Tibetan antelopes wandering on Plateau

Being a member of the mascots for the Beijing Olympic Games, Yingying, with Tibetan antelope as the model, has been enjoying her idyllic life on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau as the five mascots are celebrating their 12th birthday on Saturday.

Under the protection of the Chinese government and the people, the species population of Tibetan antelope, unique to the Plateau, has been increasing steadily during the past decades, official statistics said.

Yingying, a symbol for Green Olympics, was unveiled together with other four mascots of Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan and Nini, on Nov. 11, 2005, namely 1,000 days prior to the grand opening of the 29th Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

During the 1990s, a great number of Tibetan antelopes were poached, resulting in the establishment of the first nature reserve for antelopes in 1997, namely the Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve, which breeds up over 60,000 Tibetan antelopes nowadays.

Due to a series of protective measures, the population of the Tibetan antelopes has reached 200,000 on the Plateau, according to the statistics.

In 2015, the Tibetan antelope was even excluded from the "Red List of China's Biodiversity", jointly issued by the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

On July 7, 2017, Hoh Xil became a world heritage site, the only one on the Plateau, during the 41st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland.

<u>China starts extending supervisory</u> <u>system reform to nationwide</u>

New supervision commissions will be subject to the centralized and unified leadership of the Party and supervise all exercising public power, said Zhao Leji, China's anti-graft chief, on Saturday.

Zhao, head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at a meeting in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, preparing for extending a pilot reform of the supervision system to nationwide.

Party committees and discipline agencies of all levels should be fully aware of the significance of this reform, as an effective measure to exercise strict governance of the Party and obtain a crushing victory against corruption, Zhao said.

They were urged to fully implement the instructions from the central leadership.

The pilot reform has been tried in Beijing, and Shanxi and Zhejiang provinces since January.

New supervision commissions will incorporate existing supervisory, corruption prevention and control agencies within the governments and procuratorates, according to a decision adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) on Nov. 4.

Local Party organizations should make sure a smooth transition and new commissions should effectively exercise their duties, cooperate with law enforcement agencies and discipline their own staff, Zhao said.

Supervised by a central leading group, local Party chiefs should take charge of the reform and discipline agencies should well implement them, he added.

2022 Winter Olympics co-host to build high-speed railway station

Construction will soon start on a high-speed railway station in Zhangjiakou, a north China city which will co-host the 2022 Winter Olympics with Beijing.

The Zhangjiakou South Station in Hebei Province stopped its passenger service on Saturday night after the last passenger train departed. The service was transferred to the Shalingzi West Station in the city.

The Zhangjiakou South Station had handled more than 20 million passengers since it was put into use in 1957. It cannot meet the growing passenger service demand any more.

The 174-km-long high-speed railway between Beijing and Zhangjiakou is expected to be completed and put into use in 2019, when the fastest trip between the two cities will be cut from more than 3 hours to just 50 minutes.

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