has become a well-known Party building model nationwide, attracting numerous tourists and touring Party



Wen Zhu (left) helps an elementary school student plant a seedling during an International Children's Day event in Beiji town of Mohe, Heilongjiang province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Wen (second from left) and fellow civil workers introduce safety measures in border areas in front of a sign marking China's northernmost land. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

members for learning and exchange.

In early 2021, Wen was selected as the head of Beiji township.

During her service, Wen encouraged villagers to open farmhouse inns and yacht companies to promote local tourism, successfully boosting local economic income.

As Mohe raised the initiative to create a national-level civilized city and establish a tourism industry chain to transform cold resources into economic benefits, Wen immediately seized the opportunity.

She meticulously planned the Beiji Tourism Industry Chain through

which tourists can taste the northernmost fruits and experience the charm of the courtyard economy, promoting the transformation of traditional agriculture into sightseeing agriculture.

"In each scenic area, we have set up a consultation desk where tourists can communicate directly with us if they have any opinions," she said. "I have posted my mobile phone number on the bulletin boards in the scenic areas."

The tourists' feedback inspired her to coordinate various departments for improvement and enhance the level of tourism services, she said.

In recent years, Wen has keenly perceived the potential of livestreaming industry development and actively promoted sales through social platforms to drive the local economy, attracting young people to return to their hometowns and encouraging more livestreaming influencers to contribute to the development of Beiji.

"Only through fully stimulating the enthusiasm, initiative and creativity of the people can we make the development of the tourism industry healthier and more sustainable," said Wen.

In November last year, Wen assumed a temporary post as deputy director of Jinwan district in Zhuhai, Guangdong province.

While learning from the advanced development experiences of the southeastern coastal areas, she made every effort to promote interaction and exchanges in industries, economy and tourism between the north and the south.

Her work included organizing a tour to Mohe for young entrepreneurs from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, establishing the Hong Kong-Macao Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Workstation, and signing two agreements between the Jinwan district and Mohe to promote investment promotion cooperation and tourism strategic cooperation.

Dedicated cardiovascular surgeon helps hearts beat

By YAN DONGJIE in Tianjin
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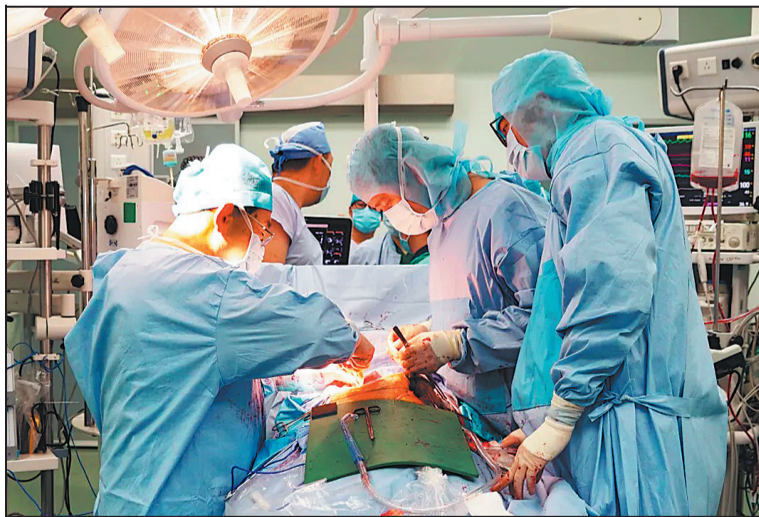
Cardiovascular expert Liu Xiaocheng received a nomination for the Ninth National Moral Model award in May, in recognition of his four-decade-long dedication to China's cardiovascular field. A member of the Communist Party of China, Liu has exemplified both the compassion of a doctor and the responsibility of a Party member throughout his career.

One of the first medical experts to return to China after studying abroad during the reform and opening-up, Liu left Beijing for Heilongjiang province in 1987 to help establish the second specialized cardiovascular hospital in China — the Mudanjiang Cardiovascular Disease Hospital.

There, he performed more than 3,000 heart surgeries for patients from 23 provinces.

"In 1992 alone, we completed two heart transplants in six days. In December that year, we performed China's first combined heart-lung transplant, marking a milestone in the country's cardiovascular surgery history," said Liu, Party secretary and president of Tianjin TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital in Tianjin.

Holding a leadership position at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Liu made an unexpected decision in 2000 when he resigned from his position in Beijing to create



Liu Xiaocheng (first from left) performs a minimally invasive operation to "install" an artificial heart into a patient. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital in Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area, which was mostly desolate and full of saline-alkali soil.

By 2007, the hospital had launched cross-province medical insurance settlements. In 2017, it completed China's first direct medical insurance settlement for remote treatment. Now, TEDA Hospital is the only public hospital in the country that has fully implemented new healthcare reform, earning it the title of "pioneer in public hospital reform" from Qiushi Journal, a flagship magazine of the CPC Central Committee.

Liu has consistently emphasized

early detection and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Under his leadership, TEDA was the first in China to conduct systematic screenings for congenital heart disease in children, covering over 1.4 million kilometers and screening 1.6 million children.

"We have also performed free corrective surgeries for congenital heart disease on 16,000 orphaned and disadvantaged children, setting a record for the most public welfare surgeries completed by a single hospital in China," Liu said.

Since 2009, Liu and his team have been working with the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology to

develop the third-generation full magnetic levitation artificial heart.

In 2013, an experimental sheep named "Tianjiu", implanted with a fully domestically developed artificial heart, survived 120 days, setting a national record at the time.

In 2022, the fully domestic artificial heart, named "Rocket Heart", was launched and has since saved over 200 patients with end-stage heart failure.

Liu's commitment to saving lives extends beyond the hospital.

In November 2023, while flying back to Beijing after providing surgical guidance in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Liu responded to an in-flight emergency. A woman was showing signs of a hypertensive crisis, with a heart rate of 120 and cyanosis on her face and fingers. As the patient was too overweight for the blood pressure cuff to fit, he cleverly used a seat belt to secure it. The reading was a dangerous 220/120 mmHg.

Despite cramped conditions, Liu assessed her condition, administered emergency medication, and stayed by her side until landing. "I just wanted to reassure her: 'Don't worry, you're safe with me here,'" he said.

In recent years, Liu has also embraced social media, using platforms like TikTok to share medical knowledge on cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease prevention. "Whether in the lab or the clinic, I'm willing to use every ounce of my energy to help those in need," Liu said.

Nurse holding up hands of 'untouchables' for decades

By CHEN BOWEN in Haikou
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The first time Xing Shaoyun reached for a leprosy patient's disfigured hand, the patient flinched. "Don't touch me," she whispered. "I don't want to make you sick."

That moment shattered Xing's last barrier of fear and redefined her life's mission.

Now 49, the head nurse of Hainan Fifth People's Hospital, also known as Hainan Skin Disease and Plastic Surgery Hospital, has spent three decades eradicating the stigma with radical compassion, earning her China's highest medical honor, the Norman Bethune Award, on March 31.

"They weren't afraid of us, but they were afraid for us," Xing recalled. "That's when I understood: dignity hurts worse than disease."

When Xing graduated from a health vocational college in 1995 and began working at Hainan's largest leprosy colony, isolation was the norm. Patients, many with untreated ulcers, lived behind walls and were abandoned by families. Medical staff wore hazmat-like gear.

Despite her family's fears about the risks of her work, Xing changed that calculus with science. She adopted masking, gloving and sterilizing protocols so rigorous that direct contact became safe. Then she added what medicine couldn't measure — sitting for hours listening to life stories and holding hands gnarled by nerve damage.

"Leprosy steals everything — jobs, marriages, even hugs," said Xing, scrolling through photos of elderly patients on her phone. One image shows a man grinning as she fits him with custom shoes; another, a woman smiling while Xing dresses her wounds. "What they need most isn't just treatment. It's being seen."

Her clinical breakthroughs are textbook cases: By combining regenerative wound tech with photon therapy, her team slashed chronic ulcer rates from 28 percent to 5 percent, significantly lowering amputation risks. The innovation now guides leprosy hospitals nationwide.

Beyond the clinic, Xing ventured into remote regions to con-



Xing Shaoyun

duct hands-on training. In 2019, she led a province-wide survey across 13 leprosy-affected villages, finding ulcer incidence rates as high as 18.9 percent. In response, she launched a mobile treatment campaign and trained 464 local caregivers, building a grassroots network of leprosy care specialists.

Yet her most fragile patients never leave the geriatric ward. Xing helped establish a tailored geriatric care system that treats both physical disabilities and social stigma.

"Some patients hadn't held anyone's hand in decades," she said. "We've held over 100 hands in their last moments. No one should die remembering only pain."

In 2023, Xing was awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Red Cross. She has since shared her experience with nearly 4,000 people through lectures, inspiring a new generation of health workers.

Xing has taken care of over 300 leprosy patients. "The elderly patients often call me 'daughter,' a sign of their trust and the reason I keep going," said Xing.

With China's leprosy rates plummeting, she believes key challenges remain in early detection, especially in remote areas, and in comprehensive rehabilitation addressing both physical and psychological needs.

As a Party member for 23 years, Xing views her awards as a recognition of teamwork, not individual achievement. "My oath to serve the people guides everything — ward rounds, emergencies, trips to remote villages," she said. "These honors are not just for me but they belong to thousands of front-line medical workers and leprosy control staff."

Nothing stops Hu, 62, from serving his village

By YANG CHENG
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Amid the scorching summer, a music concert brought together residents of a small village nestled in the mountainous Mentougou district of western Beijing.

As visitors and locals gathered for the open-air concert in Shuiyuzui village, many paused to reflect on the man behind the village's remarkable transformation: Hu Fengcai, a senior Party member and the village's Party secretary.

Hu, 62, played a pivotal role in restoring the village's allure after it had been ravaged by a devastating flood in July 2023, which damaged homes and infrastructure.

Hu spearheaded reconstruction efforts by restoring buildings, reviving tourism and lifting public morale, a celebration of which ended as a captivating music night.

Over the past two years, the entire village has been actively engaged in a multifaceted initiative. Some residents have been involved in construction projects while others have ventured into tourism enterprises.

Hu's leadership stretches back nearly three decades since 1997. He first led the village out of poverty by opening stone quarries, creating over 70 jobs for villagers and clearing long-standing debts, recalled Fu Hongchun, a villager, adding "Back then, we had nothing. He gave people work and hope."

But in 2007, with the Beijing Olympics on the horizon and concerns about environmental degradation growing, Hu made a bold move to shut down the quarries. "Exploiting natural resources can't sustain a village," he told residents. Instead, Hu proposed a new path: tourism.

He began developing the ancient Jingxi Trail as a cultural attraction



Hu Fengcai

and invited historians to teach villagers about their own forgotten heritage. The village raised capital by pooling resources while lobbying for government support. The results soon followed with the creation of a scenic area and two museums.

In 2008, in collaboration with Beijing University of Agriculture, the village established a food company, completing an economic shift from mining to tourism.

Then came the 2023 floods which washed away much of the hard-won progress. "During the disaster, someone told me, 'Secretary Hu, even if everyone falls, you cannot,'" he said. "As long as we have confidence, we will rebuild and it will be our third transformation."

Hu didn't step back. Instead, he intensified efforts to restore the village including rebuilding homes, launching new tourism plans and overseeing the construction of a nursing home.

In addition, he drafted plans to renovate vacant homes, build a four-star hotel and expand cultural tourism along the Jingxi Trail. His goal is to turn Shuiyuzui into a cultural landmark and a "welcoming parlor on the Yongding River."

Still on the front line of reconstruction, Hu said: "I'm a Party member and the village secretary. My job is to serve the people. That energy will never run out."