

附件 2

**四川省“青年学党史 奋进新征程”  
大学生有声阅读党史作品展播活动英文文本**

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## **Wang Youmu — Marxist Pioneer and Founder of the Communist Party Organization in Sichuan**

Wang Youmu (1887—1924) was a native of Wudu, Sichuan (present-day Wudu Town, Jiangyou City, Sichuan Province, China). After finishing studies in Japan in 1918, Wang Youmu returned to Chengdu and embarked on a career as a revolutionary. He spread Marxism, established a revolutionary organization, and launched a fierce attack on the dark old society. The Marx Reading Association organized by him is the cradle of the Marxist movement in Sichuan, which has cultivated many revolutionary backbones in Sichuan and laid the ideological and organizational foundation for the development of the Communist Party of China (hereinafter referred to as CPC) in Sichuan. Meanwhile, Wang Youmu overcame many difficulties to start *New Sichuan Journal*, published every 10 days, and the newspaper *Voice of the People*, which were the first two revolutionary publications in Sichuan to take Marxism as the guiding ideology, and the first sharp weapon to

publicize Marxism. *Voice of the People* is not only regarded as the first Party newspaper in Sichuan, but also plays an important role in the publication history of the CPC. He founded the Chengdu Labor Union, led the Movement for Independent Expenditure on Education in Sichuan, established the Chengdu branch of the Communist Party of China, and served as its secretary.

In the pursuit of saving the nation and the people, Wang Youmu at first believed in improving the political system, starting with education, so he attended Sichuan Tongsheng Normal School (the predecessor of Sichuan University). Once graduating from this school, he was employed as President of Longjun Middle School. Later, Wang Youmu was influenced by the popular idea that industry could enrich the country and strengthen the military, therefore science must be revitalized. In 1910, he quit his job, and went to Sichuan Tongsheng Normal School again, studying Physics and Chemistry. After graduation, Wang Youmu returned to Longjun Middle School to teach.

When Wang Youmu was worried about the future of his motherland, he came up with the idea of going to Japan

to study. In 1914, he went to study at the Department of Physics and Chemistry of Keio University in Japan. There he met Li Dazhao, Li Da and other founders of the Communist Party of China, and they participated in the patriotic movements together and explored ways to save the nation and the people. Wang Youmu's thoughts also changed, and he realized that education and science were all illusions to save the nation and the people. With resolution, he transferred to the Department of Law and Economics of Meiji University, majoring in social sciences, which he regarded as an effective way to improve the society and to save the nation.

Greatly inspired by the outbreak of the October Revolution in Russia, Wang Youmu began to read works on socialism and therefore got in touch with Marxism. In the autumn of 1918, he returned to Shanghai after graduating from Meiji University. He read *The Triumph of Bolshevism* written by Li Dazhao and other articles promoting Marxism, and his belief in Marxism was gradually established.

Wang Youmu lived a brief life, but it was brilliant and great. He gave up high official positions, and scattered all

his possessions for the revolution. He spread the spark of Marxist revolution throughout the mountains and rivers of Sichuan, laying the foundation and blazing a magnificent path for the proletarian revolutionary cause in Sichuan.

In the spring of 1919, Wang Youmu returned to his hometown Jiangyou to see his family and relatives. His elder brother, Wang Chuling, was overjoyed and worked hard to get him the official position as Sichuan Provincial Councilor. He expected Wang Youmu could rise steadily and prosper from then on, and therefore bring honor to the family. However, Wang Youmu devoted himself to the revolution, vowing to work with the hardworking masses of the world to destroy this dark society. To prevent his younger brother from joining the revolution, Wang Chuling threatened to break up the family. Wang Youmu knew that it would be inevitable for a revolutionary to take risks. In order not to implicate the family, he agreed to separate his family from his elder brother, accepted a property of 250 silver dollars, and left his hometown to join the revolutionary currents.

In April 1922, Wang Youmu exposed, in the column “Local Correspondence” of the newspaper *Voice of the Peo-*

*ple*, the collusion between the warlord Liu Gaoyu stationed in Jiangyou and the pseudo county mayor, who collected population taxes and housing excessively, and embezzled and profited from them. After reading the newspaper, Liu Gaoyu was embarrassed and angry, so he oppressed Wang Youmu's relatives in Jiangyou: His two older brothers were arrested in prison and subjected to severe punishment. The second brother was beaten to death, while the eldest brother was severely wounded and imprisoned in the county prison for six months.

In the late spring of 1924, Sichuan warlord Yang Sen, in the hope of bribing Wang Youmu, sent his deputy with a full box of silver coins and promised to appoint him as Senior Advisor to the Military Supervision Office. Faced with the temptation of high position and decent salary, Wang Youmu smiled indifferently and said, "You guys take the silver coins back first. I'll think about the position before reply!" The deputy had to take away the silver coins. Wang Youmu said to his wife, "Yang Sen's attempt to bribe me is simply daydreaming. We two are at opposite standpoints, how can we work as colleagues!"

Wang Youmu devoted himself to the revolution after

the outbreak of the May Fourth Movement in 1919, and lasted for 5 years until his death in 1924. With his unwavering faith, indomitable spirit, and fearless revolutionary conviction, Wang Youmu was the first to spread Marxism in Sichuan, and ushered in the magnificent cause of the proletarian revolution here. He fought against the dark old society and warlords with heroic bravery, and founded the Sichuan Party and Youth League organizations. His glorious contribution will shine brightly in China's revolution history.



## **Zhang Side — A Party Member Who Serves the People**

Zhang Side was born in 1915 in Yilong County of Sichuan Province. He joined the Red Army in 1933 and in October 1937, he joined the Communist Party of China.

During the Long March, Zhang Side swam to snatch the enemy's boat and bravely captured two enemy machine guns. As such, he was called "Little Tiger" by his comrades. When the soldiers marched barefoot during their trek, he made straw shoes for them with nutgrass, and because of this, he was also known as the "Straw Shoe Master." When they crossed the grasslands, he sought out the poisonous weeds to ensure that his comrades would be able to forage safely and avoid starvation.....

Zhang did whatever the Party told him to do. When the revolution needed him to clear the land, he took up the hoe and exchanged his sweat for food; when the revolution needed him to make charcoal, he worked with his comrades to produce good charcoal that was shiny and blue; when the

revolution needed him to be a squad leader, he led his men and made them into a combat-ready force; when the revolution needed him to be a soldier, he accepted the arrangements with enthusiasm and conscientiousness did his best in every role……Zhang Side believed that “whatever we do, we do it for the Party and the people”.

In 1944, Zhang Side enthusiastically answered the call and asked to make charcoal to solve the heating problems at Zaoyuan bureau during the winters. At Shixiayu in Anse County, north of Yan’an, he said to his comrades: “After we enter the mountains, our comrades at home will be even busier. We must work hard to produce charcoal and complete the task as soon as possible so that we can bring good news to Chairman Mao.” In order to speed up the production of charcoal, Zhang Side divided his soldiers into two groups, one for digging charcoal kilns, and the other to cut down ring-cup oaks. To control the fire when making the charcoal, Zhang Side ate and lived by the kilns, never resting, getting up several times during the night to monitor the firing at the top of the kiln by making observations about the color of the smoke and the temperature of the firing. To save time, Zhang Side and his comrades

would enter kilns when the charcoal were not completely cooled, and even though the temperature inside the kiln was very high, and sometimes there were still sparks on the charcoal, which burnt their faces, he did not hesitate to go to the deepest part of the kiln to pick up the charcoal, so that the charcoal-making cycle could be shortened by a little bit. Under his leadership, more than 50,000 pounds of charcoal were made in a month, exceeding expectations.

On September 5, 1944, Zhang Side and his comrades decided to dig a few new kilns to make more charcoal. He teamed up with Xiaobai, a soldier, and the two worked well together — and they were in high spirits. Zhang Side went into the innermost part of the kiln, bent over, and dug as hard as he could. When it was almost noon and the kiln was about to be finished, several pieces of broken soil suddenly fell from the top of the kiln, “Get out of there, it’s dangerous!” Zhang Side read the situation and quickly pushed Xiaobai out of the kiln. Before Xiaobai could react, a loud rumble was heard; the thick roof of the kiln had collapsed, half of Xiaobai’s body was buried at the mouth of the kiln, Zhang Side was buried inside. Xiaobai shouted anxiously; soldiers and civilians rushed over from all directions to dig

at Xiaobai's body. They dug frantically, tooth and nail. A few minutes later, Xiaobai was saved, but the 29-year-old Zhang Side had passed away.

In the afternoon of September 8, a memorial service was held for comrade Zhang Side at the Zaoyuan Xishan Square in Yan'an. Tarpaulin tents were set up on the earthen stage, banners that read "Remembering comrade Zhang Side" were hung in front of it; Zhang's portrait could be seen beneath the bright red flag of the Party. Beside Zhang's portrait was Chairman Mao's handwritten elegy: "All hail comrade Zhang Side, who sacrificed his life for the interests of the people." Everything was surrounded by wreaths and wildflowers sent by his comrades.

At Zhang Side's memorial service, Mao Zedong put forward in his speech an important and great proposition — Serve the People. Afterwards, Mao revised his speech five times, editing it tirelessly, and finally formed a short text of only 688 words. It was published in the first edition of the Jiefang Daily on September 21. In April 1945, Mao Zedong gave a comprehensive and systematic exposition of "Serve the People" in his report to the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party, which was incorporated

into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China. Subsequent Party congresses have all insisted that “Serve the People Wholeheartedly” be written into the Party’s Constitution, becoming the sole purpose of the Party’s commitments. Henceforth, the name of a common soldier is inextricably linked to the fundamental purpose of a political party. In September 2021, the spirit of Zhang Side was incorporated into the spiritual genealogy of the first generation of Chinese communists, becoming an invaluable spiritual treasure of the Chinese nation.

## **Chai Yunzhen — An Ordinary Hero**

In the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea, with his gallantry and courage, he killed over 100 enemies and demolished an enemy command post, while in time of peace, he has been living a life of anonymity and obscurity for 33 years in Yuechi County, Sichuan Province. When hailed as a hero, he replies “No, I’m not. Those comrades-in-arms who died in the war are true heroes.” He is Chai Yunzhen, recipient of the July 1 Medal, the Special-Class Merit Citation of Chinese People’s Volunteer Army and the First-Class Combat Hero.

In 1926, Chai Yunzhen was born in Yuechi County Guang’an City, Sichuan Province. As young as only 12 years old, he had to make a living by working for the landlords. At the age of 20, he was press-ganged by the Kuomintang’s Army, where he had been subject to endless humiliation. Fortunately, he became a PLA soldier in the 132 Regiment of the 44th Division of the 15th Army after being liberated in Shuangduiji Battle, a part of the Huaihai Cam-

paign. In December 1949, he joined the Chinese Communist Party.

In March 1951, when the US brought the flames of war to the banks of the Yalu River, Chai Yunzhen and his army, under the leadership of Qin Jiwei, the commander of the 15th Army, embarked on the expedition to Korea. In May, this heroic army were engaged in a blocking action, the fierce Battle of Bakdalbong. By June 4, the battle had lasted for five days and nights. The enemy, at the cost of over a thousand men, after occupying two of our hills, were bearing down the command post of the 3rd Battalion. In this critical moment, the battalion commander immediately organized the Eighth Company for a counterattack. Chai Yunzhen, the leader of the Seventh Squad of the Eighth Company, led the only three soldiers of his squad to close in from both sides of an unnamed hill. They suddenly charged into the enemy's positions and retook two hills. Now, Chai Yunzhen noticed that the fleeing enemies were huddling in a higher hill, constructing fortifications. He directed the other three soldiers to draw the enemy's fire head-on while he circled around to the rear of the enemy position. He reached the entrance of the enemy's command

post by climbing up from the cliff. After he killed an enemy battalion commander, he grabbed a few grenades from a box at the entrance and threw them into the dark room. The enemy battalion command post was blown up in a blast.

After his three fellow soldiers died, he was left alone to fight against the enemy. When he saw four enemy soldiers were flying at him, Chai Yunzhen poured the bullets at them with his machine carbine and killed three at once. When he raised his gun to the fourth enemy, a big soldier, he found himself of out bullets. Chai hurled the gunstock at him and began a hand-to-hand combat with the enemy. Fortunately, our reinforcement arrived in time. They repelled the enemies and recaptured the frontline positions. The fierce battle left Chai Yunzhen with 24 wounds and a bitten-off index finger,

At the Battle of Bakdalbong, Chai Yunzhen, together with his three fellow soldiers, captured three hills in 20 minutes. They killed more than 200 enemies and seized five machine guns, a key support to safeguard the fortified positions. In May 1952, he was honored with the First-Class Merit Citation and the First-Class Combat Hero.



Seriously injured in this battle, he was transferred to a hospital in Baotou, Inner Mongolia, and lost contact with his army ever since. Recovered after recuperation, he returned home with a disabled soldier certificate and 500kg rice. During several decades in the countryside, he has served in many posts, such as the township chief of Dafo Township and the leader of the Agricultural Production Co-operative. Whatever his post he holds and whatever job he is assigned, he would accept it without any complaint. He dedicates himself to the Party and the people, never telling anyone about his glorious past.

Having returned from Korea, Chai's army never gave up efforts to look for him. After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of CPC, General Political Department of PLA Army decided to compile a book Hero Biographies, in which Chai Yunzhen is particularly included. His former commander in the 13th Army, now the commander of Beijing Military Region ordered, "Even if it means looking for a needle in a haystack, we will do whatever we can to find him". The searching team, after having been to Shanxi, Henan, Hebei and Hubei, finally learnt he is most probably from Sichuan. The team then

twice published the notice in the Sichuan Daily titled “We Are Looking for the Combat Hero Chai Yunzhen.

Chai Rongbing, Chai Yunzhen’s son, accidentally read the notice. It turned out that his real name was Chai Tunzheng, which was misspelled as Chai Yunzhen when the personnel list was transferred. “It’s you! Father. You see it mentions the places where you used to be in the war. You are the right one they have been looking for!” said his son excitedly. Chai Yunzhen, however, waved his hand, “Never burden yourself to the country.” His son quickly replied, “Don’t you want to see your comrades and commanders you have been always missing?” This was what struck a chord with his inner heart. He decided to sell a pig for 100 yuan as the travel expense and went to the military base in Hubei where his army was stationed. After missing 33 years, Chai Yunzhen, the great hero, was finally able to be reunited with his army.

After his retirement in November 1984, he has been giving reports about the glorious traditions in the administration organizations, schools and factories. He has also been back to his army very often, sharing his stories in the war to the soldiers and officers. He has been praised many

times by the County Party Committee and the County Administration for his solid support to their work with what he says and what he does.

Chai Yunzhen departed us peacefully at the age of 93 on December 26, 2018, in Yuechi County, Sichuan Province

The greatness derives from the ordinariness, which in turn creates the greatness. There are only ordinary men that stand out at the critical moments while there are no such heroes that fall from nowhere in the sky. The great old hero Chai Yunzhen, for his fearless courage towards death in the fierce battles, and his indifference to fame and fortune, is always the role model for us to follow.

**Peng Shilu — The Father  
of China's Nuclear Submarines,  
Whose Name Was Once a Top Secret**

Born on 18 November 1925 in Haifeng County, Guangdong province, Peng Shilu died on March 22 2021 in Beijing, at the age of 95. In May 2021, he was posthumously honored the title “Role Model of the Era” by the Publicity Department of China and was honored as an “Inspiring Role Model” in 2021 Touching China’ Awards.

As the son of the revolutionary martyr Peng Pai, Peng Shilu was a nuclear expert. He was orphaned at 4 and jailed at the age of 8 for being the son of Peng Pai. He was later rescued at 10 and sent to Yan’an by Zhou Enlai at 15. In 1951, Peng was selected to study Chemical Engineering in the Soviet Union. On January 21, 1954, the US launched the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine, Nautilus, posing great threat to China. When Senior General Chen Geng was visiting USSR in 1956, Peng was secretly summoned by the general. Chen Geng told him the central government

decided to select a group of outstanding students abroad for a transfer to studies in nuclear propulsion. Peng willingly agreed and shifted his major, marking the beginning of a lifetime of work dedicated to developing China's nuclear power sector.

Peng was the first chief designer of the country's nuclear submarine project, also known as "Peng the bold", and "he-who-call-the-shots". The nuclear submarine project, together with the atomic bomb project, were national top secret at the time. However, it was extremely challenging to develop nuclear submarine independently. When the project was suspended in 1963, Peng didn't stop his work on related research and experiments on nuclear submarines. In 1966, Chairman Mao Zedong vowed that "nuclear submarines have to be developed, even if it takes 10,000 years", therefore, the nuclear submarine project codenamed "909" was officially launched, which is a land-based experimental reactor later installed in the nation's first nuclear submarines.

Situated in the obscure backwaters in mountains of Sichuan, Peng and his colleagues not only lacked technological materials and professional support, but also

struggled against poor conditions. Despite of this, they devoted to building nuclear submarine project for national defense. Drinking water treated with alum from rice paddy, fishpond and river ditches, living in shabby rammed earth shelters built with materials at hand, walking on dirt roads which were dusty on sunny days but muddy on rainy days, feeding on sour pickles, Peng and his team worked with nothing but their bare hands and abacus to conduct experiments and calculations over and over again, in a bid to strive for breakthrough in the project. During fierce debates in research and development, Peng cautioned his team, “Let the experiment result speak for itself! Report the test result as it is and I will sign my name, and I will be held accountable for it.”

July 1970 marked a key phase in testing the reactor to its maximum capacity. Despite of others’ strong opposition to the idea, Peng stuck with increasing test capacity. He made the important decision to test the reactor with full capacity on August 30, 1970. On that very day, the lab was filled with staff members, including Huang Shijian, who had no idea of Peng’s decision. At 6pm, Huang was surprised to find the reactor was running at full capacity. At

first, Huang assumed this was a mistake caused by his miscalculations. However, after scrupulous check against his work for four times, Huang was sure this was a feat rather than a mistake. The crowd burst into applause and cheer, for China had successfully built its first land-based prototype nuclear power reactor.

However, Peng passed out after the test due to physical exhaustion. When conducting the last calibration for nuclear power reactor, Peng was under a surgery for acute gastric perforation, but the surgeon was surprised to find a scar on his stomach which was caused by a previous gastric perforation and had already healed on its own. December 26 1970 witnessed the launching of China's first nuclear submarine. Later on August 1, China's first nuclear submarine (SSN), the Long March I of class 091 was commissioned, making China the fifth country in the world with nuclear submarine.

Peng is the main trailblazer and founder of China's nuclear propulsion undertaking, also an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He proposed the design for Qinshan Nuclear Power Station in the 1970s. Ensuing reform and opening up, he was appointed Director-in-Chief,

and later the first Chairman and CEO of Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station. After he became the CEO of Qinshan Phase II, he championed shareholding reform by instituting board system and welcoming public bidding in the construction and development of nuclear power station.

In the face of honor, he never cared about personal gains or losses, and never made demands for personal interests. When Peng was conferred the National Science Conference Award in 1978, he was still toiling on working site. He firmly held on to the idea that the success of China's nuclear submarine should be attributed to collective wisdom. Peng called himself "at best a screw on the nuclear submarine". He was least interested in or cared for job promotion or pay raise, even his application for Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering was made by his department. He moved from a seven-room mansion to a four-room apartment, giving up the big house to others. He consulted for many departments but refused any pay. Peng always repeated, "I have received too much benevolence from my country. If it's beneficial to my country, I would do anything. This means more to me than monetary reward." Hailed as the "the father of China's nuclear sub-



marines” and “the founder of China’s nuclear power station”, he declined with grace and replied, “I only did two things in my life, building nuclear submarines and building nuclear power plants. I’m not father of anything, just a pioneering bull in nuclear propulsion”.

Peng’s aspiration stayed resolute even through wringers. He participated in China’s nuclear undertaking from obscure backwaters in his prime years and continued to make contributions in his 60s. Pursuing lofty ideals in their times, Peng and his father were unsung heroes who devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the country.

## **The “Zhou-Lao Ge Ming” Devoted to the Party and Served the People with Absolute Sincerity**

June 29, 2021, President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at the ceremony to present the July 1 Medal, the Party’s highest honor. 29 Party members who have made outstanding contributions to the Party and the people and created valuable spiritual wealth were awarded the “July 1 Medal”, one of which is Zhou Yongkai, former deputy secretary of the Party Committee of Daxian Prefecture and an outstanding Communist Party member.

In the early autumn of 1945, the 17-year-old Zhou Yongkai, led by Wang Pu’an, one of the leaders of the North Sichuan Underground Party, solemnly took his Party admission oath with his fist held. “The scene stays live to me all the time. The party flag was so red that it felt like my blood was burning.” Since joining the Party 76 years

ago, Zhou Yongkai has always held the belief of “following the Party” whether in adversity or in good times.

“Being the secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission is an honorable task the Party gave to me, and it is a very testing task.” Zhou Yongkai said. He would fight to the end against those who deviate from their original aspirations and lose their party spirit. What he remembers best was “taking down Li Zuoqian” when he was the secretary of Discipline Inspection Committee of Daxian Prefecture.

It was a national sensation. Li Zuoqian, the then director of the former Daxian Canned Food Factory, was entitled more than 50 awards granted by the state, province, the prefecture, and the county governments, but had transgressed the principle of Party consciousness and violated the law.

After receiving reports from the masses and instructions and requirements of superior Party organization, the then Daxian Prefecture set up an investigation committee stationed in the cannery, with Zhou Yongkai as the leader. Despite the daily obstruction from the “protective umbrellas”, the investigation committee finished the investigation under extreme pressure, but

ended up with disagreement on what penalty to impose. “ Zhou Yongkai recalled. In several Party committee meetings, he presented hard evidence to prove that Li Zuoqian not only violated Party discipline, but also was suspected of breaking the law. After Li Zuoqian was arrested and brought to justice, the cannery held a three-day celebration, setting off firecrackers.

Zhou retired in 1991 at the age of 63. But he decided to continue to “work for the Party”, and went to the Hua’e Mountain in Wanyuan County of Dazhou Prefecture intending to do something for the masses, and he led the people to explore an ecological development path to “lucid water and lush mountains”. Today, the Hua’e Mountain has become a provincial and national nature reserve, and the life of ordinary people there is getting better.

“I am not a credit to all these achievements. The people are the real heroes.” Zhou said. Xiang Erfang, the Party secretary of Xiangjiaping Village in the depth of Hua’e Mountain, had been acquainted with Zhou Yongkai for more than 20 years but was “afraid” of Zhou Yongkai when working with him in protecting the Hua’e Mountain.

Back then, transportation was difficult in the Daba

Mountains, and the only way to access the outside world was a road along the stream. The villagers had to start off on foot at 4 a. m. , carrying their produce on shoulders and backs for sale outside the village, and couldn't return until 8 p. m. Seeing this, Zhou Yongkai was determined to improve people's life there and declared that "I would dive off the cliff at Xuantian Pass if I failed to build electric cables and proper roads into the Hua'e Mountain."

Xiang Erfang, who was in his 30s at the time, dared not even think of building a road on the cliff. He followed Zhou Yongkai to Dazhou for three times to raise start-up funds for the village road. Due to the lack of funds, the project went on and off. Intending to help, Zhou Yongkai invited the then mayor of Wanyuan City to the mountains to closely observe how things were going there. In October 2004, a hard-surfaced road finally reached Xiangjiaping village. In 2007, his efforts resulted in electric power supply in Xiangjiaping village, "the last village without electricity" in Dazhou City.

With all the honorary titles, Zhou Yongkai did not rest on his laurels; instead, he worked more diligently on what he could. In his 31 years of retirement, Zhou Yongkai has

insisted on teaching Party lessons, hoping to educate and guide people to adhere to the original aspiration, to be grateful toward the Party, and to follow the Party. “Time flies, the mountain roads that I used to walk is now too difficult for me, but I in my heart, I will never stop on the road of faith of a Communist Party member!” Zhou said.

**“With Cold Iron-chain Bridge River Dadu  
is Spanned”-the Triumphant  
Seizure of Luding Bridge**

Of the trying Long March the Red Army makes light;  
Thousands of rivers and mountains are barriers slight.  
The five serpentine ridges outspread like rippling rills;  
The pompous Wumeng peaks tower but like mole-hills.  
Against warm cloudy cliffs beat waves of Golden Sand;  
With cold iron-chain bridge River Dadu is spanned.  
Glad to see the Min Range snow-clad for miles and miles,  
Our warriors who have crossed it break into broad smiles.

“With cold iron-chain bridge River Dadu is spanned” refers to the triumphant seizure of Luding Bridge by the Red Army during the Long March.

As Mao Zedong and other central leaders arrived at Anshunchang Ferry on May 26, 1935, they decided to split the Red Army into two columns: the 1st division of the 1st Corps (the right column) and cadres marched northward on

the eastern bank; the 2nd division and the 5th army (the left column) led by Lin Biao marched northward on the western bank. The two columns would cross the Dadu River at Luding Bridge, 160 km upstream to ensure the main force would cross the river quickly.

After learning the Red Army had successfully passed through the region of the Yi ethnic group, climbed over the Daliang mountains, seized Anshunchang Ferry and began to cross the river there, Chiang Kai-shek hurried to Chengdu from Chongqing to deploy his troops to head for Dadu River. Chiang had hoped that Anshunchang would be where Mao would repeat the tragedy of Shi Dakai. But he understood this depended heavily on whether his army would successfully defend Luding Bridge.

Luding Bridge was a suspension bridge built from 1705 to April 4, 1706, during Qing dynasty. Once completed, the chasm of Dadu River became a thoroughfare straight, which can be proven from the engraving on a monument at one end of the bridge: tens of thousands of mountains spread around Luding Bridge, the summits towers up thousands of miles into clouds. The entrance has the words “Luding Bridge” in the calligraphy of Qing Emperor



Kangxi, meaning “peace in Lushui”.

On 27 May, the right column, led by Liu Bocheng and Nie Rongzhen, marched toward Luding City on the east bank of the Dadu river. It took the four regiments even days to cross the river with merely four ferries. Passing over mountain ridges on narrow, winding roads, the right column defeated two defense lines from its foe and pressed on to Luding City.

Spearheaded by Huang Kaixiang and the political commissar Yang Chengwu, the 4th Regiment on the west bank started off on the dusk of 27 from Anshunchang Ferry. Under the slogan “race with time, race with the enemy, stay resolute in the mission and seize Luding Bridge”, the left column overcame fatigue and hunger and defeated the enemies while advancing rapidly day and night. The right and left columns marched upstream simultaneously toward Luding Bridge.

On May 28, Mao received a piece of intelligence saying Liu Wenhui, commander of the 24th Corps of KMT, for fear that Chiang would blame him for the loss of Luding Bridge, arrived at the frontline Hanyuan County and commanded Yuan Guorui, brigadier of the 4th Brigade, to rein-

force defense at Luding City. Therefore, the 4th regiment of Lin Biao's 2nd division, 1st Corps of the Chinese Red Army, received an urgent order from general headquarters: Luding Bridge must be captured on May 29, 1935, one day ahead of the original schedule.

Upon receiving the order at 5 am, the 4th regiment was still 120 kilometers away from Luding Bridge, and there was only 24 hours left for them. For soldiers, military orders weigh heavier than mountains. Huang and Yang commanded their unit to travel light and swiftly toward Luding Bridge regardless of any hardships. Defeating barriers set by two Kuomintang Companies, they finally reached Shangtinaba, a county 5 kilometers from Luding. Closing in on Luding Bridge, the Red Army split up: one column climbed Haizi Mountain on the west end of Luding Bridge to control the high ground; while the other headed straight to the west end of the bridge.

A few hours before the 4th regiment's arrival, two Battalions from the 4th Regiment of the 24th Corps of KMT had entered Luding City and barricaded the east end of the bridge. Worse still, the enemies had removed most of the planks on that end of the bridge. Planks on the east

end of the bridge, however, were intact because the enemies failed to predict such a quick arrival of the Red Army. Meanwhile, two more regiments of reinforcement were summoned to Luding City.

In the noon of May 29, the 4th regiment called for a meeting for all cadres in Shaba Catholic Church. The meeting mobilized all battle forces and teamed up a small volunteer force of 22 members, led by Liao Dazhu and Wang Haiyun, to take the bridge. At 4 pm, the 4th regiment launched attack on the east end of the bridge and Luding City. The 22 heroes, each carrying a tommy-gun or a pistol, a broadsword and hand grenades on their waist, crept across on the swaying bridge chains in the teeth of intense enemy fire. The blare of the bugles, the firing and the shouts of the men reverberated through the valley. Behind them came the men of the Third Company, each carrying a plank in addition to full battle gear. They fought and laid planks at the same time to make sure the central army can cross the bridge. Approaching the east end, the enemy set fire to the bridge. The blaze, reddening the sky, licked fiercely across the end of the bridge. The Red Army's assault force swiftly plunged into the flames toward Luding

City, followed by the rearguard. After a two-hour street battle, the enemies were defeated. At last, the Red Army took the Luding city and claimed grand triumph over the seizure of the Luding Bridge.

Liu and Nie marched toward Luding Bridge after the right column's successful occupation of Longbapu. It was midnight when they arrived. Liu and Nie visited the then famous suspension bridge with Yang, under the light of a lantern. Ensuing this, Mao, Zhou, and the central Red Army crossed the natural stronghold of Dadu River on Luding Bridge. Chiang's fantasy of attacking on the north end and barricading the south end of Dadu River and thus making the Red Army repeating the mistake of Shi Dakai bankrupted long before he could mobilize troops.

**Mao Zedong: “Until Panzhihua was Built,  
I would not Sleep Well a Single Day.”**

During the Third-Front Construction in China (1964—1980), the development and construction of Panzhihua, as instructed by Mao Zedong, was elevated to the strategic height of national survival and placed at the core of the “Big Third Front” (Da sanxian) construction, thus attracting considerable attentions and concerns.

On a special train stopping only at Nanjing and Bengbu on May 10 and 11, 1964, Mao Zedong listened to a report from the leading group of the National Planning Commission on the preliminary ideas for the Third Five-Year Plan. He declared that “if Jiuquan and Panzhihua Steel aren’t built, I will never be at ease in the event of China being drawn into war.” On May 27, at a Politburo meeting on the Third Front layout, Mao stated that “the First Front is the coast. From Baotou steel plant (in Inner Mongolia) to Lanzhou (in Gansu Province) is the Second Front, and the southwest is the Third Front. The iron ore

in Panzhihua must be exploited, and it must be exploited with all our money. In the age of atomic bombs, not having a rear defense area just won't do. The Party has to avail itself of its revolutionary past and prepares to go to the mountains and there still needs to be a place to go...If there is a problem with Beijing, as long as there is Panzhihua, then the problem will be solved. If Beijing is flooded, we still have Panzhihua as a safe haven. Thus, we should build what Panzhihua needs in terms of transportation, coal, and electricity. ”

On June 8, 1964, Mao Zedong presided over an enlarged Politburo meeting. He emphasized that “the Panzhihua Iron and Steel Industrial Base should be built quickly but not sloppily. Until Panzhihua was built, I would not sleep well a single day... If you do not build Panzhihua, I would ride a donkey to get there and hold a meeting about founding the Third Front. If there is not enough money, you can use my publication royalties and wages...It is best to build the railroad through Panzhihua from both ends.” On July 15, Mao talked with Zhou Enlai, Peng Zhen, and He Long in the Yinian Hall of Zhongnanhai and pointed out that “we haven't built Panzhihua and Jiuquan Steel which

must be built. And if materials are not enough for building several railroads, we should at least lay the Chengdu-Kunming Railroad through Panzhihua.”

On August 17, 1964, the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee convened a meeting to discuss issues associated with the Third-Front Construction, and Mao stressed that “the development of Panzhihua is a strategic issue, and it’s not merely about the construction of iron and steel mills. Although actions have been taken, we still have to step up our efforts. It is imperative to anticipate the worst and take precautions. Failing to build the Third Front areas now is like failing to go to the countryside during the Great Revolution. Essentially, it is a matter of revolution or not……” On September 12, at a gathering in Hangzhou, Mao Zedong was briefed on the planning of railroads in Southwest China. He pointed out that “stopping the construction of Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou railroads without mapping out other plans makes no sense. Not building Panzhihua also makes no sense. Haven’t we known for a long time that Panzhihua has a mine? Why didn’t we build it? If you don’t arrange for it to be done, then I will ride my donkey to Xichang. If you lack invest-

ment, I will give my publication royalties and wages.” On October 19, Mao Zedong chaired a Politburo meeting at the Chrysanthemum House in Zhongnanhai in Beijing. He claimed that “in short, there is no need to compress the Third Front into southwestern Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan, and Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia borderlands, since there is also western Hunan, western Hubei, and western Henan. In addition, industrial bases of Panzhihua, Jiuquan, and Changyang must be built.”

The constant emphasis and impetus from Chairman Mao accelerated the development and construction of Panzhihua. On November 26, Mao Zedong, together with Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping and Peng Zhen, was briefed on Li Fuchun and Bo Yibo’s visit to Panzhihua, the third front area in southwestern China. Mao asserted that “since Panzhihua has iron and coal reserve, why not build plants and mills there? Just ‘nail’ industrial base into Panzhihua.”

On February 23, 1965, Lyu Dong and Xu Chi, the Minister and Vice Minister of Metallurgy, submitted a written report on the construction progress of Panzhihua Iron and Steel Industrial Base to Bo Yibo. On February 24,



Bo Yibo signed the report with comments and forwarded it to CPC leaders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping and Peng Zhen. On March 4, Mao Zedong gave his written instruction on this report, stating that “the job is well done”.

This written instruction was referred to as the “March Fourth Instruction” in Panzhihua history. It applauded the efforts made by the Ministry of Metallurgy, the Party Committee of the Panzhihua Special Zone, as well as the Panzhihua Construction Headquarter since its inception. It also endorsed the idea of completing the Panzhihua Iron and Steel Industrial Base ahead of schedule by one or two years, greatly inspiring the Ministry of Metallurgy and the Panzhihua Special Zone. In 1984, the day when this Instruction was given—March 4—was appointed as the “Development and Construction Commemoration Day of Panzhihua” by the Dukou CPC Committee and Dukou Municipal People’s Government.

Mao Zedong was determined to develop and construct Panzhihua with a strategic vision that was in line with the great cause of the international communist movement, historical trends, and national interests. His vision played a

decisive role in promoting the comprehensive development of Panzhihua and building of its Iron and Steel Industrial Base.

Under the cordial care of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman Mao, constructors from across the nation surmounted formidable challenges. These challenges included building an integrated iron and steel complex on a 2.5 square kilometer sloped terrain, smelting vanadium-titanium magnetite in conventional blast furnaces, and building the Chengdu-Kunming Railroad through a “geologically restricted area.” These efforts culminated in the creation of Pangang, the largest modern industrial base in Southwest China and the center of a strategic layout termed the “two bases, one railroad”. Panzhihua emerged as a shining example and successful representation of the national Third Front Construction.

Today, Panzhihua has been fully integrated into the Panxi National Strategic Resources Innovation and Development Pilot Area, becoming the largest base for vanadium-titanium raw materials and steel products in China, and the world’s second-largest producer of vanadium products. The city is committed to enlarging and enhancing key

industries, including vanadium-titanium, health and wellness, and clean energy. It has been hailed as one of “China’s Happiest Cities” for three consecutive years, and a leading example in the initiative to create a demonstration zone for shared prosperity in Sichuan Province. Panzhihua’s 60-year journey of explorations and practices stands as a successful microcosm of Chinese socialist industrialization and a lively demonstration of Chinese-style modernization.

Reflecting on the past and appreciating the present, the people of Panzhihua will always be respectful to Comrade Mao Zedong for his foundational work, pioneering contributions, and exploratory achievements!

## **Deng Xiaoping Lights a Fire in His Home Province—Sichuan**

In September 1978, when Comrade Deng Xiaoping was conducting an inspection in Northeast China, he said: “I have lighted fires here and there: one fire here, one in Guangzhou, and one in Chengdu.” Deng Xiaoping “lighted a fire in Chengdu” with the instructions he gave after having listened to the reports of the comrades of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee on February 2, 1978 when he visited Chengdu. He was in favor of the provisions made by the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee concerning the current rural economic policies, for he emphasized that problems should be solved on the site and that we should not sit and wait for solutions from the central government. He spoke to the comrades: “There are policy problems in both rural and urban sectors. I heard in Guangdong that, in some places, a farmer is a socialist if he has three ducks, but if he has five ducks he is a capitalist. That’s ridiculous! Farmers are not allowed to manage agri-

cultural production on their own initiatives at all—this won't work. Rural policies and urban policies need to be reexamined by the local governments as well as by the central government. If you can handle some of them within your own capacities, just go ahead. Local governments should be allowed some latitude.” Under the guidance of Comrade Deng Xiaoping, the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee distributed to departments concerned at prefecture, city, and county levels the “Provisions on Several Main Issues Concerning Current Rural Economic Policies” on February 5, 1978, which was applauded by rural officials and people. Thus, Sichuan took the lead on the path of reform, starting to try out the household contract responsibility system and to reform the people's commune system.

Back in early 1977, farmers of the Second Production Team of the Fifth Brigade of Xigao Commune in Guanghan County, Sichuan Province, secretly “drew lots” to allocate the collectively owned farmland to individual households—an attempt to practice the household contract responsibility system. It turned out to be successful—the farmers' income increased significantly. In 1978, the Party Commit-

tee of Guanghan County launched a pilot production model in the Jinyu Commune, which featured “working in groups of fixed number of farmers, and setting production quota, with surplus production as bonus”. The total grain production grew by 22% compared to the previous year. This particular reform case is the prelude to the grand drama of the rural economic reform that would benefit hundreds of millions of farmers. In fact, Guanghan can be regarded as one of the cradles of rural reform in China.

In September 1978, Chang Guangnan, Secretary of the Guanghan County Party Committee, shared the experience gained from the pilot production model in the Jinyu Commune at a provincial meeting where county-level Party secretaries gathered. The Provincial Party Committee requested that the valuable experience be learned from and fettered minds be liberated, thus accelerating the pace of agricultural development. Then, the Provincial Party Committee sent a panel to conduct research in Jinyu Commune, who handed in after the trip the report “Working in Groups of Fixed Number of Farmers, and Setting Production Quota, with Surplus Production as Bonus: A General Picture of Jinyu Commune’s Production Responsibility

System.” This report was published in the 71st issue of the Work Briefing of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee Office, and then it was distributed to the Party committees of cities, prefectures and counties, and to provincial-level organs. The purpose was to promote the practice across Sichuan province. By July 1979, 57.6% of the production teams in Sichuan province had implemented this production system.

On March 15, 1979, the People’s Daily carried on its front page a reader’s letter, which raised objections to the practice of the household responsibility system. Going along with the letter was the editor’s note, which supported the objections by making critical comments on the system. This letter caused ideological confusion throughout China, thus creating obstacles to the implementation of rural reform. The Sichuan Provincial Party Committee made prompt responses by conducting discussions and analyses. On March 19, instructions were made by telephone to the secretaries of the Party committees of cities and prefectures. Two days later, an official document was issued and sent to those secretaries, reaffirming that the central government’s decision remained unchanged and that

the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee was on the side of Jinyu Commune's practice. This positive attitude was actually ascribable to Deng Xiaoping's acquiescence and support.

Afterwards, with Deng Xiaoping's support and endorsement, the people of Sichuan drove rural reform further and further. But the people's commune system in which government administration and economic management were highly integrated found itself hard to suit the newly established household contract responsibility system. In September 1980, the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee made an attempt in reforming the people's commune system in Xiangyang Commune, Guanghan County; the reform was to separate powers between the Party and government, and separate functions between government administration and economic management. Eventually, Xiangyang People's Commune was replaced by Xiangyang Township, and the plate inscribed with "Xiangyang Township People's Government" was hung up on the gate of the local government office. It is little wonder that Xiangyang was known as "the first township of rural reform in China". By the end of 1984, the reform of separating government



administration and economic management had been completed across China. At this point, China's rural sector had achieved the most substantial and significant transformation from the people's commune system to the household contract responsibility system, with Sichuan province once more taking the lead.

Looking back on the rural reforms in Sichuan during the early stages of reform and opening up, we should say that all of them were undertaken with the support and endorsement of Comrade Deng Xiaoping. It is Deng Xiaoping who gave consent to Sichuan province to conduct the pilot practice of household contract responsibility system, and it was Deng Xiaoping who espoused the structural reform of “separating powers between government and society, and separating functions between government administration and economic management.” His support and espousal were based on his principle of seeking truth from facts, was owing to his attitude of respecting the trail-blazing spirit of the people, and was ascribable to his aspiration of achieving prosperity for all. The rural sector in Sichuan today is accelerating its overall revitalization pace, with the aim of creating a richer “Tianfu granary” in the new era. Deng Xi-

aoping's legacy constitutes a source of inspiration for us to forge ahead and create a new chapter of Chinese-type modernization in Sichuan.

## **Cliff Village, on the Road to Happiness**

In Guli township, Zhaojue county, Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, there is a village located on slope area near the mountain ridge of the Meigu River Canyon, Atulieer village, which the outside world prefers to call it “cliff village”. It is about 1,400 meters above sea level with an elevation drop of about 800 meters between the village and the bottom of the cliff.

In the past, the villagers climbed down and up on the rattan ladders leading into the sky. No one knew the exact origin of the rattan ladder, but according to senior villagers' accounts, the ancestors of Atulieer village migrated here more than 200 years ago to escape wars. There was no road then, but their ancestors built this rattan ladder. After hundreds of years of weathering, the rattan ladder appears old and fragile.

In the spring of 2016, 15 village children set foot on the road home from the Le'er Primary School at the foot of the

cliff. They climbed up the rattan ladders on the cliff, escorted by three parents. This scene was filmed by media reporters. The report, with a photo of more than a dozen of school children carrying heavy schoolbags and struggling on the rattan ladders with determined faces, went viral on social media. “Cliff village” became the concern of millions of Chinese people and of Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

After the media report on the “cliff village”, the local government has allocated funds to replace the rattan ladders with a steel ladder with increased support from government at all levels. Soon, the villagers saw the steel ladder with more than 1,500 steel pipes and more than 6,000 fasteners standing on the cliff, along the 2,556 steps of which they could go up and down the cliff safely.

On March 8, 2017, General Secretary mentioned the transportation problem of the “cliff village” while participating in the deliberation of Sichuan delegation during the two sessions of the National People’s Congress. He said, “Last year, when I read the media report on the ‘cliff village’ in Liangshan Prefecture, I felt very sorry for the villagers and the children climbing up and down the cliff on

the rattan ladders on the cliff all the year round. Not long ago, I read about the new steel ladder and felt a bit relieved.”

Such words quickly spread throughout the country, further driving people’s attention to the “cliff village”.

Near the “cliff village” is the entire contiguous area of extreme poverty in the Daliangshan Mountains. How can we win the battle against poverty? The villagers recalled Xi’s words: the central government will increase support for poverty alleviation in Sichuan, which mainly depends on where the poverty is deeper and heavier. Poverty alleviation work must be done with meticulous accuracy like “doing embroidery”, with efforts targeted to the village, to the household, and to the individual, and there must be tailored policies and precise measures as for whom to support, who to support, how to support, and how to withdraw.

At the beginning of 2018, with the joint efforts of the village officials and villagers, the teachers and children of Le’er Primary School moved into the long-awaited five-story new teaching building. The school was equipped with everything needed: a cafeteria, playgrounds, dormitories

and washrooms. Education has given wings to the children of “cliff village” and also nurtured new hopes for the development of “cliff village”. With full coverage 4G signals, villagers in “Cliff village” livestream to the outside world about their daily life via network platforms. “Cliff village” has thus become a “hotspot”. In July 2019, with high-quality medical resources allocated to deeply impoverished areas, “Cliff village” became a pilot village of 5G+ smart medical treatment for “health poverty alleviation” in Sichuan Province. “Cliff Village” was registered as the brand name of a series of local produce; the local people took to large-scale olive planting, and navel orange, walnut, green Sichuan pepper, and Sanqi (notoginseng) planting, and sold their products on the e-commerce platform. They made use of the unique local tourism resources of canyons, karst caves, hot springs, primitive forests, cliffs, and the Yi culture, and gradually build the “cliff village” into a well-known destination of mountain tours and holiday tours, and a destination for the Yi agricultural tourism and demonstration base of poverty relief through culture and tourism. The transformation of “cliff village” is the fruit of the hard work of the people in the Daliangshan

Mountains who braved the cliffs and blazed a trail in poverty alleviation with accurately targeted efforts.

On February 11, 2018, a fleet of off-road vehicles was running all the way to Sanchahe Township, Zhaojue County across the Magu Hupu Mountain ridge, which is more than 3,000 meters above sea level. It was Xi Jinping, the General Secretary, who went to the Daliangshan Mountains during his inspection tour to Sichuan. During this inspection, he asked about the current situation of the “cliff village”. The villagers went wild with excitement over television report on the General Secretary’s concern for them.

“From my inspection to Liangshan Yi prefecture this time, I can see that you have indeed made efforts like ‘doing embroidery’, the Yi area and the life of Yi people are undergoing profound changes. I’ve learned from the Liangshan Dailyreport that Atuleer village, Zhiermo Township of Zhajue County, the “cliff village”, now has been equipped with a new steel ladders, and the villagers’ income has been greatly increased; the village now has internet access and electricity supply. I feel relieved and happy.”

In mid-May 2020, 84 households from the “cliff

village” brought their children and elders down the mountain along the sky ladder and moved into their new apartments in the poverty alleviation relocation site in the northern suburbs of Zhaojue County, which is also the largest resettlement site in Sichuan Province. Coming with the beautiful new homes are job opportunities on the doorstep, and a complete set of skill training ... The Yi villagers experienced the transformation from “rattan ladders” to “steel ladders” and then to “staircases”, and their long-cherished wish to move out of the inaccessible mountains and living in the modern county town finally got realized.

The transformation of the “cliff village” is a representative of Liangshan’s poverty alleviation achievements, and also a vivid epitome of the victory of the national poverty alleviation. People getting out of the “cliff village” are looking forward to a new life, and the young people who stay in the “cliff village” are also full of confidence in the future. Under the starry night sky is the surging hope of entrepreneurs in the quiet “cliff village”. The steep cliff, and the “cliff village” on the cliff, will become new attractions for cultural tourism in their blueprints!



## **Xi Jinping's Footprints in Sichuan**

During the 49 years from 1974 to 2023, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (hereinafter referred to as CPC), has left deep footprints in the beautiful mountains and rivers of Sichuan province at different times, in different capacities, and for different missions, hence forging a profound friendship with Sichuan people, bringing the Party and the nation's affectionate care to the natives, and putting forward higher requirements and ardent expectations for the development of Sichuan in the new era.

In order to learn biogas technology, young Xi Jinping started two trips to Sichuan in April and December 1974 respectively. On the first trip, he learned how to dig a biogas digester, how to design it, how to seal the mouth, how many coats of cement slurry to paint the walls, and other key technologies. On the second trip, he solved the application problems, namely how to prevent leakage, how to control the pressure, how to eliminate the hazards and other

specific issues. Xi Jinping's second trip to Sichuan lasted for more than 40 days, covering 5 regions and 17 counties, thus became the longest time he lived in Sichuan and the most thorough and detailed investigation here. While learning in Sichuan, he had an all-round, close-up experiences of the beautiful scenery, rich history and simple folk customs of the land, which gave him a lifetime of unforgettable deep feelings for Sichuan.

Xi Jinping came to Sichuan for the third time on May 16, 2004. As Secretary of the Zhejiang Party Committee, Director of the People's Congress Standing Committee, he led a delegation of Party and government officials from Zhejiang Province to Guangyuan City, Zhejiang's counterpart to help. During this visit, Xi conducted on-the-spot investigation and guided the East-West collaboration in poverty alleviation.

“Wherever there are disaster-stricken people, there is earthquake relief, recovery and reconstruction work, there are Party organizations and Party work.” These were the words of Xi Jinping, then a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice President of the People's Republic of

China, when he visited Sichuan in June 2008 to inspect the relief work for the Wenchuan earthquake. This was also Xi's first visit to Sichuan after he came to work for the central government. He went to the earthquake-stricken regions, including Youxian, Pingwu, Beichuan and Jiangyou in Mianyang, Dujiangyan in Chengdu, and Wenchuan in Aba, where he visited the people, the Party members and cadres, disaster relief workers from all aspects, and investigated Party work. At the elementary school with temporary boarding house in Pingtong of Pingwu County, and Yongli Village Primary School in Guixi of Beichuan County, Xi presented extracurricular reading materials to the students, encouraging them to study hard and to help build their hometowns and the motherland with diligence and wisdom when they grow up.

In order to keep track of Sichuan's economic and social development, post-disaster restoration, reconstruction, and Party building, Xi Jinping, then a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Secretary of the Secretariat, and Vice President of the CPC Central Committee, came to Sichuan for the fifth time in August 2011. He went to the rural vil-

lages, enterprises, communities and scientific research institutes of Mianyang, Deyang, and Chengdu to carry out research.

This is Xi's second visit to the disaster-stricken regions after the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake. He asserted that people in quake-hit regions should rely on their own hands to build homes, and that reconstruction work after the earthquake embodies the superiority of the socialist system — concentrating on magnificent things. These assertions are not only a summary of the experience of earthquake relief and post-disaster restoration and reconstruction after the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan, but also a reflection of his exploration of the post-disaster reconstruction mode and his thoughts on it.

On April 20, 2013, a strong earthquake erupted in Lushan, Ya'an city, Sichuan Province. After the earthquake, General Secretary Xi Jinping gave the first important instructions on earthquake rescue and relief. He ordered the military to engage in rescue and relief work immediately, presided over a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to deploy earthquake rescue and relief work on a

full scale, and visited the earthquake-stricken regions from May 21 to 23 to console the people.

During the visit, General Secretary Xi Jinping listened to the report of Sichuan Party Committee and Sichuan Government on the economic and social development. He emphasized that severe disaster can test, exercise and improve the Party organizations and cadres and it is an opportunity to guide the Party at all levels to strengthen the overall function, to enhance Party members and cadres in ideological and political education, to improve the work style on their own initiative. In this way, the Party members will be ready to help people in need on the occasions of dangers and difficulties.

This was Xi Jinping's first visit to Sichuan province since he became General Secretary, and also his third visit to Sichuan to guide the work of earthquake relief and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. His instructions and directives have pointed out the direction and path for our province to explore a new mode of post-disaster restoration and reconstruction, as a result, a new way of post-disaster restoration and reconstruction was born: the central government coordinates and directs, localities implement as

the main body, and people in the disaster region participate extensively.

From February 10 to 13, 2018, just on the occasion of the Lunar New Year, a traditional Chinese festival, General Secretary Xi Jinping visited Sichuan to conduct research on the implementation of the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the CPC, the Central Economic Work Conference and the Central Rural Work Conference. He visited and condoled with cadres and masses of all ethnic groups. Once again, Xi Jinping recalled his visits to Sichuan in the 1970s to learn biogas technology and the deep impression left by Sichuan on him. He described, with deep affection for the Sichuan People, the vivid scenes of his five visits to Sichuan for investigation and research after working for the central government.

On his trip to Sichuan in June 2022, General Secretary Xi Jinping made his first stop in Meishan, where he conducted research in rural areas and cultural relics protection site. At a high-standard rice planting base in Yongfeng Village, Taihe Town, Dongpo District, Meishan City, Xi affirmed that Yongfeng Village's adherence to grain cultivation helps ensure national food security, and emphasized

that the Chengdu Plain, known as the “Land of Heavenly Capital” since ancient times, should strictly abide by the principles of arable land, protect this grain-producing land, and tighten the grip on grain production to create a higher level of the “Heavenly Breadbasket” in the new era. In the center of Meishan City, Xi Jinping learned about the lives of Su Xun, Su Shi and Su Zhe, their main literary achievements and family tradition, the history of the San Su Shrine Museum, and the research and development of Su Shi’s cultural heritage. He pointed out that Chinese civilization has a history of more than 5,000 years, we should admire the excellent traditional Chinese culture with unwavering confidence.

In the second stop Yibin, after listening to the introduction of ecological restoration and protection of the Yangtze River Basin and the implementation of bans on fishing and retiring, Xi Jinping pointed out that the protection of ecological environment is a prerequisite for the high-quality development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and also a must to guard the cradle of Chinese civilization. Sichuan is located in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, therefore we should be aware of the overall situation, establish

the consciousness of the upper reaches firmly, stick to the protection policy, so as to build a solid ecological barrier in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, and to guard the clear waters of the river.

During his visit at Yibin University, where a corporate recruitment campaign is held, Xi Jinping went to enterprise leaders for the recruitment information, talked with lecturers and students to learn the employment rate. He emphasized that the CPC Central Committee attaches great importance to the employment of college graduates, and has adopted a series of policies and measures to this end. It is a vital stage for the graduates to get employed, and we should further integrate job resources, provide practical and detailed guidance. The university, enterprises and relevant departments should work together on the contracting and implementation, especially for those poverty-stricken families, low-income families, zero-employment families, and the graduates with disabilities who have been unemployed for a longer period of time, as a key target of assistance. Xi told the students that a happy life is created by hard work, and they should keep a down-to-earth mind, look objectively at their personal conditions and social needs,



choose jobs in a realistic manner, keep their feet on the ground, and grow up step by step. He encouraged them to put the core socialist values in practice, and strive to achieve all-round development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness and aesthetics.

From July 25 to 26, 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping came to Sichuan. This time he made particular trips to two places: Cuiyunlang (part of the Ancient Shu Road) in Guangyuan City; Sanxingdui Museum in Deyang City. From the “10,000 trees on 300-li road” of the ancient cypress communities, to the “sleeping for thousands of years, yet shocked the world once awakened” of the ancient city, along the footprints of the General Secretary, you can clearly see his deep concern for the construction of ecological civilization and the development of cultural heritage, which are of vital importance to the sustainable development of the Chinese nation.

General Secretary Xi Jinping’s 9 trips to Sichuan demonstrate his deep feelings for the Sichuan people, reflect his sublime spirit. “I will keep the people in my mind, and live up to them.” The very essence of his brilliant philosophy manifests his consistent style of truth-seeking and pragma-

tism, and entrusts his ardent expectations for the development of Sichuan. Xi's visits guide us to put the deployment into practice and encourage us to engage in the construction of Chinese modernization.