



The Communist Party of China:
Its Organizations and
Their Functions

Zhang Rongchen

CHINA
INTERCONTINENTAL
PRESS

CONTENTS

1 Organizational Building and Structure of the Party	1
Organizational building of the Party	2
Organizational structure of the Party	7
2 Functions of the Party Organizations and Their Operations	19
The Party's leadership system and working mechanism	19
Functions of Party organizations at various levels	23
Internal operations of Party organizations at all levels	26
3 Fundamental Organizational Principle and Institutions of the Party	30
Democratic centralism: fundamental organizational principle for the Party	30
Operation of democratic centralism in the Party's internal life	34

Ko'markaziy fond

DVI
P23678

2013/10

404

Alisher Navoiy

nomidagi

O'zbekiston MY

Содержание

Adhere to and improve democratic centralism	37
Strengthen the Party's solidarity and unity	39
4 The System of Party Congresses	47
Basic facts about Party congresses	47
Improve the system of Party congresses	51
5 The Electoral System	54
Principles for inner-Party elections	54
Forms of inner-Party elections	56
Procedures for inner-Party elections	59
6 The Cadre System	71
Building of the Party's ranks of cadres	71
The Party's selection of cadres	72
Reform of the work of selecting and appointing cadres	76

7 The System of Inner-Party Life	87
Regular cell meetings for Party members	87
Party cadres' meetings for criticism and self-criticism	88
Dual meetings for leading Party cadres	89
8 Organizational Building of the Party in the 21st Century	95
Adhere to scientific, democratic and law-based governance	95
Build high-caliber ranks of cadres	97
Reform and improve the Party's leadership system and working mechanism	98
Strengthen the building of primary Party organizations and the ranks of Party members	99
Develop inner-Party democracy and enhance inner-Party supervision	100

Organizational Building and Structure of the Party

The Communist Party of China (CPC) came into being in the 1920s as an outcome of the development of modern Chinese society and the development of the Chinese people's revolutionary struggle.

The earliest organization of the CPC was initiated in Shanghai. In August 1920 a communist group was formally set up in the city, with Chen Duxiu as its secretary, which served as a sponsoring organ and liaison center for the nationwide growth of the communist party. In October the same year, the communist group of Beijing was founded, with Li Dazhao as its secretary. From the autumn of 1920 to the spring of 1921, similar groups were founded in Wuhan, Changsha, Jinan and Guangzhou, as well as in Europe and Japan among overseas Chinese, including students and other Chinese nationals.

On July 23, 1921, thirteen delegates representing communist groups in various parts of China met in Shanghai for the founding of the Communist Party of China. The delegates decided on the name of the Party, adopted its program, and elected its leading organs. The meeting marked the birth of a completely new political party of the working class in China, the only and unified political party guided by Marxism-Leninism and fighting for communism in the country.

In the more than 85 years since its founding, the CPC has evolved from a clandestine party with 50 or so members to a great party governing a nation of 1.3 billion people, with 3.5 million grassroots organs

and more than 70 million members. An important factor behind the vigorous growth of the Party despite numerous hardships and setbacks is the fact that it has always attached great importance to its own building, especially its organizational building.

Organizational Building of the Party

The Communist Party of China was founded after the victory of the October Revolution in Russia, based on the party building principle of Marxism-Leninism. The CPC has been a Marxist party since the very beginning, strictly exercising democratic centralism and unified leadership. This principle has ensured the organizational growth of the Party.

The organizational development of the Party, covering the implementation of democratic centralism, Party cadres, Party members, and grassroots Party organizations, is of great significance in the development of the Party. The three generations of central collective leadership with Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin respectively at the core paid great attention to the organizational development of the Party and gained important experience in this respect during different historical periods.

It was Mao Zedong who initiated innovation in the organizational development of the Party. Summing up the lessons from the failure of the 1927 revolution, Mao Zedong concluded that the Party should take the path of encircling cities from the countryside and seizing political power by armed force. He reasoned that agriculture accounted for 90% of the Chinese economy, in which capitalist production of commodities was quite limited and concentrated in big cities. As agricultural production was carried out by small producers in a scattered manner, the countryside was quite independent and self-sustaining. Politically, the ruling class was powerful in cities but vulnerable in rural areas. This economic and political unevenness made it possible for the Communist Party to lead

the peasantry and petty bourgeoisie in making revolution in the countryside, carrying out armed struggle and building revolutionary bases in areas where the enemy force was weak. On September 9, 1927 Mao Zedong launched the Autumn Harvest Uprising. On September 29 the troops of the uprising carried out a reorganization in Sanwan Village of Jiangxi Province. During the reorganization Communist Party organizations were set up at various levels in the army, and the old officer-soldier relationship was replaced with equality and democracy in the army.

After the reorganization at Sanwan, in late October 1927 troops led by Mao Zedong arrived in the Jinggang Mountains in Jiangxi Province and started building a revolutionary base there. The establishment and development of revolutionary bases in rural areas exerted a far-reaching impact on exploring the path to victory for the Chinese revolution, and it was also the start for the Communist Party to shift its focus of work from cities to the countryside.

Mao Zedong made careful consideration of how to build the Party and the army in rural areas and summed up his views in the resolution of the Gutian Meeting, or the Ninth Party Congress of the Fourth Army of the Red Army, held in 1929 at Gutian Village, Shanghang County, Fujian Province. The eight-chapter resolution written by Mao included details on the relations between development of the army and the building of the Party, such as the principles for commanders, and the duties of mess cooks. It stipulated the nature, purposes and tasks of the Red Army, laid down the principle of the Communist Party exercising absolute leadership over the Red Army, and provided principles and ways for the Red Army to carry out education in the troops on Marxism-Leninism and the Party's correct line and to rid itself of various non-proletarian ideas. In the resolution Mao also expounded the relations between military affairs and politics, and laid down principles for correctly handling the internal and external relations of the Red Army. He set forth the tasks and requirements for the Red Army's publicity work,

expounded the style and ways of the Red Army's political work, and repudiated subjectivism. Basically speaking, the resolution aimed to educate the troops in Marxism-Leninism and the Party's line and policies, help them to overcome non-proletarian ideas with proletarian ones, and build the Red Army politically, ideologically and organizationally into a new army of the people. The Gutian meeting summed up the rich experience of the Fourth Army in Party building, which stressed the vital importance of ideological work. This experience was of great importance for the building of a revolutionary party of the working class under China's special historical conditions.

It was a great feat rarely seen in world politics for the CPC to build a unified, well-disciplined and staunch vanguard of the working class in old China, which was economically and culturally backward and marked by scattered, small-scale production, with the revolutionary bases in rural areas separated by hostile forces and cities overwhelmed by white terror. The Chinese Communist Party won a great success, which was praised by Mao Zedong as "a great project."

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the first generation of Party collective leadership, with Mao Zedong at the core, made unremitting efforts to build the Party, now a governing party, and scored great achievements. In the early years of the People's Republic, the Party carried out ideological education and organizational rectification to improve the quality of Party organizations and its members, helping Party cadres to get rid of bureaucracy and other erroneous ideas and work styles that alienated them from the public. Starting in the late 1950s, however, abnormalities gradually appeared in the internal political life of the Party. Due to various historical reasons, democracy had not been institutionalized and legalized in the Party and the government, with over-concentration of the Party's power in an individual. An incorrect judgment was made of the major contradictions in a socialist society. The building of the Party was thus led astray. The erroneous political line and

organizational line culminated in the ten-year Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), which caused the most serious setbacks and losses to the Party, the state and the people since the founding of the People's Republic. Despite the great efforts and achievements made, the CPC had not gained mature experience or found a path to success in building itself, now a governing party different from its previous role of a revolutionary party in war times.

Successes come after explorations and failures. After the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Party, Deng Xiaoping became the core of the second generation of the CPC's collective leadership. Crystallizing the wisdom of the whole Party, Deng started from reviving the correct ideological line of the Party, urging all its members to emancipate their mind and explore boldly for the path of development for China. In this way Deng established a scientific theory on building, consolidating and developing socialism in China, a big country still fairly backward in economic and cultural terms, and established a correct political line for the Party. Guided by this political line, the Party explored new ways to build itself in a new historical period.

To build the Party through institutional means was a salient contribution by Deng Xiaoping to building the Party as a governing party in a new historical period. This line has been proven correct in practice. Deng stressed building the Party in implementing its political line, and his theory on building socialism with Chinese characteristics included an important element on building the Party. Among the new ideas put forward by Deng were: uphold and improve Party leadership for the Party to serve as a solid core of leadership for socialist modernization; keep to a correct ideological line by thinking more freely and seeking truth from facts; rectify the "leftist" tendency that had long existed in the history of the Party and in the meantime guard against "rightism", and be resolute in adhering to the Party's basic line; reform the system of Party leadership and improve its rules and regulations to base the internal activities of the

Party on democracy and institutions; adhere to and improve the system of democratic centralism and enhance the Party's solidarity and unity; abolish life tenure in leading posts, and bring about a contingent of dynamic leaders; and to be strict with Party members, fight corruption, and enhance Party discipline. All these constituted a new, important development in the theory on Party building. The practice since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee has proved that Deng Xiaoping pointed out the correct direction for the Party on what kind of governing party the CPC should be and how to build it. This new great project was carried on and improved under the leadership of the third generation of the Party's collective leadership with Jiang Zemin at the core.

After the Fourth Plenary Session of the Thirteenth Central Committee of the CPC held in 1989, the third generation of the Party's collective leadership with Jiang Zemin at the core, while advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics by focusing on economic development, made substantial progress in building the Party under new conditions. The cohesion, combat readiness and creativity of Party organizations at all levels were enhanced as major improvements were made in the practice of democratic centralism, building the ranks of cadres, reform of the cadre and personnel systems, development of grassroots organizations, and the expansion and improvement of Party membership.

The Party has got a more systematic and clearer understanding of the essence of democratic centralism and its role in a socialist market economy. A series of rules and regulations have been established to ensure the implementation of democratic centralism in conducting collective leadership, decision-making and internal political life.

The Party has made various explorations in improving the ranks of cadres and leading bodies, setting specific political and professional requirements on leading cadres, which constitute concrete goals for

the building of a contingent of cadres in the new historical period. Education in stressing the importance of study, political awareness and integrity carried out among Party cadres has helped them improve themselves ideologically. Internal rules and regulations promulgated in the Party have institutionalized and regularized the education, selection, appointment, supervision and appraisal of cadres. Leading bodies at all levels have improved markedly in overall quality and work performance as the structures of their ages and knowledge were rationalized and a large number of young and energetic people were promoted to leading positions.

The Party has also made explorations and innovations in the building of grassroots organizations, aiming to expand the coverage of Party organizations and enhancing the cohesion of Party members among the public. This work was carried out in step with the development of grassroots democracy, reform of state-owned enterprises, and the transformation of the social structure. In rural areas, a rectification of grassroots Party organizations has been carried out. In urban areas, explorations and experiments have been made in improving the activities of Party organizations in communities, management of Party members among the migrant population, and the establishment of Party organizations in non-public economic entities and new institutions in society. The Party has accumulated valuable experience from this work.

Organizational Structure of the Party

The Communist Party of China convened its Sixteenth National Congress in 2002 and elected a new central collective leadership with Hu Jintao as the General Secretary. According to the Constitution, the Party is an integral body organized under its program and Constitution based on the principle of democratic centralism. The Party has three levels of organizations: central, local and primary. The highest leading

body of the Party is the National Congress and the Central Committee elected by it. Between its highest leading body and primary organizations are local organizations. Primary Party organizations are formed in enterprises, villages, government departments, schools, scientific research institutions, urban communities, mass organizations, intermediaries, companies of the People's Liberation Army, and other basic units. Where there are at least three full Party members, a primary organization should be set up.

The National Congress of the Party is held once every five years and convened by the Central Committee. It may be convened before the normally scheduled date if the Central Committee deems it necessary or if more than one-third of the organizations at the provincial level so request. Except under extraordinary circumstances, the Congress may not be postponed.

The functions and powers of the National Congress of the Party are as follows:

- (1) To hear and examine the reports of the Central Committee;
- (2) To hear and examine the reports of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection;
- (3) To discuss and decide on major questions concerning the Party;
- (4) To revise the Constitution of the Party;
- (5) To elect the Central Committee; and
- (6) To elect the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The Party congress of a province, autonomous region, municipality directly under the Central Government, city divided into districts, or autonomous prefecture is held once every five years. The Party congress of a county (banner), autonomous county, city not divided into districts, or municipal district is held once every five years. Local Party congresses are convened by the Party committees at the corresponding levels. Under extraordinary circumstances, they may be held before or after their normally scheduled dates upon approval by the next higher Party committees.

The functions and powers of the local Party congresses at all levels are as follows:

(1) To hear and examine the reports of the Party committees at the corresponding levels;

(2) To hear and examine the reports of the commissions for discipline inspection at the corresponding levels;

(3) To discuss and decide on major issues in the given areas; and

(4) To elect the Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection at the corresponding levels.

In primary organizations, primary Party committees and committees of general Party branches or Party branches are set up as the work requires and according to the number of Party members, subject to approval by the higher Party organizations. A primary Party committee is elected by a general membership meeting or a Party congress. The committee of a general Party branch or a Party branch is elected by a general membership meeting. A primary Party committee is elected for a term of three to five years, while a general Party branch committee or a Party branch committee is elected for a term of two or three years. Results of the election of a secretary and deputy secretaries by a primary Party committee, general branch committee or branch committee shall be reported to the higher Party organizations for approval.

The main tasks of primary Party organizations are as follows:

(1) To disseminate and carry out the Party's line, principles and policies, the decisions of the Central Committee of the Party and other higher Party organizations, and their own decisions; to give full play to the exemplary, vanguard role of Party members, and to unite and organize the cadres and the rank-and-file inside and outside the Party to fulfill the tasks of their own units.

(2) To organize Party members to conscientiously study Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents", the Party's line, principles, policies and

decisions, acquire essential knowledge concerning the Party and obtain general, scientific and professional knowledge.

(3) To educate and supervise Party members, raise the overall quality of the Party membership, cultivate their Party spirit, ensure their regular participation in the activities of the Party organizations, make criticism and self-criticism, maintain and observe Party discipline, see that Party members truly fulfill their duties and protect their rights from encroachment.

(4) To maintain close ties with the masses, constantly seek their criticisms and opinions regarding Party members and the Party's work, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the masses and conduct effective ideological and political work among them.

(5) To give full scope to the initiative and creativeness of Party members and the masses and to discover, nurture and recommend fine, talented people from among Party members and the masses and encourage them to contribute their skills and learning to reform, opening and socialist modernization.

(6) To educate and train activists who apply for Party membership, attend to routine work concerning the recruitment of new members and attach great importance to recruiting Party members from among those in the forefront of production and work and from among young people.

(7) To see to it that Party and non-Party cadres strictly observe the law and administrative discipline and the financial and economic statutes and personnel regulations of the state and that none of them infringe the interests of the state, the collective or the masses.

(8) To encourage Party members and the masses to conscientiously resist unhealthy practices and wage resolute struggles against all illegal and criminal activities.

In the process of reform and opening and building a socialist market economy, primary Party organizations have faced great stress. On the one hand, as the planned economy was transformed to a diversified market economy, the key position of Party organizations has been affected.

On the other hand, as diversifying interests and values have changed Party members' mentalities, the functions of primary Party organizations need to change accordingly. To meet the requirements of the new situation, the Party Constitution adopted at the Sixteenth National Congress included relevant provisions on the roles of primary Party organizations. The Constitution states that

The primary Party committees in communities, townships and towns and the Party organizations in villages and residential communities provide leadership for the work in their localities and assist administrative departments, economic institutions and self-governing mass organizations in fully exercising their functions and powers.

In a state-owned or collective enterprise, the primary Party organization acts as the political nucleus and works to ensure the smooth operation of the enterprise. The primary Party organization guarantees and supervises the implementation of the principles and policies of the Party and the state in its own enterprise and backs the meeting of shareholders, board of directors, board of supervisors and manager (factory director) in the exercise of their functions and powers according to law. It relies wholeheartedly on the employees, supports the work of the congresses of employee representatives and participates in making final decisions on major questions in the enterprise. It works to improve its own organization and provides leadership over ideological and political work, efforts for cultural and spiritual development, and the trade unions, the Communist Youth League and other mass organizations.

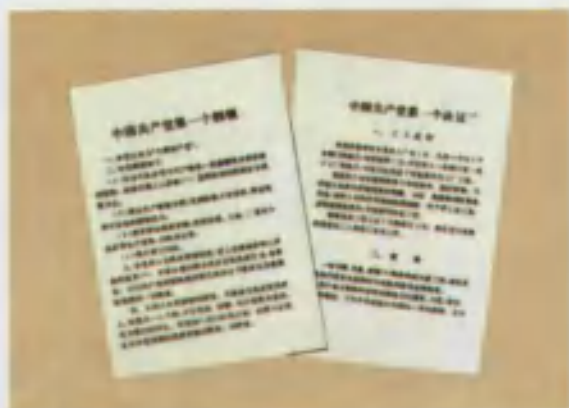
In a non-public economic institution, the primary Party organization carries out the Party's principles and policies, provides guidance to and supervises the enterprise in observing the laws and regulations of the state, exercises leadership over the trade union, the Communist Youth League organization and other mass organizations, rallies the workers and office staff around it, safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of all quarters and ensures the healthy development of the enterprise.

In an institution where the administrative leaders assume full responsibility, the primary Party organization acts as the political nucleus. In an institution where the administrative leaders assume full responsibility under the leadership of the Party committee, the primary Party organization discusses and decides on major issues and at the same time ensures that the administrative leaders are able to fully exercise their functions and powers.

In offices of the Party or the state at all levels, the primary Party organizations assist the chief administrators in fulfilling their tasks and improving their work. They exercise supervision over all Party members, including the chief administrators who are Party members, but do not direct the work of their units.



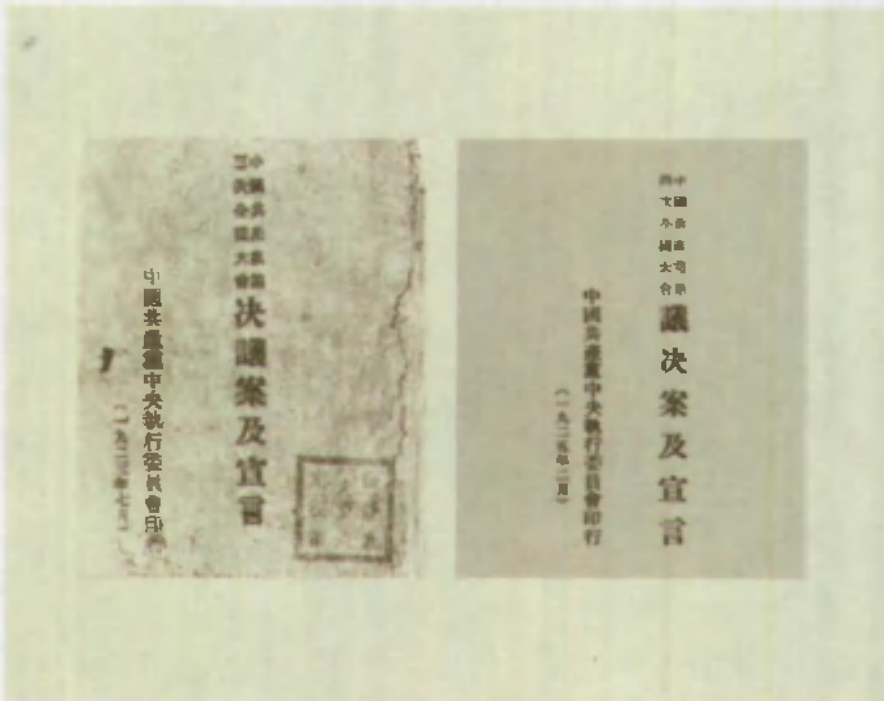
Between July 23 and early August 1921, the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in Shanghai, announcing the foundation of the Communist Party of China. The picture shows the site where the first congress was held.



The first program and resolution passed at the First National Congress of the CPC.

The meeting room of the first National Congress





In June 1923, the Third National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in Guangzhou. The congress decided to cooperate with Kuomintang led by Sun Yat-sen. The picture on the left is the resolution and declaration passed at the Third National Congress of the CPC.

In January 1925, the Fourth National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in Shanghai, which discussed how to strengthen the leadership of the Party in the rising revolutionary movement. The picture on the right is the resolution and declaration passed at the Fourth National Congress of the CPC.



On August 7, 1927, the Central Committee of the CPC held an urgent meeting in Hankou. The meeting, known as the August 7 meeting, decided the general principle of agrarian revolution and armed uprising. Qu Qiubai was elected as the standing member of the temporary political bureau after the August 7 meeting and presided over the work of the Central Committee.



2013/10

404

Alisher Navoiy
memorial
O'zbekiston MK



In June 1928, the Sixth National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in Moscow. It stipulated the nature of the Chinese revolution, which played an active role in the development of the Red Army and revolutionary bases. The picture shows the site of the congress.

Functions of the Party Organizations and Their Operations

To understand the functions and operations of the organizations of the Communist Party of China, it is necessary to put them in the context of China's political system. It is the choice of history and of the people for the CPC to be in power, which is also stipulated in China's Constitution. In China, a big country with a huge population, a less-developed economy and culture and uneven development, it is a complicated and arduous task to realize the interests of the people, which are extensive and diversified. Such a task requires a political group and a political nucleus that represents the interests and wishes of the great majority of people to lead the people in revolution, construction and reform and ensure they are the masters of their own destiny. All this has to be carried out by the Party organizations.

The Party's leadership system and working mechanism

It is a major part of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics to develop socialist democracy and promote the political progress of socialist civilization. Article One of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates: The People's Republic of China is a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants.

The Constitution says in its Preamble: In the long years of revolution and construction, there has been formed under the leadership of the Communist Party of China a broad patriotic united front which is composed of the democratic parties and people's organizations and which embraces all socialist working people, all builders of socialism, all patriots who support socialism, and all patriots who stand for the reunification of the motherland. This united front will continue to be consolidated and developed. The system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation led by the Communist Party of China will exist and develop for a long time to come.

The Constitution of the Communist Party of China stipulates: The Communist Party of China is the vanguard of both the Chinese working class, the Chinese people and the Chinese nation. It is the core of leadership for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and represents 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 realization of communism is the highest ideal and ultimate goal of the Party.

According to the provisions of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Party Constitution, the Communist Party of China is the governing party, and the fellow democratic political parties participate in the governance of the country under a system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation. The functions and operating mechanism of its organizations are designed to meet the requirements of its roles. The resolution of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Central Committee held in 2004 calls for the Party to reform and improve its leadership system and working mechanism so as to improve its governance of the country on a scientific, democratic and legal footing. This marks a major step forward in the ways, institution and means of its governance. Guided by this principle, the Party will gradually institutionalize law-based governance, enhance its leadership over legislation, and improve legislative procedures for turning

the Party's proposals into the will of the state.

Against this social background and as required by the Party's resolutions, the governance of the country by the CPC is carried out through organs of state power at all levels (namely, the people's congresses at all levels and the administrative, judicial and procuratorial organs generated by them); the Party exercises leadership over state and social affairs through state organs, which fulfill their functions in accordance with law. Party committees at all levels play the role of core leadership in the people's congresses, governments, judicial organs and other organizations at the corresponding levels, and support them in carrying out their work independently and in a coordinated way in accordance with the law. The leading Party members' groups, leading Party cadres and all Party members in state organs at all levels must implement the Party's line, principles and policies, as well as major decisions and work plans made by Party committees.

The Communist Party of China enters state organs at all levels to control state power in accordance with the law, serving its role as the party in power. Therefore members of Party committees, who shoulders the responsibilities of governance, concurrently hold leading positions in state organs, serving as administrators. In the capacity of state functionaries, these people perform their duties in accordance with the Constitution, laws and regulations of the state; in the capacity of Party members or Party cadres, they act in accordance with the Party Constitution and its internal rules and regulations.

The propositions of the Party on the governance of the country, including its line, principles, policies and measures, have to be transformed into the will of the state and the people to be implemented throughout the country. This transformation takes the following forms: One is to be institutionalized in the Constitution, laws and regulations for all citizens to follow; the other, work reports, development programs, budgets and final accounts, resolutions, and decisions, which are legally binding documents,

for the state organs to implement annually or over a certain period of time in the administration of the country. To uphold law-based governance of the country, the Party is gradually changing the practice of Party committees directly administering government affairs through issuing Party committee documents.

Fact Sheet

CPC Membership

According to statistics from the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, Party membership totaled 70.8 million by the end of 2005 and its primary organizations numbered 3.52 million.

Of all Party members, those under 35 accounted for 23%, women, 19.2%, and college and university graduates, 29%.

In 2005 the Party recruited 2.47 million new members. They included 734,000 students; 226,000 industrial workers; 492,000 farmers, herdsmen and fishermen; 200,000 government functionaries; 570,000 managers and professionals from enterprises and non-profit institutions, both state-run and non-state-run; 217,000 soldiers and officers from the military and armed police; and 36,000 self-employed and freelance workers.

Functions of Party organizations at various levels

The functions of Party organizations include making decisions, executing the decisions and supervision. The central, local and primary organizations of the Party all have these three functions, though with varying emphasis. The Party Constitution provides: Only the Central Committee of the Party has the power to make decisions on major policies of a national character. Party organizations of various departments and localities may make suggestions with regard to such policies to the Central Committee, but shall not make any decisions or publicize their views outside the Party without authorization. Lower Party organizations must firmly implement the decisions of higher Party organizations. If a lower organization considers that any decision of a higher organization does not suit the specific conditions in its locality or department, it may request modification. If the higher organization insists on its original decision, the lower organization must carry out the decision and refrain from publicly expressing its differences, but it has the right to report to the next higher Party organization.

When making decisions on important questions affecting the lower organizations, the Party Constitution also stipulates that the leading bodies of the Party at all levels should, under normal circumstances, solicit the opinions of the lower organizations. Measures should be taken to ensure that the lower organizations exercise their functions and powers normally. Higher leading bodies should not interfere with matters that ought to be handled by lower organizations, apart from in extraordinary circumstances.

As far supervision is concerned, all Party organizations and members have this right, and there are also special discipline inspection organs to exercise supervision. The Party Constitution states that: The Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection functions under the lead-

ership of the Central Committee of the Party. The Party's local commissions for discipline inspection at all levels and primary commissions for discipline inspection function under the dual leadership of the Party committees at the corresponding levels and the next higher commissions for discipline inspection.

According to the Party Constitution, the main tasks of the Party's commissions for discipline inspection at all levels are as follows: to uphold the Constitution and other statutes of the Party, to monitor the implementation of the line, principles, policies and decisions of the Party and to assist the respective Party committees in improving the Party's style of work and in organizing and coordinating anti-corruption work.

Commissions for discipline inspection at all levels shall frequently provide education for Party members on their duty to observe Party discipline and adopt decisions on upholding Party discipline; they shall supervise Party members holding leading positions in exercising their powers; they shall examine and deal with relatively important or complex cases of violation of the Constitution or other statutes of the Party by Party organizations or Party members and decide on or rescind disciplinary measures against Party members involved in such cases; they shall deal with complaints and appeals made by Party members; and they shall guarantee the rights of Party members.

The commissions for discipline inspection at all levels shall report to the Party committees at the corresponding levels on the results of their handling of cases of special importance or complexity, as well as on the problems encountered. The local commissions for discipline inspection at all levels and primary commissions for discipline inspection shall also present such reports to the higher commissions.

If a commission for discipline inspection at any level discovers any violation of Party discipline by a member of the Party committee at the corresponding level, it may take the initial step of verifying the facts and, if it is necessary to put a case on file, it should report to the Party commit-

tee at the corresponding level for approval, and if a member of the standing committee of the Party committee is involved, it should first report to the Party committee at the corresponding level and then to the commission for discipline inspection at the next higher level for approval.

The Party Constitution stipulates: Party organizations should criticize, educate or take disciplinary measures against members who violate Party discipline, depending on the nature and severity of their mistakes and in the spirit of "learning from past mistakes to avoid future ones, and curing the sickness to save the patient". Party members who commit serious criminal offenses must be expelled from the Party.

It is strictly forbidden in the Party to take any measures against a member that contravenes the Party Constitution or the laws of the state, or to retaliate against or frame a member. Any offending organization or individual must be dealt with according to Party discipline and the laws of the state. There are five measures for enforcing Party discipline: warning, serious warning, removal from Party posts, probation within the Party, and expulsion from the Party.

The Party Constitution also stipulates: When a Party organization is deciding on a disciplinary measure against a Party member, it should investigate and verify the facts in an objective way. The Party member in question must be informed of a decision regarding any disciplinary measure to be taken and of the facts on which it is based. The person concerned must be given a chance to account for himself and speak in his own defense. If the member does not accept the decision, he can appeal, and the Party organization concerned must promptly deal with or forward his appeal, and must not withhold or suppress it. Those who maintain erroneous views and unjustifiable demands shall be educated by criticism.

In January 2006, General Secretary Hu Jintao spoke on giving full play to the functions of Party organizations at all levels at the Sixth Plenary Session of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The Party must improve its institutions with the Constitution at the core, he

said, making them more scientific, systematic, and authoritative to govern the use of power, Party activities and Party members, and improve the Party's style of work, keep Party members clean, and fight corruption. The Party must enhance restraint and supervision, improve its internal supervision system and give full play to multiple supervision, especially all-directional and all-process supervision over the use of power by leading cadres, so as to ensure their power is correctly enforced.

Internal operations of Party organizations at all levels

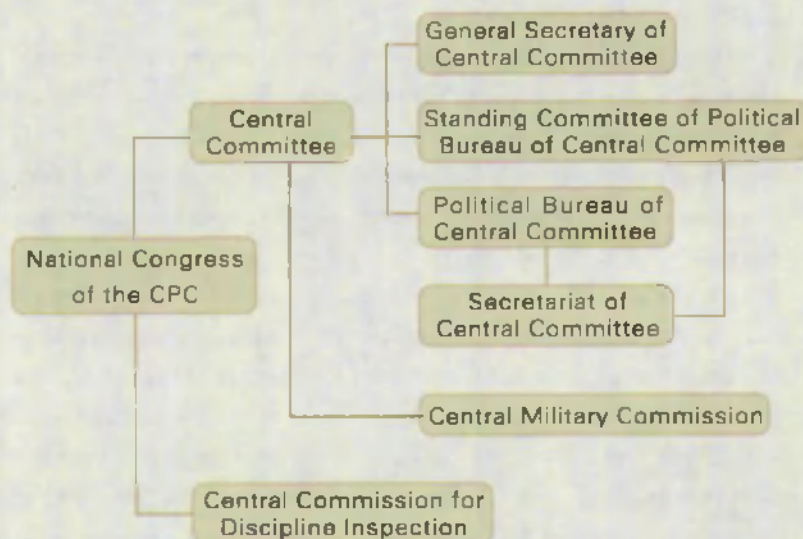
The Communist Party of China is a well-organized integral body; the operations of its organizations are stipulated in detail in the Party Constitution.

On the operation of central organizations, the Party Constitution stipulates: The Central Committee of the Party is elected for a term of five years. However, when the next National Congress is convened before or after its normally scheduled date, the term shall be correspondingly shortened or extended. Members and alternate members of the Central Committee must have a Party membership of five years or more. The number of members and alternate members of the Central Committee shall be determined by the National Congress. Vacancies on the Central Committee shall be filled by its alternate members in the order of the number of votes by which they were elected. The Central Committee of the Party meets in plenary session at least once a year, and such sessions are convened by its Political Bureau.

The Political Bureau, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party are elected by the Central Committee in plenary session. The General Secretary of the Central Committee must be a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau. When the Central Committee is not in

session, the Political Bureau and its Standing Committee exercise the functions and powers of the Central Committee. The Secretariat of the Central Committee is the working body of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and its Standing Committee. The members of the Secretariat are nominated by the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and are subject to endorsement by the Central Committee in plenary session. The General Secretary of the Central Committee is responsible for convening the meetings of the Political Bureau and its Standing Committee and presides over the work of the Secretariat. The central leading bodies and leaders elected by each Central Committee shall, when the next National Congress is in session, continue to preside over the Party's day-to-day work until the new central leading bodies and leaders are elected by the next Central Committee.

Organizational structure of the Party's central leading bodies



As for local organizations, the Party Constitution stipulates: The Party committee of a province, autonomous region, municipality directly under the Central Government, city divided into districts, or autonomous prefecture is elected for a term of five years. The members and alternate members of such a committee must have a Party membership of five years or more. The Party committee of a county (banner), autonomous county, city not divided into districts, or municipal district is elected for a term of five years. The members and alternate members of such a committee must have a Party membership of three years or more. When local Party congresses at various levels are convened before or after their normally scheduled dates, the terms of the committees elected by the previous congresses shall be correspondingly shortened or extended.

The number of members and alternate members of the local Party committees at various levels shall be determined by the next higher committees. Vacancies on the local Party committees at various levels shall be filled by their alternate members in the order of the number of votes by which they were elected.

The local Party committees at various levels meet in plenary session at least twice a year. Local Party committees at various levels shall, when the Party congresses of the given areas are not in session, carry out the directives of the higher Party organizations and the decisions of the Party Congresses at the corresponding levels, direct work in their own areas and report on it to the next higher Party committees at regular intervals.

Local Party committees at various levels elect, in their plenary sessions, their standing committees, secretaries and deputy secretaries and report the results to the higher Party committees for approval. The standing committees of local Party committees at various levels exercise the functions and powers of local Party committees when the latter are not in session. They continue to handle the day-to-day work when the next Party congresses at their levels are in session, until the new standing committees are elected. A prefectural Party committee, or an organiza-

tion analogous to it, is the representative organ dispatched by a provincial or an autonomous regional Party committee to a prefecture covering several counties, autonomous counties or cities. It exercises leadership over the work in the given region as authorized by the provincial or autonomous regional Party committee.

On primary organizations, the Party Constitution provides: Primary Party committees and committees of general Party branches or Party branches are set up in such organizations as the work requires and according to the number of Party members, subject to approval by the higher Party organizations. A primary Party committee is elected by a general membership meeting or a Party congress. The committee of a general Party branch or a Party branch is elected by a general membership meeting. A primary Party committee is elected for a term of three to five years, while a general Party branch committee or a Party branch committee is elected for a term of two or three years. Results of the election of a secretary and deputy secretaries by a primary Party committee, general branch committee or branch committee shall be reported to the higher Party organizations for approval.

Fundamental Organizational Principle and Institutions of the Party

How does the Communist Party of China organize itself and carry out its activities? The Party Constitution stipulates: The Party is an integral body organized under its program and Constitution based on the principle of democratic centralism. This means democratic centralism is the CPC's fundamental organizational principle. This reflects the laws of activities of a Marxist political party, and provides an organizational guarantee for the Party to maintain and develop its vanguard character and play its role as the core of leadership in revolution, construction and reform.

Democratic centralism: fundamental organizational principle for the Party

Democratic centralism is the fundamental institution of organization for political parties of the working class, as required by the vanguard nature and world outlook of this class. In 1847, when Karl Marx and Frederick Engels founded the Communist League, the first political party of the proletariat, they did not talk about "democratic centralism" due to the social and historical conditions and the tasks faced by the party. What they stressed was the principle of democracy, which held that all organs of the League must be elected, and the electors may remove any leaders proven to be unqualified.

Historically it was Vladimir Lenin who initiated the concept of democratic centralism and made it the organizational principle for a political party. Lenin held that strict centralism was needed in the party when Russia was under Tsarist autocracy and when there were ideological differences and loose organizations in the party. But this must be democratic centralism, not an autocratic one. This concept of democratic centralism was first used in December 1905 in the resolution on the party's organization adopted at the First Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party. In April 1906 the Fourth (unified) RSDLP Congress put it down in the party's constitution as proposed by Lenin. Since then, democratic centralism has been a fundamental principle of party building. The Communist International was set up in 1919. In July 1920 the Second Congress of the Communist International decided, "For a party to become a member of the Communist International, the party must be founded on the principle of democratic centralism." Since then, communist parties in various countries have followed this fundamental organizational principle.

Even since its founding in 1921, the Communist Party of China has implemented democratic centralism as its fundamental organizational principle and innovatively formulated principles and institutions based on democratic centralism for regulating its political activities and internal relations. This principle has become a salient feature of Party building. After the CPC became the governing party, it has applied this principle to state organs.

What is democratic centralism? The Party Constitution states that: "Democratic centralism is a combination of centralism on the basis of democracy and democracy under centralized guidance." Under this principle, democracy means Party members and organizations can fully express their wishes and proposals and give full play to their initiative and creativity, while centralism means concentrating the will and wisdom of the whole Party for concerted action. Both democracy and cen-

tralism must be combined to form an integral entity.

According to the Party Constitution, the principle of democratic centralism consists of the following:

(1) Individual Party members are subordinate to the Party organization, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the lower Party organizations are subordinate to the higher Party organizations, and all the constituent organizations and members of the Party are subordinate to the National Congress and the Central committee of the Party.

(2) The Party's leading bodies at all levels are elected except for the representative organs dispatched by them and the leading Party members' groups in non-Party organizations.

(3) The highest leading body of the Party is the National Congress and the Central Committee elected by it. The leading bodies of local Party organizations are the Party congresses at their respective levels and the Party committees elected by them. Party committees are responsible, and report their work, to the Party congresses at their respective levels.

(4) Higher Party organizations shall pay constant attention to the views of lower organizations and rank-and-file Party members, and solve the questions they raise in a timely fashion. Lower Party organizations shall report on their work to, and request instructions from higher Party organizations; at the same time, they shall handle, independently and in a responsible manner, matters within their jurisdiction. Higher and lower Party organizations should exchange information and support and supervise each other. Party organizations at all levels should enable Party members to remain well informed of inner-Party affairs and to have as many opportunities as possible to involve themselves in them.

(5) Party committees at all levels function on the principle of combining collective leadership with individual responsibility based on division of labor. All major issues shall be decided upon by the Party committees after discussion by the collective leadership based on the principle of democratic centralism, collective leadership, individual consulta-

tion and decisions by meetings. The members of the Party committees should earnestly perform their duties in accordance with the collective decisions taken and the division of labor.

(6) The Party forbids all forms of personality cult. It is necessary to ensure that the activities of the Party leaders are subject to the supervision of the Party and the people, and at the same time to uphold the prestige of all leaders who represent the interests of the Party and the people.

These six principles are a summary of the experience of the CPC in implementing democratic centralism since its founding.

There are four reasons for the Communist Party to make democratic centralism its fundamental organizational principle:

First, organized under democratic centralism, the Party becomes an integral body and a unified force. For a political party to become powerful, it needs tightly knitted organization as well as ideological and political unity. The Party must set up a top-to-bottom organizational system and establish strict institutions for its organizations at all levels so that it can coordinate the activities of its organizations and exercise centralized leadership over all its work.

Second, organized under democratic centralism, the Party can better handle its internal relations and maintain the unity and cohesion of the Party. Organized in a multi-level structure, the Party consists of central, local and primary organizations, as well as individual members. Democratic centralism is the basic principle for correctly handling the relations between individual Party members and Party organization, between the minority and the majority, between lower organizations and higher ones, and between all the constituent organizations and members of the Party and the National Congress and the Central Committee of the Party.

Third, organized based on democratic centralism, the Party can exercise correct leadership by combining the highly unified organization of the Party with the initiative and creativity of all its constituent organiza-

tions and members. Under democratic centralism, Party members can take part in democratic discussion of Party affairs, air their views, and give full play to their initiative and creativity. By pooling the views and wisdom of its members, the Party can make sound decisions that accord with reality and ensure correct and effective leadership.

Fourth, the Party is founded and developed to exercise effective leadership over the cause of revolution and construction. To realize this, it is necessary to establish scientific systems of leadership and work so that the Party can formulate a correct line and correct principles and policies and mobilize the whole membership to realize its propositions. Such scientific systems of leadership and work can only be based on democratic centralism.

Operation of democratic centralism in the Party's internal life

As the organizational principle of the Party, democratic centralism includes both democracy and centralism, which are dialectically related. In the Party's internal life, both democracy and centralism are indispensable: they are in both contradiction and unity, they are interdependent, and they constrain and supplement each other. Democracy should be under centralized guidance, and centralism should be based on democracy. In the Party's internal life, the separation of democracy and centralism is harmful to the Party's organization.

As the Party's organizational principle should help to fulfill its political tasks, either democracy or centralism should meet the requirements of the situation and the Party's political tasks. The relationship between inner-Party democracy and centralism should be correctly handled in the light of the historical conditions and the reality of the Party's political activities.

Under democratic centralism individual Party members must be subordinate to the Party organization, because only by doing so can the

Party become an integral body. If Party members can do what they like with the Party organization's decisions and if they do not observe Party discipline, the Party will be deprived of its combat capacity. In the Party's political activities, the decisions of the Party organization usually reflect and embody the demands and views of the majority of Party members. Therefore, obeying the organization's decisions means to follow what is correct or comparatively correct. Sometimes a Party member may have disagreement with the Party organization and it may be difficult to decide which side is correct. In that case, the individual Party member is required to follow the decision of the Party organization so as to safeguard the cohesion and unity of the Party organization. The Party member is allowed to make reservations and present his views to Party organizations at higher levels even up to the Central Committee. This will ensure unity in action for the Party and prevent the possible suppression of the correct views of any Party member.

The subordination of individual Party members to the Party organization, of lower Party organizations to higher ones and of all constituent organizations and members to the central authorities implies the subordination of the minority to the majority. It is natural that different views may arise in Party organizations as Party members may have different understandings of issues under discussion due to their personal perspectives. As one decision rather than several different ones has to be made on an issue for all Party members to follow, the principle of the minority being subordinate to the majority must be applied to achieve unity in thinking and action. Party members in the minority are allowed to make reservations when their views are rejected, but they must recognize and implement the decision adopted by the majority. Even if the views of those in the minority are correct, they must first implement the decision of the majority and then make explanations in accordance with the Party's organizational principle and procedures so that the majority may recognize and accept their correct views. Only by doing so can the minority

reserve their differing views while the Party maintains its unity in terms of organization and action.

In the Party, higher organizations lead lower ones. Lower Party organizations must firmly implement the instructions and decisions of higher Party organizations, and they are not allowed to practice opportunism. The subordination of lower Party organizations to higher ones also means subordination to the majority. Although both lower and higher Party organizations pool and reflect the views of Party members, higher Party organizations have a much wider membership and more information and are normally wiser than lower Party organizations in terms of analyzing the situation and making decisions. If a lower Party organization considers that an instruction or decision by a higher Party organization does not suit the specific conditions of the locality, the lower Party organization may present its views to higher Party organizations but it can only adjust or modify the decision after receiving approval from the higher Party organization. In emergencies where a lower Party organization must make immediate decisions and there is no time to ask for instructions from higher Party organizations, the lower Party organization may take action and, in the meantime, report it to the higher Party organization, or ask for retrospective approval after the event. Sometimes the implementation of a decision by a higher Party organization may not be fully in the interests of a lower Party organization but in the interests of the Party as a whole from a long-term and overall perspective. In that case, the lower Party organization must subordinate itself to the higher Party organization.

The Communist Party of China is an integral body consisting of all levels of organizations, from the central to localities. The highest leading body of the Party is the National Congress and the Central Committee elected by it. When the National Congress is not in session, the Central Committee carries out its decisions, directs the entire work of the Party and represents the Communist Party of China in its external relations. The Central Committee is the centralized representative of the interests

and will of the whole Party, and the highest authority guiding the action of the whole Party. Only the Central Committee of the Party has the power to make decisions on major principles and policies of a national character. Party organizations of various departments and localities may make suggestions with regard to such issues to the Central Committee, but they are not authorized to make any decisions and shall not publicize outside the Party any views inconsistent with those of the Central Committee. Only when all constituent organizations and members of the Party are subordinate to the Central Committee, can the Party fulfill its functions and safeguard the interests of the Party as a whole. Therefore, all constituent organizations and members of the Party must be subordinate to the Central Committee and rally around it, so as to ensure a high degree of unity in ideology, politics and action.

The historical experience of the Communist Party of China prove that the principle of democratic centralism has a direct bearing on the political life and destiny of the Party and the state. In the history of the Party, there have both been cases of inadequate democracy and cases of inadequate centralization, which had a negative impact on the building of the Party. The CPC has stressed that the Party must always uphold the principle of democratic centralism in building socialism with Chinese characteristics. This fundamental organizational principle may not be undermined or weakened at any time or under any circumstances. On the contrary, the Party must improve and develop the theory and method of democratic centralism in new practices.

Adhere to and improve democratic centralism

The report to the Sixteenth National Congress of the CPC states that, democratic centralism is a system that integrates centralism on the basis of democracy with democracy under centralized guidance, and that the Party must adhere to and improve democratic centralism and

enhance its vitality, solidarity and unity.

Why does the Communist Party of China attach importance to improving democratic centralism? It is because some deficiencies and even serious problems still remain in the implementation of this principle, which is affecting Party building. The problems include both inadequate democracy and insufficient centralization, with the former being more serious. These problems are found in the following:

First, in the decision-making process there is a tendency towards stressing the will of an individual leader while neglecting the views of others. Some leaders are reluctant to solicit opinions from others in inner-Party activities, especially in selecting cadres; some make arbitrary decisions on major economic issues without democratic discussion and scientific assessment; and some stress that they are the one who is responsible in the leadership, unwilling to give full play to the role of other members in the leading body. Such practices hinder inner-Party democracy and affect the objectivity and accuracy of centralization.

Second, some Party members dare not air their own views. In inner-Party life, they are reluctant to raise their own views or suggestions, which may differ from others', and choose to be obedient.

Third, a few people refuse to execute decisions on major issues made collectively through discussion. Some Party members refuse to follow the decisions of the Party, failing to correctly handle the relationship between an individual Party member and the Party organization. Some Party members show feign compliance when their own views are in discord with the collective decisions, making it impossible for the decisions to be executed.

Fourth, some leaders put the interests of localities or departments over the general interests of the Party. Some leaders fail to have a correct understanding of the relations between the interests of their localities or departments and the general interests of the Party and between the immediate interests and the long-term interests. In their work arrangements they

attach excessive importance to local or departmental interests, and in implementing decisions made by higher authorities they choose to follow what is conducive to their localities or departments and neglect what may not be. Such practices affect the overall work of the Party.

The fundamental way to solve these problems is to enhance the Party's institutional building. Deng Xiaoping said, "It is true that the errors we made in the past were partly attributable to the way of thinking and style of work of some leaders. But they were even more attributable to the problems in our organizational and working systems." The Party's institutional building calls for summarizing the experience and lessons learned from previous work of leadership and inner-Party life and then working out rules and regulations for all Party members to observe. These rules and regulations will govern inner-Party relations, guide inner-Party life and control the behaviors of leaders to ensure smooth development of the Party's cause.

As fundamental institutions that cover all aspects of Party life, the various systems of the Party are based on the Party Constitution, and they must be stable and of a long-term nature. The systems may be divided into two categories: the leadership systems and the systems of inner-Party life. To be more specific, they include: the system of leadership over state organs and other non-Party organizations, collective leadership system, system of Party organization, system of Party cadres, system of inner-Party supervision, and system of inner-Party statistical work. The institutional building should be integrated with the ideological and organizational building of the Party and the improvement of the Party's style of work; it should make constant progress and timely solve outstanding problems of a given period.

Strengthen the Party's solidarity and unity

The histories of the Communist Party of China and other political

parties show that all factional organizations and activities would lead to the disintegration of the party. The CPC has remained an integral Marxist party ever since it was founded, and it is opposed factional organizations or such activities in any form. Since the Party came to power, it has attached great importance to the Party's solidarity and unity. In 1956, Deng Xiaoping said at the Eighth National Congress of the Party that it was the sacred duty of every Communist Party member to safeguard the Party's solidarity and unity. On the Party's solidarity and unity, Jiang Zemin stressed that the whole Party must be in accord with the Central Committee on the Party's basic line, general principles, policies and goals as well as on all issues that concern the overall situation; and that local Party committees at all levels must, taking the whole into account, correctly handle the relations between partial and local interests and the general interests. In January 2006, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Hu Jintao told the Sixth Plenary Session of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection that the whole Party must expand inner-Party democracy, uphold democratic centralism, explore effective ways and means for inner-Party democracy, improve procedures for discussion and decision-making inside the Party, enforce the regulations for safeguarding the rights of Party members, and bring into full play the initiative and creativity of all constituent Party organizations and members. Hu called for strict observation of the Party's political discipline to safeguard the authority of the Central Committee and ensure its decisions are carried out.

The Communist Party of China has gained important experience in its organizational building: The Party can overcome all obstacles on its way forward by adhering to Marxist ideology and theory, strengthening the Party's solidarity and unity, upholding democratic centralism, persisting in collective leadership, and building an organizational system and a leadership that are closely organized, well-disciplined and with great cohesion and combat readiness.



At the end of December 1929, the Ninth Party Congress of the Fourth Army of the Red Army was held at Gutian, Shanghang County, Fujian Province. Mao Zedong worked out the draft resolution for the congress, which became a programmatic document for the building of the Party and the development of the Red Army. The picture shows the site of the congress.



In January 1935, the Central Committee of the CPC held an enlarged political bureau meeting in Zunyi, Guizhou Province during the Long March. Known as the Zunyi Meeting, it established the leadership of the correct line represented by Mao Zedong. The picture shows the conference room.



In August 1937, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC held an enlarged meeting at Luochuan, in northern Shaanxi Province. The meeting worked out the overall line for the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. The meeting decided to wage independent guerrilla warfare behind enemy lines. The picture shows the site of the Luochuan Meeting.

In the spring of 1942, the Party central committee decided to launch a movement to rectify the styles of the Party which focused on combating subjectivism to restore the style of study, combating sectarianism to restore the conduct of Party members and combating stereotyped Party writing to restore style of writing. The picture shows the documents for the movement.





Between April 23 and June 11, 1945, the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held in Yan'an. The congress stipulated correct lines, guiding principles and policies and established Mao Zedong Thought as the guiding thought of the Party. The picture shows the meeting room of the congress.

- ▶ On March 28, 1951, Liu Shaoqi made a speech at the First National Organizational Work Conference of the CPC. He proposed "Eight Conditions for a Standard Communist Party Member". After the meeting, the first campaign on the consolidation of the Party organization after the founding of New China was launched.

Between March 5 and 13, 1949, the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the CPC was held at Xibaipo Village, Hebei Province. The meeting discussed the core of the work of the Party to be transferred from rural to urban areas. It drew up a blueprint for the construction of New China after achieving national liberation. The picture shows Mao Zedong making a speech at the meeting.





In September 1956, the Eighth National Congress of the CPC was held in Beijing. The congress proposed that the fundamental task of the Party was to concentrate on the development of productivity and realize national industrialization as early as possible.

The System of Party Congresses

The Party congresses constitute an important part of the organization of the Communist Party of China. The Party Constitution states: The highest leading body of the Party is the National Congress and the Central Committee elected by it. The leading bodies of local Party organizations are the Party congresses at their respective levels and the Party committees elected by them. Party committees are responsible, and report their work, to the Party congresses at their respective levels. Just as democratic centralism is the fundamental organizational principle of the CPC, the system of Party congresses is the most important organizational institution of the Party.

Basic facts about Party congresses

The Party Constitution provides: The National Congress of the Party is held once every five years and convened by the Central Committee. It may be convened before the normally scheduled date if the Central Committee deems it necessary or if more than one-third of the organizations at the provincial level so request. Except under extraordinary circumstances, the Congress may not be postponed.

The National Congress of the Party is convened to hear and examine the reports of the Central Committee; hear and examine the reports of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection; discuss

and decide on major questions concerning the Party; revise the Constitution of the Party; elect the Central Committee; and elect the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The Central Committee of the Party is elected for a term of five years. However, when the next National Congress is convened before or after its normally scheduled date, the term shall be correspondingly shortened or extended. Members and alternate members of the Central Committee must have a Party standing of five years or more. The number of members and alternate members of the Central Committee shall be determined by the National Congress. Vacancies on the Central Committee shall be filled by its alternate members in the order of the number of votes by which they were elected.

Delegates to Party congresses at all levels are elected directly or indirectly by the Party members. The National Congress of the Party represents the will of the whole Party, while local congresses of the Party represent the will of Party members in the respective localities. The Party members exercise their right of managing Party affairs through the delegates they elected, and the Party congresses exercise leadership over Party affairs by concentrating the will of Party members. The system of Party congresses is an important embodiment of the Party's principle of democratic centralism.

Congresses of the Party at local or primary levels are usually named after the administrative region or the unit where the congresses are held. For instance, the Party congress of a province is "the Nth XX (name of province) Provincial Congress of the Communist Party of China," and the Party congress of a primary unit, "the Nth XX (name of unit) Factory (Institute, or any other unit) Congress of the Communist Party of China."

The Party Constitution states: "When necessary, the Central Committee of the Party and the local Party committees at all levels may convene conferences to discuss and decide on major problems that require

timely solution. The number of delegates to such conferences and the procedure governing their election shall be determined by the Party committees convening them." According to this provision, Party conferences are convened during the terms of the Central Committee or local committees for delegates to discuss and decide on major issues that need to be solved.

This provision is in accord with the principle of democratic centralism, and Party conferences serve to complement the system of Party congresses when the capacity of delegates to Party congresses has no fixed term.

The functions and powers of the National Conference of the Party are as follows: to discuss and make decisions on major questions; and to replace members and elect additional members of the Central Committee and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The number of members and alternate members of the Central Committee to be replaced or newly elected at the National Conference shall not exceed one-fifth of the respective totals of members and alternate members of the Central Committee elected by the National Congress of the Party. The functions and powers of local conferences of the Party are not prescribed in the Party Constitution, but, by referring to those of the National Conference, they may include: to discuss and make decisions on major issues, to elect delegates to Party congresses of higher Party organizations, and to replace and elect additional members to the Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection at the respective levels.

The major differences between the Party congresses and the Party conferences lie in:

(1) Capacities and roles. The National Congress is the highest leading body of the Party and the local Party congresses are the leading bodies of Party organizations at their respective levels; Party committees are responsible, and report their work to, the Party congresses

at their respective levels. In comparison, Party conferences are convened by the Central Committee or local Party committees during their terms of office to discuss and decide on major issues that need to be timely solved.

(2) Functions and powers. The Party congresses hear and examine the reports of Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection at their respective levels, but Party conferences do not. The Party congresses elect the Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection at their respective levels, while the Party conferences only replace members and elect additional members of the Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection within quantitative limits.

(3) Leading organs. For Party congresses, a presidium is set up to serve as the organizer and leading organ of the congress. Party conferences do not set up a presidium, and instead they are presided over by the Party committees and their standing committees.

(4) Schedules. Party congresses usually have regular schedules while Party conferences, to be convened when needed during the terms of office of Party committees, have no schedule.

(5) Selection of delegates. Delegates to a Party congress must be elected by the next lower Party congress, a general membership meeting or a delegates meeting through secret ballot with the number of candidates nominated greater than that of persons to be elected. The procedures for election of delegates to a Party conference are decided by the Party committee convening the conference. In practice, a number of delegates to the conference are selected without voting.

Basic Facts about the National Congresses of the CPC

No.	Year	Site	Number of delegates	Party membership
First	1921	Shanghai, Jiaxing	13	50-odd
Second	1922	Shanghai	12	195
Third	1923	Guangzhou	30-odd	420
Fourth	1926	Shanghai	20	994
Fifth	1927	Wuhan	82	57967
Sixth	1928	Moscow	142	40,000-odd
Seventh	1945	Yan'an	755	1.21 million
Eighth	1956	Beijing	1133	10.73 million
Ninth	1969	Beijing	1512	22 million
Tenth	1973	Beijing	1249	28 million
11th	1977	Beijing	1510	35 million
12th	1982	Beijing	1760	39.65 million
13th	1987	Beijing	1997	46 million
14th	1992	Beijing	2035	51 million
15th	1997	Beijing	2108	59 million
16th	2002	Beijing	2154	66 million

Note: The number of delegates includes full delegates, alternate delegates and specially invited delegates.

Improve the system of Party congresses

As the Communist Party of China has more than 70 million members and over 3 million primary organizations, it is impossible for the general membership to discuss and decide on all major issues. Therefore, inner-Party democracy takes the form of Party congresses, at which delegates make decisions on major issues of the Party. Mao Zedong once

said, "To realize inner-Party democracy, we need the system of Party congresses and conferences. We have inner-Party democracy, but it's not enough, we have to expand it. The way to achieve this is replace cadres' meetings with congresses and conferences." In building inner-Party democracy in the new historical period, the top priority is attach importance and give full play to the role of Party congresses.

To give full play to the role of Party congresses, a number of problems have to be solved, and the Communist Party of China is working in this direction:

First, establish and safeguard the authority of Party congresses. According to the Party Constitution, the leading bodies of Party organizations are the Party congresses at their respective levels and the Party committees elected by them, and they are authorized to discuss and decide on major political and organizational issues of the Party. The Party committees are elected by the Party congresses at their respective levels, and they carry out the decisions of the respective Party congresses and direct the work of the Party when the Party congresses are not in session. The Party committees are responsible, and report their work to, the Party congresses at their corresponding levels, and accept the review of their work by the congresses. However, in reality, Party congresses in quite a number of localities do not play their due role, and the powers there are concentrated in the hands of the standing committees or the secretaries of the Party committees, who refuse to be constrained by Party congresses; they decide on major issues at cadres' meetings or work conferences instead of Party congresses, and they even arbitrarily alter the decisions made by Party congresses.

Second, convene Party congresses on scheduled dates. One of the reasons the authority of the Party congresses is weakened is that they are arbitrarily postponed. All Party committees must convene Party congresses on time in strict accordance with the Party Constitution, and those that postpone Party congresses without due reasons must be disciplined.

Third, formulate detailed rules on the selection of delegates to Party congresses. There should be long-term stable procedures for the allocation of the number of delegates to make the election of delegates a significant event in inner-Party life and arouse the initiative and enthusiasm of the regions and units that elect the delegates. The electoral system must be strictly enforced, and no delegate may be appointed, either overtly or covertly. As the delegates to Party congresses shoulder an important mission, those elected must have enough experience of Party life, high political and ideological quality and educational attainment, and a strong ability to participate in political affairs. It is wrong to regard the capacity of delegate as merely a political honor.

Fourth, formulate consummate rules of procedure for Party congresses. These are necessary for Party congresses to enforce their functions and powers and their role of decision-making and supervision. The rules of procedure must have, in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism, detailed provisions on proposing, explaining and reviewing an agenda; adopting the agenda; convening and presiding over sessions, including items on the agenda and discussing the items; nominating, reviewing and voting on candidates to be elected to the committees and commissions at the Party congresses; enquiries from delegates and replies from relevant departments; and replacing and removing leading cadres who have proved to be unqualified.

The Electoral System

The Party Constitution provides that the Party's leading bodies at all levels are elected, except for the representative organs dispatched by them and the leading Party members' groups in non-Party organizations, and that all delegates to the Party congresses are elected. The Party's electoral system is based on the Constitution of the Communist Party of China, the Code of Conduct for Inner-Party Political Life adopted at the Fifth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of CPC, the Regulations on the Electoral Work of Local Organizations of the CPC, and the Interim Regulations on the Electoral Work of Primary Organizations of the CPC. The electoral system is an important institution for inner-Party democracy and for safeguarding the Party members' right to vote and to be elected.

Principles for inner-Party elections

Inner-Party elections must reflect the will of voters. The Party Constitution provides, "The election of delegates to Party congresses and of members of Party committees at all levels should reflect the will of the voters." To ensure that voters exercise the right to vote according to their own will, the following measures are adopted in inner-Party elections: Elections shall be held by secret ballot. The lists of candidates shall be submitted to the Party organizations and voters for full

deliberation and discussion, and be decided in accordance with the opinion of the majority of voters. The voters have the right to inquire about the candidates, demand a change or reject one in favor of another. No organization or individual shall in any way compel voters to elect or not to elect any candidate. Disciplinary action must be taken against those who hinder voters in exercising their democratic rights or suppress or retaliate against those exposing violations of discipline in elections. If any violation of the Party Constitution occurs in an election, the Party committee at the next higher level, after investigation and verification, should decide to declare the election invalid and take appropriate measures. Such a decision shall be reported to the Party committee at the next higher level for checking and approval before it is formally announced and implemented.

When the congress of a local Party organization at any level or the congress of Party organization at the primary level is not in session, the next higher Party organization may, when it deems it necessary, transfer or appoint responsible members of that organization, who do not need to be elected and approved by the plenary session of the Party committee of the local or primary Party organization.

To safeguard the right to elect and to be elected of the Party members and delegates, Party organizations must have a system of general membership meetings and Party congresses to carry out elections on schedule. They should brief the voters about the candidates and answer enquiries from them. They should ensure that voters can vote for or against the candidates, or vote for people other than the listed candidates or even the voter oneself, and they can also abstain from voting. Every Party member and delegate should correctly exercise the right to elect and to be elected, and respect the right of others and the will of the majority of voters. Party organizations should promptly check any action that infringes the right to elect and to be elected, and take disciplinary action against such violations.

It should be noted that according to the Party Constitution, while Party members enjoy the right to be elected, they can also choose to give up this right. When any Party member believes that due to health conditions, work or other reasons, they may not be qualified for the post to which they are nominated as a candidate, they may submit a request to the Party organization asking to give up the candidacy. The Party organization should, taking into full consideration their views, and make a decision in light of their conditions and the opinion of the majority of voters. If the request is rejected, the Party member should respect the opinion of the majority of voters and submit to the decision of the Party organization. If they persist and refuse to accept the post after being elected, the Party organization should educate them through criticism or even take disciplinary action against them.

Forms of inner-Party elections

There are two forms of inner-Party elections in terms of voters and candidates.

First, there are direct and indirect elections. In a direct election, Party members as voters cast their votes directly. In an indirect election, Party members first select representatives for the election, and the representatives cast votes on behalf of the Party members. When the number of Party members involved in an election is small and they know each other quite well, a direct election may be conducted. An indirect election is used when more Party members in a wider area are involved.

Second, in terms of the number of candidates, there are single-candidate elections and competitive elections. In a single-candidate election, the number of candidates equals that of posts to be filled; in a competitive election, more candidates are nominated than the persons to be elected. For competitive elections, a preliminary election may also be held to generate a list of candidates for the final election. Competi-

tive elections are conducive to inner-Party democracy, since they can fully reflect the will of voters and ensure the Party members' right to vote and to be elected.

It should be noted that the difference between the number of candidates and that of persons to be elected must be not too large, otherwise the votes may spread on too many candidates, making it necessary to hold another or even more elections. The Regulations on the Electoral Work of Local Organizations of the CPC prescribes that in electing delegates to local Party congresses the difference between the number of candidates and that of delegates to be elected must be no less than 20 percent; in electing members and alternate members of local Party committees and members of local commissions for discipline inspection, the difference must be no less than 10 percent; and in electing members of the standing committees of local Party committees and local commissions for discipline inspection, there must be one or two more candidates. The Interim Regulations on the Electoral Work of Primary Organizations of the CPC provides that there must be over 20 percent more candidates in electing Party delegates and 20 percent more candidates in electing members of primary Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection. For primary Party committees that are authorized to have standing committees, the outgoing Party committee must nominate a list of candidates that is one or two persons more than the members of the standing committee to be elected and submit the list to the next higher Party committee for examination and approval, and then election of standing committee members is carried out at a plenary session of the new Party committee.

Usually a competitive preliminary election is held to turn out a list of candidates before the formal election. Such a practice can narrow down the list of candidates to lower the cost and raise the efficiency of elections without sacrificing democracy. This is especially true in direct elections, where a large number of voters make it costly to carry out an

election. When a large number of candidates are nominated, the number of candidates must be cut in accordance with relevant inner-Party rules on elections to ensure smooth progress of elections. It is obvious that preliminary elections can help to promote inner-Party democracy and ensure a well-run election.

In recent years, some primary Party organizations have tried “hai xuan” (an election with open nominations from among all members of the organization) and direct elections. An election with open nominations is competitive, and it can be used in a Party organization with a limited membership in which all members know each other quite well. Quite a few Party branches now use this method. In direct elections, general Party membership meetings or conferences of representatives are held for Party members or representatives to vote directly in the election of members of leading bodies or delegates to the Party congress or Party conference at the next higher level. The direct election is the most advantageous in inner-Party elections, as it can fully reflect the will of Party members and ensure their democratic rights. The Party Constitution guarantees the right to vote and to be elected for all full Party members. This means the right is a universal and equal one in the Party. Only by allowing Party members to directly participate in elections can they have a good awareness of democracy and value their right to vote. Therefore direct elections can give full play to inner-Party democracy, help Party members better understand and participate in inner-Party affairs, and the members of leading bodies and delegates elected are more representative. However, direct elections also have their limits. In the Party organization covering a large area, Party members may not know each other quite well due to various reasons, and this poses great difficulties in terms of direct elections. Therefore direct elections are usually conducted in primary Party organizations, in electing members of committees of Party branches and general Party branches, members of

primary Party Committees and delegates to Party congresses at higher levels, as well as in electing role-model Party members.

Procedures for inner-Party elections

The Party Constitution states: The Party's leading bodies at all levels are elected except for the representative organs dispatched by them and the leading Party members' groups in non-Party organizations. The election of delegates to Party congresses and of members of Party committees at all levels should reflect the will of the voters. As required by the Party Constitution and inner-Party rules on elections, the Party's leading bodies at all levels and delegates to Party congresses must be elected.

First, the Party's leading bodies at all levels must be elected.

The procedures for electing full and alternate members of local Party committees and members of local Party commissions for discipline inspection: (1) The Party committee decides at its plenary session the principles for the formation of the next Party committee and Party commission for discipline inspection. (2) The standing committee of the Party committee prepares a list of preliminary nominees after consulting with the Party members among leading cadres of the Party and government organs and mass organizations at the same level and of the Party and government organs at the next lower level, who are encouraged to make recommendations. (3) The organization department of the Party committee tests the preliminary nominees. (4) The standing committee decides on a list of preliminary candidates in light of the test results and submits it to the next higher Party committee for examination and approval. (5) The presidium of the Party congress reviews the list of preliminary candidates and presents the list to the delegations for them to discuss, and then decides on the candidates in light of the opinion of the majority of voters; and the Party congress carries out the election.

In practice, the Party organizations are required to strictly follow the procedures for elections. All the steps of the procedures for the election of Party committees and Party commissions for discipline inspection must be followed. Democratic centralism must govern the whole process of elections, opinions from all sides must be taken into consideration, major issues must be subjected to collective discussion and be decided by voting in the principle of the minority being subordinate to the majority.

The normal procedures for electing members of primary Party committees are: (1) The Party committee (if it has a standing committee, a plenary session of the Party committee must be held) decides the principles for the formation of the next Party committee (commission for discipline inspection). (2) The Party committee (or its standing committee) decides a list of preliminary nominees after consulting with the subordinate Party organizations and in accordance with the opinion of the majority of Party organizations. (3) The Party committee decides on a list of preliminary candidates after testing the preliminary nominees and submits it to the next higher Party organization for examination and approval. (4) When a Party congress is held for the election, the presidium of the congress reviews the list of preliminary candidates and presents it to the delegations (groups of delegates) for them to discuss, and then decides on the candidates, and the congress elects the members of the Party committee. When a general membership meeting is held for the election, the Party committee briefs the meeting on the generation of preliminary candidates and submits the list of preliminary candidates for the meeting to discuss, and then decides on the candidates in accordance with the opinion of the majority of voters, and the general membership meeting carries out the election.

Members and alternate members of Party committees and members of commissions for discipline inspection must be elected by Party congresses or general membership meetings, in competitive elections

through secret ballot. In such elections, the Party organizations must observe the Party Constitution, regulations on electoral work of Party organizations, and electoral procedures for Party congresses and general membership meetings. The elections must reflect the will of voters, and no organization or individual can force any voter to vote for or against any person. The Party organizations must arrange for the elections to proceed smoothly.

The procedures for the election of standing committee members, secretary and deputy secretaries of a local Party committee and Party commission for discipline inspection: (1) The standing committee of a local Party committee works out a list of preliminary candidates and submits it to the next higher Party committee for examination and approval. (2) The newly elected Party committee and Party commission for discipline inspection respectively hold a plenary session to discuss the list of preliminary candidates and decide on the candidates in light with the opinion of the majority of attendees. (3) The Party committee and the Party commission for discipline inspection hold respectively elections to first elect the standing committee members, and then the secretary and deputy secretaries. The elected standing committee members, secretary and deputy secretaries of a Party commission for discipline inspection must be approved by the Party committee at the same level at its plenary session.

The procedures for the election of standing committee members, secretary and deputy secretaries of a primary Party committee: (1) The Party committee (or its standing committee) works out a list of preliminary candidates and submits it to the next higher Party organization for examination and approval. (2) The newly elected Party committee discusses the list, and decides on the candidates in accordance with the opinion of the majority of committee members. (2) When the Party committee holds the election at its plenary session, they elect first the standing committee members, and then the secretary and the deputy secretaries.

Party organizations must see to it that the elections follow strictly the electoral procedures, and that the list of preliminary candidates for members of the standing committee, the secretary and the deputy secretaries must be submitted to the next higher Party organization for examination and approval.

In practice, usually the members of the standing committee are elected from among the newly elected members of the Party committee, and the secretary and deputy secretaries, from among the newly elected members of the standing committee. The members of the standing committee, the secretary and deputy secretaries of a Party commission for discipline inspection at its first plenary session must be approved by the Party committee at the same level at its plenary session.

Second, delegates to the Party congresses at all levels must be elected.

The normal procedures for elections at a Party congress are: (1) The number of delegates present are counted; the presiding chairman of the presidium reports to the plenary session the total number of delegates to the congress and the actual number of delegates that are attending the session; elections can begin after the number of attendees that have the right to vote is confirmed to be legitimate. (2) The election procedures are adopted. (3) The list of chief scrutineer (deputy chief scrutineer) and scrutineers is adopted; and the list of ballot counters (chief ballot counter) is announced. (4) The numbers of the full members and alternate members of the next Party committee and the members of the next Party commission for discipline inspection, and the lists of the candidates are announced. (5) Ballot scrutineers examine the ballot box, and ballot counters issue the ballots. The presiding chairman explains how to fill in the ballots. (6) The voters fill in the ballots, and cast them under the guidance of staff workers. (7) The scrutineers and ballot counters check the ballots to determine whether the election is valid. (8) Ballot counters count the ballots under the supervision of

scrutineers. (9) The votes for the candidates are announced. In a preliminary election, the chief scrutineer reports the votes to the presidium. In a formal election, the chief scrutineer reports the votes to the presidium and the plenary session, and the presiding chairman announces the list of persons elected.

Take the Sixteenth National Congress of the CPC for instance. This Congress was held in November 2002 in Beijing. In accordance with the organizational procedures of the Party, delegates to the Sixteenth National Congress were elected after repeated selections: first Party branches put forward nominees, the nominees were selected by the Party committees at the primary, county and prefecture levels, and then the nominees were submitted to the provincial-level Party organization; during the process there was two-way communication between lower and higher Party organizations. The strict procedures ensured that the election of delegates represented the will of the Party members to the highest extent. The 2120 delegates to the Congress were selected from among more than 64 million Party members. In large cities, candidates for delegates to the Congress were recommended by Party organizations in different walks of life and different districts. The candidates were strictly scrutinized by Party organizations including discipline inspection departments, and the lists of candidates were publicized to solicit comments from the public. The composition of the 2120 delegates to the Congress included: 1605 (75.7%) from among leading cadres of Party organizations at all levels; 515 (24.3%) from among ordinary Party members at the frontline of all undertakings; 382 (18%) of the delegates were women; 230 (10.8%) of the delegates were from ethnic minority groups; and more than 1900 (91.7%) of the delegates had a college or a higher education.

In 2006, organizations of the Communist Party of China elected new leading bodies. The Party has always attached importance to the renewal of leading bodies, as it has always provided fixed terms for them

in the Party Constitution. Democratic centralism calls for the election of leading bodies at all levels to improve inner-Party democracy. By regular renewal of the leading bodies, the general membership meeting and the Party congress can play their due role, and the Party members can exercise their democratic rights. This practice helps to enliven inner-Party life, mobilize the initiative and creativity of Party members, and improve supervision of leading cadres by Party members, so as to ensure the leading bodies are competent cores of leadership enjoying the support of Party members.



Between January and February 1962, the Party central committee held an enlarged work conference participated by 7,000 delegates. It primarily summed up the basic experience and lessons in socialist construction since 1958. The picture shows major leaders of the central committee, Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De, Chen Yun and Deng Xiaoping at the conference.



In 1975, when Premier Zhou Enlai was gravely ill, Deng Xiaoping, with the support of Mao Zedong, started to preside over the daily work of the central committee. He started to consolidate work in army building and other aspects of industry, agriculture, science and technology. The overall situation of the national economy took an obvious turn for the better.



In December 1978, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC was held in Beijing. The meeting made a strategic decision to shift the focus of the work to the construction of socialist modernization. It represented a major shift to a new stage in the construction of socialism.

In February 1980, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC was held in Beijing. The main topic for discussion at the meeting was to strengthen and improve the leadership of the Party and improve inner-Party democracy. The meeting passed Certain Codes of the Inner-Party Political Life.

In August 1980, Deng Xiaoping made a speech on the reform of the Party and State leadership system at an enlarged meeting of the political bureau of the central committee. It is a programmatic document of the political system reform.





In June 1981, the sixth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC passed the **Resolution on the Certain Historical Issues of the Communist Party of China since the Founding of the People's Republic of China**. It summarized the historical lessons of the Party since the founding of the PRC, and assessed the historical status of Mao Zedong and the great significance of Mao Zedong Thought in a practical and realistic way. It marked the completion of setting things to rights in the guiding ideology of the CPC.

中国共产党第十二次全国代表大会



In September 1982, the 12th National Congress of the CPC was held in Beijing. The congress stipulated the program for a new stage in socialist modernization.



In September 1982, the Central Discipline Inspection Committee elected at the 12th National Congress of the CPC held its first Plenary Session. Chen Yun (second right), the first secretary of the committee, made a speech on the issue of strengthening the discipline inspection work of the Party at the meeting.

The Cadre System

The operation of an organization depends on its cadres. Ever since its founding the Communist Party of China has attached importance to the role of cadres, and it has formulated a complete set of principles and policies on the selection and use of cadres. Mao Zedong said that there had been two principles on the use of cadres in history: one was to appoint people based on their merits, and the other was to appoint people based on favoritism; the former was decent, and the latter, indecent. The CPC's line and policies on cadres call for appointing people on their merits and selecting cadres of ability and political integrity from all parts of the country, which are the organizational foundation for Party building. At present, the Party's cadre policies aim to institutionalize and standardize the selection and appointment of cadres.

Building of the Party's ranks of cadres

What does it mean by appointing people based on their merits? In the words of Mao Zedong, the Communist Party's standards for cadres are that they should resolutely implement the Party's line, observe the Party discipline, maintain close ties with the masses, have the ability to work independently, be energetic and hard working, and never seek personal gains. This is the principle of appointing people on their merits.

When China entered a new historical period, Deng Xiaoping raised

the principle of making the ranks of cadres more revolutionary, younger, better educated and professionally more competent to meet the needs of socialist modernization. This principle incorporates both political integrity and professional competence. To implement this principle, Deng called for introducing the principles of competition, democracy, openness and legality into the building of the ranks of cadres, and improving the systems for selecting, training, assessing, exchanging and supervising cadres, so as to form a mechanism full of vigor and vitality, which can enable talents to excel.

On building the ranks of cadres, Jiang Zemin said: Talents are at the core of current and coming competitions in the world. Such competitions are comprehensive. Talents include personnel in all fields, including leaders, and they all face tests in various competitions and struggles. The whole Party should understand the importance of training young and middle-age leading cadres from such a political perspective, and earnestly carry out this urgent task in accordance with the requirements of the Central Committee.

The Party's selection of cadres

The Communist Party of China selects cadres in accordance with the Regulations for Selecting and Appointing Party and Government Leading Cadres. It aims to establish a scientific and standardized institution of selection and appointment that is full of vigor and enables talents to come out, so that the ranks of cadres will become more revolutionary, younger in average age, better educated and professionally more competent. In this work the following principles are followed: The Party is in charge of the management of cadres; cadres are appointed based on their merits, and they must have both political integrity and professional competence; cadres must win public recognition through their good performance; the selection and appointment of cadres must be open

and fair, and the best must be chosen through competition; democratic centralism must be implemented; all the work must be based on laws.

Cadres to be selected and appointed must have the following qualities: First, they must have a good understanding of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of "Three Represents", apply the Marxist stand, viewpoint and method in analyzing and solving problems, stress the importance of study, political awareness and integrity, and withstand the tests of all storms. Second, they must have the lofty ideal of communism and a firm belief in socialism with Chinese characteristics, firmly implement the Party's basic line, principles and policies, devote themselves to reform, opening and modernization, and work hard to achieve good results in socialist construction. Third, they must think more freely, seek truth from facts, keep pace with the times, blaze new trails in a pioneering spirit, make serious investigations, and work effectively in applying the Party's principles and policies in light of the realities of their own localities and departments; they must be honest and pragmatic and guard against formalism. Fourth, they must be enterprising, highly responsible and experienced, and possess the organizational abilities, educational background and professional knowledge required for their posts. Fifth, they must exercise the power entrusted by the people in accordance with the law, be clean and diligent, work hard in an exemplary manner, keep close ties with the people by following the Party's mass line, voluntarily accept criticism and supervision from the Party and the people, have self-respect, self-examination, self-admonishment and self-encouragement, and oppose bureaucracy and the malpractice of abusing power for personal gains. Sixth, they must uphold democratic centralism, act in a democratic manner, have the overall situation in mind, and be good at absorbing correct views and uniting with their comrades, including those who differ from them in opinion.

Qualifications for cadres to be selected for Party and government

leading posts include the following: First, those selected to be county (division) chiefs must have had at least five years of public service and two years of experience working at grassroots level. Second, those selected for posts above the county (division) chief level must normally have served in at no less than two posts at the next lower level. Third, in selecting cadres for posts above the county (division) level, those to be promoted from deputy chief to chief must have served as a deputy chief for at least two years, and those to be promoted from chief at the next lower level to deputy chief must have served at the next lower level post for at least three years. Fourth, they must normally have at least a two-year college education, and those to take posts at prefecture (bureau) chief level must normally have had at least a four-year college education. Fifth, they must have had three months of training at a Party school, a school of administration or other institutions recognized by the organization (personnel) department; should anyone have not had such a training before appointment due to special reasons, the training must be carried out within a year after taking office. Sixth, they must be in good health. Seventh, those to be appointed to posts inside the Party must have met the requirements of Party membership as provided in the Party Constitution. Cadres not meeting these requirements may be promoted by way of exception if they are exceptionally excellent or especially needed for the work, in accordance with relevant rules for exceptional selection and appointment.

The procedures for the selection and appointment include:

(1) Democratic recommendation. Nominees are recommended in a democratic manner through voting at meetings or face-to-face talks presided over by the organization department of the Party committee at the next higher level. Results of the democratic recommendation are valid for one year. The number of nominees to be recommended is decided according to the posts available; when a new leading body is to be elected, the recommendation covers all the posts.

(2) Testing. A number of the nominees are selected for testing. The number is normally greater than that of the posts available. The testing covers political integrity, ability, diligence, work performance, and honesty, with work performance as a priority, in accordance with the selection and appointment standards and the requirements of the posts. The Party committees (leading Party members' groups) set detailed standards for various posts.

(3) Preliminary discussion. Adequate preliminary discussions are necessary before the testing, deciding on the recommended persons, and reporting the decision to the higher Party organizations. Preliminary discussions are carried out respectively among leading members of Party committees (leading Party members' groups), standing committees of people's congresses, governments, or committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), according to the Party and government posts to be filled.

(4) Discussion and decision. Within the limits of authority for the management of cadres, the members of a Party committee (leading Party members' group) collectively discuss and decide on the appointment and removal of Party and government leading cadres, or on recommendations or nominations. The Party committee (leading Party members' group) may make suggestions on the selection and appointment of leading cadres managed by the higher Party committee (leading Party members' group).

At least two-thirds of the members of the Party committee (leading Party members' group) must be present at a meeting for discussing and deciding on the selection and appointment. The members attending the meeting must explicitly express their views: approval, disapproval, or wish for postponement. After adequate discussion, the issue should be submitted to voting: verbal, show of hands, or secret ballot. The issue must be decided by a majority of the members that ought to be present at the meeting.

Should major differences of opinion or questions, the voting must be postponed. The problems should be solved after the meeting to avoid a prolonged postponement of the issue.

(5) Assuming office. An appointment must be announced to the public before the appointee formally assumes office. For posts below the prefecture (bureau) level, the intended appointment must be publicized seven to 15 days before the appointment is finalized. If the announcement results in no consequence that may affect the appointment, the appointee is allowed to go through the procedures for assuming office.

A probation system is adopted in appointing Party and government leading cadres. The probationary period is one year for cadres below the prefecture (bureau) level who are appointed rather than elected. When the probation ends, those qualified will remain at their posts and those not qualified will be removed and returned to their previous posts.

Reform of the work of selecting and appointing cadres

In 1980, Deng Xiaoping said in his speech "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership": Some of our current systems and institutions in the Party and state are plagued by problems. The major problems are bureaucracy, over-centralization of power, dictatorial methods, life tenure in leading posts and privileges of various kinds. Since then, the Communist Party of China has been reforming the cadre systems of the Party and state. Since the Sixteenth National Congress of the Party, the Central Committee headed by General Secretary Hu Jintao has stressed the scientific, democratic and law-based governance of the country. The Party has made more efforts to improve the selection and appointment of cadres.

(1) Recommendation, nomination and democratic consultation according to law

The Communist Party of China has decided that in recommending candidates to a people's congress or its standing committee for leading cadres that must be elected, appointed or decided the choice by the people's congress or its standing committee, a Party committee must first brief the Party organization and Party members of the people's congress or its standing committee on the recommendation. When the recommendation is for the people's congress, the Party committee must present a written recommendation, briefing the congress about the person(s) recommended and listing the reasons for the recommendation. When the recommendation is for the standing committee, it must be submitted to the committee before the issue is put on the agenda and necessary briefing must be made. When the Party committee nominates candidates for officials of government departments, the Party committee decides on the nominations after discussion, and the government makes the appointments.

When new leading bodies are to be formed, the Party committee recommends the members of the standing committee of the people's congress, the government and the CPPCC committee, as well as the leading officials of the people's court and people's procuratorate. Before recommendation, the Party committee must brief the leaders of the organizations of fellow democratic parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and representatives of non-Party personages, and have democratic consultation with them.

When deputies to the people's congress or members of its standing committee raise objections to any recommended person on discovery of well-proven problems that can affect the election or appointment, the Party committee may propose that the people's congress or its standing committee postpone the election, appointment or decision on the choice in accordance with relevant procedures, and it may also make new recommendations.

(2) Open selection and competition for office

Open selection and competition for office are used in selecting and appointing leaders of departments of local Party committees and governments, leaders of their subordinate departments, and other suitable leading cadres, or in deciding candidates for such posts. In open selection, the selection is opened to the public; and in competition for office, the competition is limited to the relevant area, department or work system. The normal procedures include: Publicizing the number of posts, qualifications for applicants, and procedures for application; registration of applicants and examination of their qualifications; unified examination (democratic appraisal in competition for office); testing of candidates and nomination after discussion; the Party committee (leading Party members' group) deciding on the choice after discussion.

(3) Terms of office for leading cadres of the Party and government

A term of office for leading cadres of the Party and government is now temporarily set at five years. When any cadre has served in the same office for two consecutive terms, they are no longer available for recommendation, nomination or appointment to the same office. When any cadre has served consecutively for 15 years at posts at the same level, they are no longer available for recommendation, nomination or appointment to a post at the same level, and proper arrangement is to be made for them in the light of their personal conditions and work requirements.

When a cadre is moved to another office during his term of office, the duration of service for more than three years is counted as one term. If the duration is less than three years, the duration is taken into account but not counted as one term.

(4) Withdrawal of leading cadres from certain offices

Cadres who are spouses, lineal relatives, blood relatives within three generations or close in-laws, are not allowed to serve at posts in the same department directly under one leading cadre, or two consecutive superior or subordinate posts, or posts of organization (personnel), dis-

discipline inspection, auditing or financial affairs in a department where one relative is a leading cadre.

When the spouse, a child or child's spouse of a leading cadre is the sole owner, partner or a major shareholder of a business or a business-like private institution, the leading cadre is not allowed to take a leading post at the supervisory or administrative department that is in charge of the related business lines.

Party regulations do not allow any leading cadre to serve in the area where they grew up as the chief of the Party's county (city) committee, government, discipline inspection commission, organization department, people's court, people's procuratorate, or public security department.

(5) Transfer of leading cadres between different posts

The Party committees (leading Party members' groups) and their organization (personnel) departments may, within the jurisdiction for the management of cadres, transfer leading cadres of the Party and government between different posts. Such transfers are made when: they are needed in the work, they have to raise their leadership capabilities through transfers, they have served in a locality or department for quite a long time, or when they are required to withdraw from their posts by Party regulations.

Such transfers are made for cadres above county level, including the head and other members of the Party committees and governments, and the chiefs of discipline inspection departments, people's courts and people's procuratorates, as well as the heads of some departments of the Party committees and governments. Leading cadres who have been in office for 10 years at the same level in the same region should be transferred.

Newly promoted members of local Party committees and governments above county level should be transferred to other areas in a planned way.

Cadres who have served for 10 years in one of the following offices

above county level must be transferred: chief of the discipline inspection (supervision) department, organization department, people's court, people's procuratorate, or public security department; those who are newly promoted to such posts usually must be transferred to a new area. Deputy chiefs of such departments who have served in the same leading body for 10 years should be transferred.

Leading cadres above the division level in Party and government departments who have served in the same office for 10 years should be transferred, especially those who are in charge of discipline inspection, law enforcement, cadre and personnel affairs, auditing, approval of projects or allocation of funds.

Leading cadres above county level who lack the experience of working in grassroots units or have only worked in one post should be transferred in a planned way.

Chiefs of local government departments whose personnel are managed by both the local government and relevant government departments at the next higher level should be transferred when they have served in the same leading body for 10 years.

The Communist Party of China promulgated three important documents in 2006: the Interim Regulations on the Terms of Office for Leading Cadres of the Party and Government, the Regulations for the Transfer of Leading Cadres of the Party and Government, and the Interim Regulations for the Withdrawal of Leading Cadres of the Party and Government from Certain Offices. The Interim Regulations on the Terms of Office for Leading Cadres of the Party and Government stipulates the terms of office for the Party and government cadres, restrictions on consecutive terms, maximum limits of the terms, and relative stability of service in a term of office. The Regulations for the Transfer of Leading Cadres of the Party and Government deal with the targeted cadres, the scopes and methods of the transfers, implementation of the transfers, work discipline, and safeguards. The Interim Regulations for the Withdrawal of Leading

Cadres of the Party and Government from Certain Offices stipulate the cases and procedures for leading cadres to withdraw from certain offices. These regulations provide not only basic principles, procedures and measures for cadre and personnel work, but also detailed stipulations for their implementation and the solution of problems that may arise. The documents and other rules and regulations on organizational building of the Party constitute a relatively complete legal framework for the Party's cadre and personnel work, and institutional guarantees for the building of its ranks of cadres.



In June 1989, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 13th Central Committee of the CPC was held in Beijing. Jiang Zemin (left) was elected as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC. The picture shows Deng Xiaoping with Jiang Zemin in November 1989.



In October 1992, the 14th National Congress of the CPC was held in Beijing. The congress, for the first time in the Party's history, clearly set the target of building a socialist market economy.



In November 1997, the 15th National Congress of the CPC was held in Beijing. The congress mapped out an overall plan for China's reform and opening and the cross-century development of socialist modernization. It established Deng Xiaoping Theory as the guiding ideology of the Party.



On November 15, 2002, the first Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee of the CPC was held in Beijing. Hu Jintao was elected as the general secretary of the new central committee.



In November 2002, the 16th National Congress of the CPC was held in Beijing. The congress called for the construction of a moderately well-off society and the creation of new situation in the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The System of Inner-Party Life

The system of inner-Party life of the Communist Party of China includes the following: regular cell meetings, meetings for criticism and self-criticism (also known as “democratic life meetings”), special classes for Party cadres, Party members reporting their thoughts to the Party organization, and leading Party cadres attending both regular cell meetings and meetings for criticism and self-criticism. Inner-Party life aims to continuously enhance the Party members’ awareness of Party spirit. In the following we will discuss regular cell meetings, meetings for criticism and self-criticism, and leading Party cadres attending both regular cell meetings and meetings for criticism and self-criticism.

Regular cell meetings for Party members

Regular cell meetings are held by Party branches or groups for Party members to exchange their thoughts with others, and conduct criticism and self-criticism. Apart from attending the regular cell meetings of Party members, the secretary and members of a Party branch committee also hold regular committee meetings.

The regular cell meeting is an important measure to improve the Party’s work style, strengthen Party spirit, enhance Party building, and raise the Party’s combat readiness. Although the Party Constitution does not have provisions on the timing and form of regular cell meetings, a

Party group normally holds such meetings once a month, and a Party branch, once every three months. A Party branch committee normally holds its regular meetings twice a year. At such meetings, attendees exchange views on ideology, style of work and other affairs, conduct criticism and self-criticism to help and supervise each other, sum up experience, and achieve unity in understanding.

Party cadres' meetings for criticism and self-criticism

The regulations of the CPC call for leading cadres in Party and government departments above county level to hold meetings for criticism and self-criticism once a year. Such meetings aim to find out salient problems among cadres concerning Party spirit and style of work, through comments by the public, self-criticism, instructions from higher Party organizations, and mutual criticism.

Before the meeting for criticism and self-criticism is convened, the Party committee (leading Party members' group) should announce the scheduled time and the theme of the meeting and solicit comments from the public on the cadres who are to attend the meeting. The chief leader of the Party committee (leading Party members' group) should faithfully convey the criticisms to the related cadres respectively, and report them to the next higher Party organization. Every member of the leading body must prepare a written version of the main points of a speech to be made at the meeting in accordance with its theme and taking into consideration comments from the public. They should review the major problems concerning Party spirit and the style of work, examine their own performance in self-discipline and fighting corruption, and politically analyze the origin of their errors. They should also make criticisms of other members of the leading body, and put forward suggestions on solving the salient problems of the leading body.

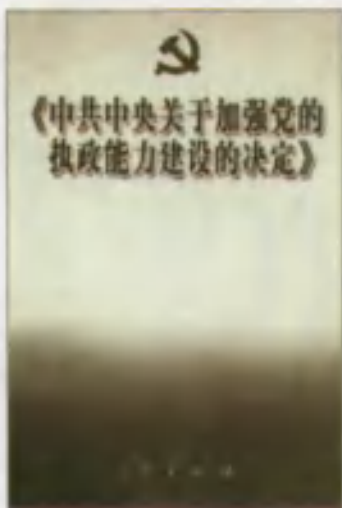
At the meeting, the members of the leading body must examine their own major problems, and respond to criticism from the public: they should accept criticism that is correct and make explanations on the criticism that is found to have deviated from reality. In criticizing others, they should try to help others while sticking to principles, aiming to consolidate unity and avoiding excessiveness. A member who violated Party discipline may be exempted from punishment or given a lenient penalty if he voluntarily criticizes himself at the meeting and works to correct the wrong. If he fails to criticize himself, strict disciplinary action must be taken against him.

Dual meetings for leading Party cadres

Leading Party cadres must attend regular cell meetings of the Party branch or Party group like other Party members, and they must also attend regular meetings for criticism and self-criticism of leading Party cadres themselves. Such a practice of dual meetings aims to enhance the leading Party cadres' awareness of Party spirit, increase exchanges of ideas among Party members, bring about closer ties between the superiors and subordinates, and strengthen democratic supervision over leading cadres by ordinary Party members. In 1962, Deng Xiaoping said: Supervision should be exercised over our Party's leaders at all levels (including all the members of the Party committees). This supervision comes from various quarters -- their superiors and subordinates, the people, and the Party groups they belong to. I believe the most important supervision should come from the Party committee, the secretariat, or the standing committee of the Party committee. I think it would be best if the leaders participate in the regular activities of a Party committee, secretariat, or standing committee. Members of a Party committee should spare some time for face-to-face talks, truly creating a favorable atmosphere for conducting criticism and self-criticism. Supervision will prob-

ably be better served when comrades working together at the same level have such talks. In this way they may conduct face-to-face talks, engage in mutual criticism and express their opinions. We should attach importance to mutual supervision among Party committee members. Leading members of the same Party committee see each other much more often than their superiors and subordinates, which makes it convenient for them to discuss matters, reach unanimity and make decisions—this is most important.

In September 2004, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 16th National Congress was held in Beijing. The meeting deliberated and passed the Decision on Consolidating the Building of the Governing Ability of the Party. The picture shows the separate edition of the Decision.



Chongqing Beibei District Party Representative Meeting invites grassroots Party members and the public to attend and make suggestions and proposals.





At a Party member democratic hearing of an enterprise at Xiaoshan District, Hengzhou, Zhejiang Province, Party members raised questions and gave suggestions on certain issues.

One government department of Yichang, Hubei Province solicits suggestions from the public on the supervision of the code of Party members.





Party members at Yieun Village, Anju District, Suining, Sichuan Province, attend a discussion hosted by the Party branch. They discuss some important matters of the village.

Two Party members count the votes for selecting representatives at township level at Tianbao Township, Daying County, Suining, Sichuan Province.





An exhibition on the exemplary deeds of advanced people held during the activity of Maintaining the Advanced Nature of Communist Party members.

A local resident puts in his suggestion sheet into a box during an activity held by a grassroots Party organization to solicit suggestions from the public in Fuzhou, Fujian Province.



Organizational Building of the Party in the 21st Century

The Communist Party of China as a political organization is the largest in the world in terms of membership and governing the most populous country in the world. Since the Sixteenth National Congress of the Party, the central leadership, with Hu Jintao at the core, has been striving to raise the Party's governing capability and leadership abilities in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century and shoulder the great mission of guiding China's socialist modernization. In organizational building, the Party is striving to build a high-quality Party membership and ranks of cadres, as well as a tight and stable organizational system and a scientific and effective leadership system.

Adhere to scientific, democratic
and law-based governance

On June 30, 2006 General Secretary Hu Jintao delivered a speech at a meeting to mark the 85th founding anniversary of the Party and review the education campaign for maintaining the vanguard character of Communist Party members. Hu called on the whole Party to build the Party to serve the public interest and govern the country for the people, and never waver from serving the people wholeheartedly in implementing scientific, democratic and law-based governance. The day before, during a study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central

Committee, Hu stressed that in implementing scientific, democratic and law-based governance, the Party must govern the country for the people; there must be an organic integration of the Party exercising leadership, the people being masters of their own destiny and law-based governance of the country; the Party must constantly reform and improve its methods of leadership and governance and improve its governance and leadership capabilities, and show, develop and maintain its vanguard character in the practice of governing the country for the people.

To ensure scientific governance, the Party must be guided by the scientific theory of Marxism, continuously explore and follow the laws of the Communist Party governing the country, of socialist construction, and of the development of human society, and rally and lead the people in building socialism with Chinese characteristics through scientific ideology, institutions and means. The Party must scientifically formulate its theory, line, principles and policies, and scientifically design, organize and conduct various activities in the governance of the country. It must promote responsible and democratic decision-making, so as to ensure that its decisions, especially major ones concerning the national economy and the people's livelihood, are in accord with objective and scientific laws and the wishes of the people.

To ensure democratic governance, the Party must adhere to governance for the people and by the people, develop socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics, and institutionalize and standardize it, so as to ensure through democratic institutions, means and ways that the people are the masters of their own destiny. The Party must persist in building the Party to serve the interests of the public and govern the country for the people, focusing all its activities on the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of people. The Party must see to it that in accordance with the law the people conduct democratic elections, decision-making, management and supervision, and it must give full play to the initiative and creativity of the people and all

sectors of society in all undertakings for reform, development and stability. The Party must keep improving inner-Party democracy and enhancing its supervision to ensure that the power invested in it by the people is used only for the people's interests.

To ensure law-based governance, the Party must strive to build a socialist country under the rule of law, lead legislation, be the first to observe laws, and ensure effective law enforcement; it must lead the people in realizing the rule of law in the country through the rule-of-law concepts, institutions and procedures. The Party must strengthen its leadership over legislative work and promote responsible and democratic lawmaking, so as to provide institutional and legal guarantees for the implementation of its line, principles and policies. Party organizations at all levels must operate under the Constitution and laws of the country, and all Party members must observe the Constitution and laws in an exemplary way. The Party must supervise and urge state organs to, in accordance with the law, perform their functions and powers, conduct all kinds of activities, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

Build high-caliber ranks of cadres

Generally speaking, in the ranks of cadres of the Communist Party of China, those who were recruited before the founding of New China in 1949 have mostly retired, and those recruited during the early years of the People's Republic are retiring. As a result of this, the Party is facing and will continue to face the heavy task of the new cooperating with and replacing the old in its ranks of cadres.

The high-caliber ranks of cadres in the CPC comprise people of political integrity and professional competence headed by those who have the quality of socialist statesmen. They include Party and government officials, business managers, scientists and technicians, and professionals in other fields. The political and professional qualities of the

ranks of cadres in the new historical period include the following: First, they must have the lofty ideal of communism, adhere to a correct political orientation, persist in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and resolutely implement the Party's basic theory, basic line, principles and policies. Second, they must carry out the Party's fundamental principle of serving the people wholeheartedly, maintain close ties with the masses, especially workers and farmers, and safeguard the interests of the people. Third, they must think more freely, seek truth from facts, be practical and good at exploration, and think and work in a dialectically materialist way. Fourth, they must observe discipline and laws in an exemplary way, remain clean, honest and hard working, and fight corruption. Fifth, they must study and work wholeheartedly to accumulate knowledge and experience, and master the professional expertise and ability required in their work.

Reform and improve the Party's leadership system and working mechanism

The Communist Party of China stresses that to reform and improve the Party's leadership system and working mechanism, it is necessary to study new conditions and solve new problems to promote innovation in the Party's theory on leadership, leadership system and working mechanism.

As far as the leadership system is concerned, the Party must uphold the leadership of Party organizations over all other organizations at the same level, and allow various organizations to play their roles independently within a legal framework. In Chinese society, there are numerous organizations. As the Communist Party of China is at the core of national leadership, Party organizations at all levels must play a key role and exercise leadership over all other organizations at the corresponding levels. Therefore, Party committees must be the core of leadership and

all non-Party organizations, as they are needed in social development and have their peculiar functions and rights, must be allowed to give full play to their initiative and creativity.

In working mechanism, the Party must adhere to the principle of the Party commanding the overall situation and coordinating the efforts of all quarters. The Party as the leadership must be good at commanding the overall situation, promote the work of all levels and coordinate the relations of all subsystems, and ensure harmony in the development of the Party and all other systems. In discussing and making decisions on major issues, the Party committees must follow the principle of collective leadership, democratic centralism, individual consultation and decision by meetings. The whole Party must uphold the authority of the central leadership, and leading cadres at all levels must carry out the work arrangements of the central authorities, and implement the Party's line, principles and policies, as well as the decisions of the Party committees.

To reform and improve the Party's leadership system and working mechanism, it is necessary to improve the decision-making mechanism. The Party must gradually form a decision-making mechanism that is based on a full understanding of popular sentiment and a reflection of popular will. It must also promote responsible and democratic decision making, and raise the quality of decision making and work efficiency.

Strengthen the building of primary Party organizations and the ranks of Party members

The Communist Party of China holds that primary Party organizations are the foundation of all its work and its combat readiness. As this foundation determines the governing capability of the Party, primary Party organizations constitute an essential element of Party building. With the advance of reform, opening and socialist modernization, the economy and society are in a period of profound transformation, which has brought

about both new opportunities and new challenges to the building of primary Party organizations. To maintain its vanguard character, the Party must build its primary organizations well and give full play to the role of its organizations and members.

The Party's governing capability depends on its organizational effectiveness. It is organization that gives the Party its combat readiness, cohesion and creativity. The building of primary Party organizations must follow the Party's basic line and serve its central tasks. The Party must study new conditions and new issues in the context of reform, constantly expand the fields of work of primary Party organizations and improve the working mechanism for the building of primary Party organizations. Under the guidance of the thought of "Three Represents", the Party must keep pace with the times and persist in reform and innovation to provide organizational guarantees for the country's reform, development and stability, thus enhancing its capacity to govern.

Develop inner-Party democracy and enhance inner-Party supervision

It should be noted that inner-Party democracy is an inherent character of a Communist Party, as decided by the nature of the Party and the historic mission it shoulders, and not an external abstract principle of democracy imposed on the Party. Inner-Party democracy is a form of democracy, it is not an equivalent of general democracy, and it has its own form of expression and peculiar content. The essence of inner-Party democracy lies in the right of the Party members as equals to decide, directly or indirectly, all major issues inside the Party, as reflected in the Party's institutions and activities. Inner-Party democracy as an important factor deciding the vanguard character of the Party must prevail in Party building and its whole life.

The historical experience and lessons of the CPC in developing

inner-Party democracy since the founding of the Party show that inner-Party democracy must not be regarded merely as a style of work, but must be established through reform as an institution that fully reflects the will of Party organizations and Party members. To institutionalize inner-Party democracy, it is necessary to establish and improve inner-Party rules and regulations and strictly enforce Party discipline, so that inner-Party democracy will gradually become standardized, scientific and institutionalized.

Inner-Party supervision means to supervise Party organizations and Party members through ideological, organizational and disciplinary means, urging them to implement the Party's line, principles and policies, correctly use the power invested in them by the people, and strictly observe the institutions of democratic centralism. Inner-Party supervision and inner-Party democracy are closely related, as scientific and effective inner-Party supervision constitutes an important part of inner-Party democracy. Only by developing inner-Party democracy, can inner-Party supervision be full of vigor, sound and effective. Therefore, enhancing inner-Party democracy to safeguard the Party's solidarity and unity is a necessity for developing inner-Party democracy, upholding the Party's nature and purposes, and enabling the Party to serve public interest and govern the country for the people.

Inner-Party supervision aims to oversee Party organizations and Party members in performing the following: observe the Party Constitution and inner-Party rules and regulations, uphold the authority of the central leadership, and implement the Party's line, principles and policies as well as decisions made and tasks assigned by higher Party organizations; observe the state Constitution and laws and persist in law-based governance; implement democratic centralism; protect the rights of Party members; observe relevant Party and government rules and regulations in selecting and appointing cadres; maintain close ties with the people and work to realize, safeguard and develop the fundamental interests of

the people; and implement self-discipline to remain clean and fight corruption.

Since reform and opening began in the late 1970s, the Communist Party of China has established many systems for inner-Party supervision, such as the democratic assessment of Party members and leading Party cadres, leading bodies' meeting for criticism and self-criticism, inspection of the Party's work style and discipline, making reports to request instructions, and inspection and supervision. In 2004 the Central Committee promulgated the Regulations of the Communist Party of China on Inner-Party Supervision (for Trial Use). To deal with the difficulties and weak links in inner-Party supervision, the regulation emphasizes supervision over leading bodies and leading cadres, especially chiefs of leading bodies. The promulgation of the Regulations marked a major step forward in the building of the Party.

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

中国共产党的组织与机制: 英文/张荣臣编著; 王平兴译.
—北京: 五洲传播出版社, 2007.7

ISBN 978-7-5085-1132-0

I. 中… II. ①张…②王… III. 中国共产党—组织机构—简介—英文 IV. D22

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2007) 第099306号

中国共产党的组织与机制

- 编 著 张荣臣
翻 译 王平兴
责任编辑 冯凌宇
装帧设计 曲晓华 韩 宇
电脑制作 四维面 | 工作室
出版发行 五洲传播出版社 (北京市海淀区莲花池
东路北小马厂6号 邮编: 100038)
电 话 86-10-58891281 (发行部)
承 印 北京光之彩印刷有限公司
版 次 2007年9月第1版第1次印刷
开 本 787×1092 1/32
印 张 3.5
字 数 40千字
定 价 78.00元

7200 cym



WINDOW TO CHINA