

Mainland to continue promoting cross-Strait relations

The Chinese mainland will continue to promote peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and take solid steps to promote peaceful reunification, said the mainland's Taiwan affairs chief Saturday.

Zhang Zhijun, head of both the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, made the comments at a seminar themed review and prospects of 30 years of cross-Strait relations in Shanghai.

Zhang said that fruitful achievements have been made since the two sides ended years of estrangement in 1987, with the number of people travelling across the Strait reached over 120 million and more than one million people from Taiwan study and work in the mainland.

"The one-China principle is the political foundation of cross-Straits relations," said Zhang, "Only by recognizing the historical fact of the 1992 Consensus and that the two sides both belong to one China can the cross-Strait relations break the deadlock and no political party or group in Taiwan will have any difficulty conducting exchanges with the mainland."

Zhang said that new policies will be developed to ensure people from Taiwan will enjoy the same treatment as local people when they pursue their studies, start businesses, seek jobs, or live on the mainland.

The seminar was jointly organized by the institute of east Asian studies, Shanghai and Want Daily from Taiwan, drawing more than 100 scholars from the two sides.

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Giant panda awarded ‘Asia Game Changer’

Giant panda on Saturday was named an “Asia Game Changer” in southwest China’s Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding by the Asia Society for its role played in promoting friendly relationships between countries.

As a unique species of China, the giant panda symbolizes peace and friendship, said Tom Nagorski, Executive Vice President of the Asia Society, adding China’s cooperation with other countries in giant panda breeding also helped promote friendships.

Tan Hongming, an official of the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, said that the award acknowledged the research base’s efforts in protecting the species and it will further encourage other institutions in giant panda protection.

The Asia Game Changer Awards were launched by the Asia Society in 2014, which recognize those making a transformative and positive difference for the future of Asia and the world.

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Xi urges study, implementation of CPC congress spirit

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) 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 remarks 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 press release Saturday.

Xi asked all CPC members to "study 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 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 of the spirit is the premise to implementing it, Xi said,

urging members to stick to the Marxist standpoint and method, 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 on implementation.

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

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