

## Vacancies in civil service abound

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China will recruit a record high of more than 28,500 central government employees in 2018, and more than 80 percent of the jobs will be at agencies' local branches below county level.

Job seekers can sign up from Monday to Nov 8 for the national civil servants exam, or *guokao*, scheduled for Dec 10, according to the State Administration of Civil Service.

Many central government civil servants are retiring, leading to the large recruitment. These agencies recruited about 20,000 employees in 2013 and again in 2014, but the number grew to more than 22,000 in 2015 and then to more than 27,800 last year.

**Civil service jobs have long been perceived as secure, lifelong jobs with stable pay, making the exam highly competitive.**

Most openings at government agencies above provincial level this year will require two years of grassroots work experience. About 15 percent of the vacancies at central government agency branches below prefecture level will be set aside for university graduates who became village officials and volunteered to serve at grassroots levels, according to the State Administration of Civil Service.

The administration also said it will lower the education, work experience and exam performance requirements for vacancies in underdeveloped areas. Some vacancies below county level will be set aside for candidates with local *hukou*, or household registration, who left for an education but now live and work in the jurisdiction, in order to ensure they will not quit only after a short time.

It has been difficult for many less-developed areas to attract grassroots public servants. Last year, more than 200 central government vacancies — mostly in less developed areas — received no applicants.

Chen Yang, 25, who graduated this year from Nanjing University in Jiangsu province, said he wants to be a public servant but not in less-developed areas.

"There are few development opportunities in these areas," he said.

The national public servants exam has been held annually since 1994.

Civil service jobs have long been perceived as secure, lifelong jobs with stable pay, making the exam highly competitive.

Last year, about 984,000 people took the exam, although about 1.48 million qualified candidates registered. Only one out of every 36 candidates was hired, and in 2015 only one out of 33, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

## Wheels within wheels



A collection of bicycles frames visitors viewing a bike-themed painting at an exhibition at the Shanghai Art Museum on Saturday. The exhibition, *From Shikumen to Tian'anmen*, displaying works by artists who were born or work in Shanghai, is open until Nov 20.

REN LONG / XINHUA

# Xi urges Party members to study spirit of congress

General secretary says, 'Hard work can rejuvenate the nation'

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Xi Jinping has said that the study and implementation of the "spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress" is the "primary political task" for the Party and country from now on. Xi made the remark while presiding over the first group study of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee on Friday, focusing on the study and implementation of the spirit of the congress, according to

a news release on Saturday. Xi asked all CPC members to "study the CPC congress spirit and adhere to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era."

"Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee should regard the study and implementation of the CPC congress spirit as their first Party course to improve their political and theoretical level, in order to better take the duties bestowed by the Party and the

people," Xi said. Fully understanding the spirit necessary to implement it, Xi said, and he urged members to stick to the Marxist standpoint and method, stay in accord with China's reality, follow the country's development logic and improve confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

To study and implement the Party congress spirit, Xi stressed "comprehensively carrying out the work of the Party and the country by better understanding the integration, consistency, and coordination of strategic deployment of the Party and

national undertaking." "Empty talk will lead the country astray, and hard work can rejuvenate the nation," Xi said, urging solid implementation, saying if one-tenth of effort goes to planning, nine-tenths should go to the implementation.

Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee should take an exemplary role, work hard and make a difference in the sections that they administer, Xi said.

Xi said that top officials should have a strong sense of responsibility and the ability to succeed.

XINHUA

## CPC congress report was a team effort

The report presented to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was a team effort, harnessing suggestions from CPC members nationwide, and undergoing multiple revisions. It was delivered by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, over nearly three and a half hours at the opening of the Party congress on Oct 18 and indicated the direction of China's future development.

The report was drafted under the guidance of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, with Xi heading the draft team. In January, he announced the drafting team and called for the "correct thinking method, scientific analysis of the domestic and international situation, and profound study of the development of the Party and the country."

He said the drafting should follow such principles as "cor-

**21,000 people**

took part in discussion on the content of the report.

rect political direction, emancipating the mind, keeping abreast of the times, upholding strategic thinking, and proceeding from reality."

This summer, Xi asked the draft team to objectively summarize CPC development and theoretical and practical innovations.

He reiterated efforts "in new thoughts and measures and making scientific and accurate conclusions based on history and reality, theories and practices, and domestic and international situations."

In mid-July, Xi presided

over two meetings of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and one of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to review the draft.

In February, the drafting team dispatched groups to conduct research and investigations on 60 symposiums nationwide, and to the end of March, 80 study groups conducted more than 1,500 symposiums and seminars at 1,817 grassroots units.

With over 21,000 people taking part in the discussions, 80 research reports were completed.

Sixty-five papers by 25 Chinese think tanks also contributed.

On Aug 30, Xi presided over a symposium and listened to opinions from central committees of non-Communist parties, heads of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and

people without party affiliations.

At the congress, Xi joined a panel discussion with delegates from Guizhou province on Oct 19, talking with delegates, taking notes and listening to their opinions on the report.

Xi said that the report has pointed out the direction for the cause of the Party and the country, and it is also the guideline for the Party to unite and lead people of all ethnic groups to adhere to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

The report underwent two rounds of discussions by delegates and nonvoting delegates during the congress and was revised accordingly.

It resonates strongly inside and outside the Party and at home and abroad.

It was passed at the congress on Tuesday.

XINHUA

## Nation on road to be 'super aging society'

GUIYANG — China's elderly population has been increasing rapidly and is estimated to hit around 400 million by the end of 2035, according to experts.

Since China became an "aging society" in 2000, the elderly population has increased yearly by about 10 million, Zheng Gongcheng, head of the China Association of Social Security, said at a forum held over the weekend in Guiyang, capital of Guiz-

hou province. By the end of 2035, the elderly population could reach about 400 million, making China a "super aging society."

By international standards, a country or region is considered to be an "aging society" when those aged 65 or over account for 7 to 14 percent of the total population. Once that amount goes over 14 percent, the country is considered a "super aging society."

Zheng said that China faces

a difficult situation in how to cope with the aging population, with 240 million Chinese currently aged above 60 according to official data. Elderly care services are developing rapidly but also unevenly, he said.

They are already not enough to satisfy the nationwide demand, while unbalanced supply has also become a problem, he said. These services lack social participation and professional nursing staff.

There is also a battle between styles of nursing.

Zheng recommended an industrywide plan on elderly care services be formulated, which should be considered a new growth point for a sustainable national economy. Training of professional elderly care staff should be enhanced and the legal system should be improved to protect the rights of the elderly.

XINHUA

## Giant plant would boost rice harvests

By LI LEI in Beijing and FENG ZHIWEI in Changsha



**The new breed is 100 percent free of genetic modification.**

Xia Xinjie, chief researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences

The scientist behind China's "giant rice" has said he believes the crop could boost yields across Southeast Asia and other Belt and Road Initiative countries, helping to ease global concerns over food security.

Xia Xinjie, chief researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said his newly developed rice plant can better adapt to conditions such as climate than the rice plant strains in use.

The new plant grows to about 2 meters, almost twice the height of standard varieties, and has a longer growth cycle. A test in Hunan province this month yielded 15,000 kilograms per hectare, just short of the record 17,000 kg set by the newest hybrid rice strain.

Xia is confident his rice will one day surpass hybrid rice yields. "Hybrid rice has almost reached its maximum capacity, but (the research team developing) giant rice is charting a new route to record-breaking yields by increasing the biomass — or weight — of the plant," he said.

The taller plant also allows increases in the capacity for aquatic products in paddy fields, which can increase farmers' incomes, he added.

"For common rice plants, the water level is low and there is limited space for raising aquatic products. Sometimes, overcrowded aquatic products can reduce the rice output. But with higher rice plants, 300,000 frogs could live comfortably within a hectare of paddy, and bring in an extra 300,000 yuan (\$45,000) per hectare for farmers."

However, after the initial media reports about Xia's giant rice, concerns have been raised over its cost-effectiveness and whether it would increase the use of fertilizers.

A user of Zhihu, a Chinese Q&A website, wrote that "extra tall rice plants would require newly developed reaping machines, and certainly more fertilizers, thus compromising the cost-effectiveness of the new breed."

Xia said the harvest of giant rice can be managed by standard reaping machines, although "it could lead to some waste". He added that if the giant rice is to be planted on a large scale, "some modifications" to the

reaping machines would be needed.

As for fears over the need for more fertilizers, he said that although the higher rice plant requires more nutrition, farmers do not need to apply extra fertilizers.

"It's because many paddies are already suffering from ... too much fertilizers," the scientist said. "Giant rice can grow to 2 meters even though farmers do not increase the fertilizer volume. Besides, the excrement from the aquatic products provides a natural fertilizer."

Xia began his research in 2006, after he was inspired by the achievements of biologist Yuan Longping in developing super hybrid rice.

"I was working for a US agricultural biotechnology company then. After I watched a TV program introducing Yuan's super hybrid rice, I was encouraged and wanted to return to China to continue my previous research on paddy rice," he said.

After continuously selecting and breeding plants that met his requirements to create a taller, stronger rice plant with bigger flower clusters and stronger stalks, he started trial planting in 2014.

He said the new breed is "100 percent free of genetic modification".

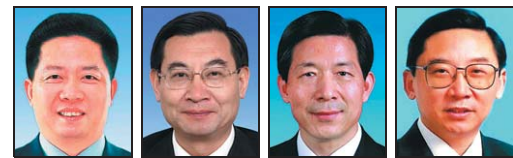
"Tens of millions of yuan were invested in the research. Quite a few entrepreneurs offered to sponsor the project at the beginning, but many withdrew because the breeding process was too long and the result was uncertain," he said.

He plans to expand the plantation of the giant rice plant to more than 130 hectares next year, if authorities grant approval. Currently only several dozen hectares of giant rice were planted in Hunan.

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Li Xi Li Qiang Lou Qianjian



Chen Qiufa Hu Heping Wang Dongfeng Yu Weiguo

## Chiefs: New heads vow strict supervision

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execute his power in accordance with the law and supervision from all parties is welcomed. He will also go to the grassroots level right away to unite the people to build a new Fujian, he added.

Wang Dongfeng, 59, the newly appointed Party chief of Hebei province, said he will

make sure the planning of the Xiongan New Area and the 2022 Winter Olympics is done according to high standards. Wang Dongfeng formerly was deputy Party secretary and mayor of Tianjin.

The CPC Central Committee also announced that Zhao Kezhi, the former Party chief of Hebei, will be moved to a new, unspecified position.