

# Anti-graft data released

32 corrupt officials at ministerial level and above investigated, says prosecutor

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The Supreme People's Procuratorate said on Tuesday it has investigated 32 corrupt officials at the ministerial level and above over the past five years.

Cao Jianming, chief prosecutor, said 13,368 officials at the county level and above were probed for graft between January 2008 and late August this year.

About 167,000 people were charged with embezzlement and bribery, and 148,931 were convicted, he said.

He made the remarks while delivering a report on the top procuratorate's work against embezzlement and bribery at the ongoing bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, which runs from Mon-

day to Friday.

Among those investigated in graft cases, 65,629 civil servants have been investigated for taking bribes, while 23,246 people were investigated for offering bribes, Cao said.

The number of bribe takers between 2008 and 2013 has increased by 19.5 percent compared with the previous five years, while the number of people who offered bribes has increased by 60.4 percent, he said.

Cao said that the procuratorate has prevented an estimated 37.7 billion yuan (\$6.16 billion) of economic losses through investigating the cases.

The anti-graft agencies have paid special attention to several key sectors, including land use, property transactions, pharmaceutical sales,

government purchases and public infrastructure projects, Cao said.

About 32.1 percent of graft cases probed by the prosecutors were initially exposed by whistle-blowers, while the other cases were established by the prosecutors, transferred by the supervision authorities or confessed to by the suspects themselves, Cao said.

The procuratorate will continue to strike hard against embezzlement and bribery, targeting both "tigers" and "flies" (senior and low level corrupt officials), Cao said.

It is the first report from the Supreme People's Procuratorate to be delivered to the NPC for 24 years.

Zhao Yibo, a journalist and commentator, said that the procuratorate's report has reflected the central government's determination to fight graft.

A number of senior officials have been investigated on allegations of bribery and embezzlement since the Par-

ty's new leaders were elected in November 2012.

In a statement released last week, the Supreme People's Procuratorate said it has placed 129 officials at the department level or higher under investigation for suspected corruption and bribery in the first eight months of this year.

In the latest case, Ji Jianye was removed from his post as mayor of Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, for suspected serious disciplinary violations, Xinhua News Agency reported on Saturday.

Apart from Ji, the other recently investigated ministerial-level officials include: Liu Tienan, former deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission; Ni Fake, former vice-governor of Anhui province; and Li Daqiu, a senior political advisor from the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

Zhao Yanan contributed to this story.



## SECRETS OF SOUND SLEEP

PHOTO BY ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

A customer lies buried in a pile of pearls, jade and agate to experience an alternative health therapy to improve sleep quality at the China International Exhibition Center in Beijing on Tuesday. The three-day exhibition showcases health and beauty products.

# UN films highlight rise in HIV cases among women

By WANG QINGYUN  
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The number of women living with HIV is on the rise both globally and in China, suggesting the need to improve women's rights, UN Women urged during a documentary film screening for medical experts, government officials and NGO activists on Tuesday.

The UN group dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women showed three documentary films in Beijing to improve HIV awareness and education.

Two of the films were profiles of Chinese women living with HIV, and the third was about how female sex workers protect themselves from the virus.

Guo Ruixiang, program coordinator for the organization, said UN Women hopes the films will prompt people to think about gender inequality and how it facilitates the transmission of HIV.

A survey by the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention conducted in Yunnan, Sichuan, Henan, Guangxi and Chongqing in 2012 showed an increase in the number of cases of trans-

mission between sex partners, most of which were from husband to wife.

An earlier survey conducted by the center showed more than 30 percent of women living with HIV got the virus from their husband, while only 9 percent of HIV-positive men said they got it from their wife.

Physiologically, women are more likely to catch the virus during sex with a man than the other way round. However, inequality is another reason why more women get infected this way, said Guo.

The center's study also showed that 31.6 percent of

women whose male spouses are HIV-positive said they were forced by their partners into having sex in the past year, and it is usually the male partner who has a say in whether to use a condom.

"For example, there are men who seek sex services while working as migrant workers outside their hometown, contract the virus and pass it on to their wives, as the latter don't ask them to use a condom," she said.

Guo added that the risk to women is further increased by that fact that some Chinese women don't ask their hus-

bands to use a condom.

"Also, many men who have sex with men have married women because they are pressured by tradition to carry on their family's name. This again heightens the possibility of women getting infected," she added.

On the other hand, low-income female sex workers should get special attention in the fight against HIV among women, according to Lan Lan, a leader of Tianjin Xina Female Sex Workers' Home, an NGO focusing on health education and intervention for low-income female sex workers.

Lan said her group cooperates with a local center for disease control and prevention to provide blood tests for female sex workers and trains them on how to protect themselves during their work, including how to avoid violence and how to persuade their customers to use protection.

"But if a sex worker refuses a client who does not want to use protection, she may lose the income to pay for her rent or raise her family. Also, a condom in their room can be evidence to the police (that they are selling sex)," she said, suggesting that many don't follow what

they're taught in the training courses.

"They usually live where migrant workers cluster. They are hidden and scattered, thus are hard to find or help," she added.

"Some of them also think the disease is 'foreign' and not relevant to them."

Guo, from UN Women, said: "Though the Chinese government has done a lot in training sex workers to protect themselves, more than 60 percent of them say they are not able to use a condom every time they offer sex services."

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# Chengdu's ambitions as international expo center

By LI YU and PENG CHAO  
in Chengdu

Authorities in Chengdu, capital of southwestern China's Sichuan province, are fostering world-class expo brands as the city moves to become internationally known in the industry.

The 14th Western China International Fair that opens on Wednesday in Chengdu attracts more than 4,000 enterprises from 72 countries and regions.

This year's event is more international than before, hosting seven foreign national leaders, 25 foreign ministers, nine heads of international organizations and eight ambassadors to China.

Compared with last year, the number of participants has dropped by 25 percent, activities fell 50 percent and the exhibition area shrank 10 percent.

Despite the reductions, international exhibits increased to 48,300 square meters, some 40 percent of the total, and 27 activities from overseas companies will account for half of all events.

Agreements for investment valued at 500 billion yuan (\$82 billion) are expected to be signed at the fair.

The host city Chengdu plans to hold 500 high-level events annually by 2015 and create 10 world-class expo brands to become what local officials call "a famous Chinese convention and exhibition city with international influence."

Other Chengdu-hosted events that the city government wants to promote include the National Sugar and Wine Trade Fair, the Chengdu Motor Show, the Chengdu International Furniture Fair, the China International Software Cooperation Conference and the

International Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The 88th Session of the National Sugar & Wine Trade Fair held this March drew businesspeople from 26 countries and regions as the exhibition area for international pavilions reached 22,000 square meters, an increase of 25 percent over a year before. Beginning last year, Chengdu became the permanent site of the annual trade show.

One of the top four auto shows in China, the Chengdu Motor Show was the biggest in its history this year, covering 140,000 square meters and occupying all nine halls and the outdoor area of the exhibition center for the first time.

Leading automakers Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz from Germany, Jaguar Land Rover from Britain, Infiniti from Japan, and Chrysler from the United States, expanded their presence as exhibitors and debuted a variety of new cars.

While it is nurturing its own local exhibition brands, Chengdu has made impressive achievements in hosting other grand events.

The city held 339 conventions, exhibitions and festivals in the first three quarters of this year, including 59 international meetings and 31 international exhibitions, according to the Chengdu Statistics Bureau.

The 2013 Fortune Global Forum and the 12th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention were the two most important events the municipal government considers a breakthrough for the local exhibition and convention industry.

Chengdu was the first city in central and western China to host the Fortune Global Forum. More than 600 business leaders from top compa-



Business leaders share insights at the 2013 Fortune Global Forum in Chengdu in June.

nies around the world gathered to share opinions on new trends in the world's largest developing economy.

At least 74 business deals signed with Fortune 500 companies or large multinationals during the event with a combined value of more than 112 billion yuan.

The 12th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention attracted more than 3,000 Chinese entrepreneurs and industry leaders from 105 countries and regions. A total of 241 business deals worth 132 billion yuan were signed during the convention.

Internationalization is one of the five goals in a strategy by the Chengdu Municipal Bureau of



The National Sugar and Wine Trade Fair held in Chengdu attracted participants from 26 countries and regions in March.

Expositions for development of the local expo industry. Others emphasize marketing, quality, branding and standardization.

According to the strategy, Chengdu will strive to

introduce more major events through enhanced cooperation with international organizations, ministries, commissions, national industry associations, universities and research insti-

tutes. The Chengdu Municipal Bureau of Expositions has already signed agreements to hold the 2013 China Auto Mobile Dealers Association International Forum in

November and start a regular forum on oral medicine and dentistry this year.

The strategy also calls for bringing in more renowned convention and exhibition companies from home and abroad to improve the professional level of the expo industry through cooperation.

The bureau signed agreements with the China International Exhibitions Ltd and Koelmesse (China) Ltd earlier this year for further collaboration.

The city government is also improving Chengdu's infrastructure and services for the convention and exhibition industry. As the current Chengdu Century City New International Convention & Exhibition Center no longer meets the demands of a growing number of events, new exhibition and convention centers have been built or are under construction.

The largest in central and western China, the Western China International Expo Center will cover 500,000 square meters and have a 200,000-square-meter convention space when completed.

The New Century Global Center, said to be the largest multiplex in Asia, has a 12,000-square-meter arts center, an 8,000-square-meter convention area and two five-star hotels with over 1,000 rooms.

Through experience from hosting international events, the city has developed a unique service model which highlights "one-stop, professional and people-oriented services" widely appreciated by event organizers, local officials said.

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