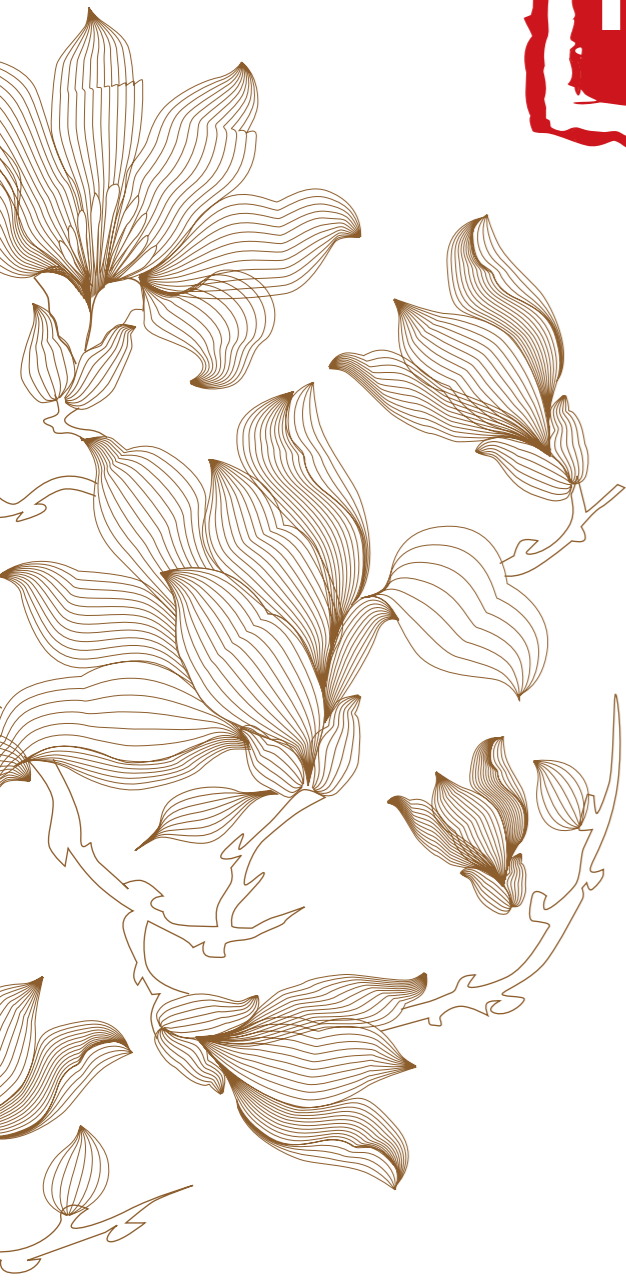




“THE ABCS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA” SERIES

SYSTEMS OF INTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY AND LIFE





Introduction

“I will cast my sacred vote to exercise my democratic right,” said Zhu Guoping, Secretary of the Party Branch of the Hongchu Residential Community in Shanghai, in an interview of a group of people given by the Press Center of the Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) about “the building of primary Party organizations and new situations and tasks” on the evening of October 19, 2007.



Five delegates representing primary Party organizations and Party members to the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC speak with reporters. Zhu Guoping, second from right.

The CPC is a unified body organized in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. It has regarded achieving democracy, freedom and happiness for the people as its objectives since its very founding. Although they took a tortuous path of developing intra-Party democracy, the Chinese Communists have never stopped promoting that democracy consciously. Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh CPC Central Committee held in 1978, in addition to promoting reform and opening up, the CPC has redoubled its efforts to improve socialist democracy and the socialist legal system and worked hard to promote its intra-Party democracy. In October 2002, the Sixteenth National Congress of the CPC observed, “Intra-Party democracy is the life of the Party.” In October 2007, its Seventeenth National Congress noted that it is essential to “respect the principal position of Party members and guarantee their democratic rights.” During recent years, various democratic systems focusing on implementing Party members’ rights to know, to participate, to elect and to oversee have been constantly introduced and improved, the intra-Party atmosphere has been become increasingly democratic and the Party has displayed new vigor and vitality.

Link: Eight rights of Party members as prescribed in the Constitution of the CPC.

- 1) To attend relevant Party meetings, read relevant Party documents, and benefit from the Party’s education and training.
- 2) To participate in the discussion of questions concerning the Party’s policies at Party meetings and in Party newspapers and journals.
- 3) To make suggestions and proposals regarding the work of the Party.
- 4) To make well-grounded criticism of any Party organization or member at Party meetings, to present information or charges against any Party organization or member concerning violations of discipline or the law to the Party in a responsible way, to demand disciplinary measures against such a member, or call for dismissal or replacement of any incompetent cadre.
- 5) To participate in voting and elections and to stand for election.
- 6) To attend, with the right of self-defense, discussions held by Party organizations to decide on disciplinary measures to be taken against themselves or to appraise their work and behavior; other Party members may also bear witness or argue on their behalf.
- 7) In case of disagreement with a Party resolution or policy, to make reservations and present their views to Party organizations at higher levels even up to the Central Committee, provided that they resolutely carry out the resolution or policy while it is in force.
- 8) To put forward any request, appeal, or complaint to higher Party organizations even up to the Central Committee and ask the organizations concerned for a responsible reply.

1

Intra-Party Rights Come from Party Members: the Intra-Party Electoral System

1. Intra-Party elections are widespread and universal.



The election scope is wide. Members from the CPC's primary organizations – Party branch committees – to the Party's highest-level body – the Central Committee – are all elected. This is clearly specified in the CPC's Constitution. According to Clause 2 of Article 10 of the Constitution, "The Party's leading bodies at all levels are elected except for the representative organs dispatched by them and the leading Party members' groups in non-Party organizations." According to Paragraph 2, Article 29, Chapter V of the Constitution, "A primary Party committee is elected by a general membership meeting or a meeting of delegates, and the committee of a general Party branch or a Party branch is elected by a general membership meeting." Voters and candidates for elections are universal. All full members except probationary members and those who are placed on probation within the Party are entitled to exercise the right to vote, elect and stand for election, and this is the sacred and inviolable right of Party members that no Party organizations up to the Central Committee have the right to deprive them of.

Link: Electing a new Central Committee and new local Party committees at all levels.



On October 21, 2007, delegates to the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC voted for members and alternate members of the Central Committee and members of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.



On December 16, 2006, the First Plenary Session of the Twelfth CPC Committee of Jiangxi Province was held in Nanchang. At the session 13 members of the Standing Committee of the Twelfth CPC Committee were elected by secret ballot in a multi-candidate election, Meng Jianzhu was elected Secretary of the Twelfth CPC Committee and Wu Xinxiong and Wang Xiankui Deputy Secretaries.



On the morning of July 28, 2009, the Lijiacheng Community in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, held an election for its CPC Branch. In the multi-candidate election, members of the general Party branch were elected by secret ballot, Bian Liuqing was elected Secretary of the branch and Li Shuqin Deputy Secretary.

2. The method of election fully embodies the will of voters.

According to the Constitution of the CPC, “The election of delegates to Party congresses and of members of Party committees at all levels should reflect the will of voters. Elections shall be held by secret ballot. The lists of candidates shall be submitted to the Party organizations and voters for full deliberation and discussion. . . . The voters have the right to inquire about the candidates, demand a change or reject one in favor of another. No organization or individual shall in any way compel voters to elect or not to elect any candidate.”

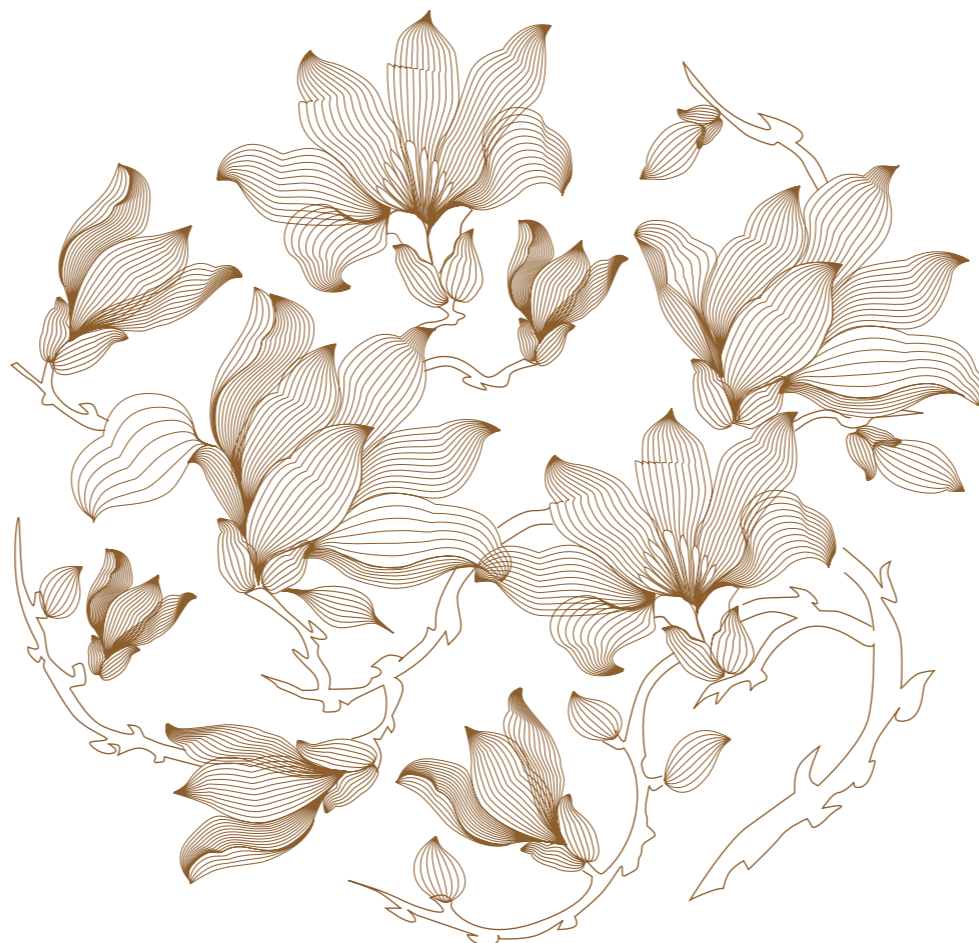
– Direct elections and indirect elections

Both direct and indirect elections are held, and this is in conformity with China’s conditions, fully embodies the will of voters and ensures that Party members exercise their democratic right as masters of the Party. In general, indirect intra-Party elections are held in the Party’s central and local organizations and some of its primary organizations at Party congresses attended by delegates to these congresses and members of Party committees and commissions for discipline inspection or delegates to attend Party congresses at higher levels. Direct intra-Party elections are generally held in primary Party organizations at conferences of Party members to elect branch Party branches, general Party branches, primary Party committees or delegates to attend Party congresses at higher levels.

– Multi-candidate elections and the pre-election system

In accordance with the Regulations on the Election of the Local Organizations of the CPC and the Provisional Regulations on the Election of Primary Organizations of the CPC, multi-candidate elections must be held for the following intra-Party posts in local and primary Party organizations: 1) delegates to local Party congresses at all levels and to primary Party congresses and delegates to local Party conferences at all levels who must be elected; 2) members and alternate members of local Party committees at all levels and members of the Party’s commissions for discipline inspection at all levels; 3) members of the primary committees, general branch committees, branch committees and commissions for discipline inspection of the Party; and 4) members of the standing committees of local Party committees at all levels, members of the standing committees of primary Party committees, and members of the standing committees of the Party’s local commissions for discipline inspection at all levels and the Party’s primary commissions for discipline inspection.

According to the Constitution of the CPC, in intra-Party elections, “The multi-candidate election procedure may be used directly in a formal election or this procedure may be used first in a pre-election in order to draw up a list of candidates for formal elections.” This means multi-candidate elections are held in two ways. One is that formal elections are held in which the number of candidates nominated is greater than the number of persons to be elected. The other is that multi-candidate pre-elections are held in order to draw up a list of candidates for formal elections. This is generally done when too many candidates are nominated and official candidates cannot be decided in spite of repeated discussions and consultations.



Link:

During recent years, all localities in the country (except Taiwan and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions) have been working energetically to explore how to expand intra-Party primary democracy. Publicly recommending and directly electing cadres is a typical form of democracy. This practice replaces the unitary nomination by organizations with a combination of the open recommendation by Party members and the general public and the recommendation by Party organizations at higher levels, changes the indirect election of delegates to Party congresses by members of town and township Party committees to their direct election by the entire Party membership, and replaces single-candidate elections with multi-candidate elections. Publicly recommending and directly electing cadres fully fosters democracy, respects and safeguards the democratic rights of voters and embodies their will.

Next I would like to explain this practice citing as an example the public recommendation and direct election of the new members of community Party organizations in Chongwen District, Beijing.

In May 2009, 100% of the new members of community Party organizations in seven subdistricts and 84 communities in Chongwen District, Beijing were publicly recommended and directly elected. First, candidates were all publicly recommended within and without the Party. Recommendation within the Party means Party members were recommended by themselves, other members or Party organizations at higher levels to decide candidates for leaderships of Party organizations. Recommendation without the Party means each group of local residents recommended one candidate. The idea was that on the basis of a majority vote, the leader of the group decided the candidate. Community Party organizations decided the preliminary candidates for Party organizations on the basis of a majority vote by Party members and the general public. Results show that in this election of new members, a total of 112 Party members recommended themselves in the district, 2,169 meetings were held for groups of residents and Party organizations to nominate candidates, 1,097 preliminary candidates were nominated, 620 preliminary candidates were decided both within and without the Party, and 97% of the candidates were recommended both within and without the Party. Second, one-person-one-vote direct elections were held: leaders of Party committees were elected directly instead of indirectly. Previously the leading bodies of Party organizations had elected before leaders of Party committees had been elected at meetings of these leading bodies. Things changed in these elections: candidates delivered speeches and met with their voters. Candidates introduced themselves to Party members of the communities, communicated face-to-face with Party members, and these members were left to vote. After that, meetings of Party members were held to directly elect secretaries, deputy secretaries and members of Party organizations. This significantly increased the transparency in the election of members of the leading bodies of community Party organizations. A total of 486 candidates in Chongwen District gave speeches about their strengths and their work plans after they were elected to introduce to Party members their personal experience, overall quality and strengths. Directly electing publicly recommended candidates helped elevate the district’s Party members’ awareness of democracy and their enthusiasm for election to an unprecedented level. “I must make good use of my vote,” said Liu Jianxin, a 72-year-old senior Party member, when he cast his vote on his wheelchair. According to statistics, over 99% of the districts cast their votes, a record high.

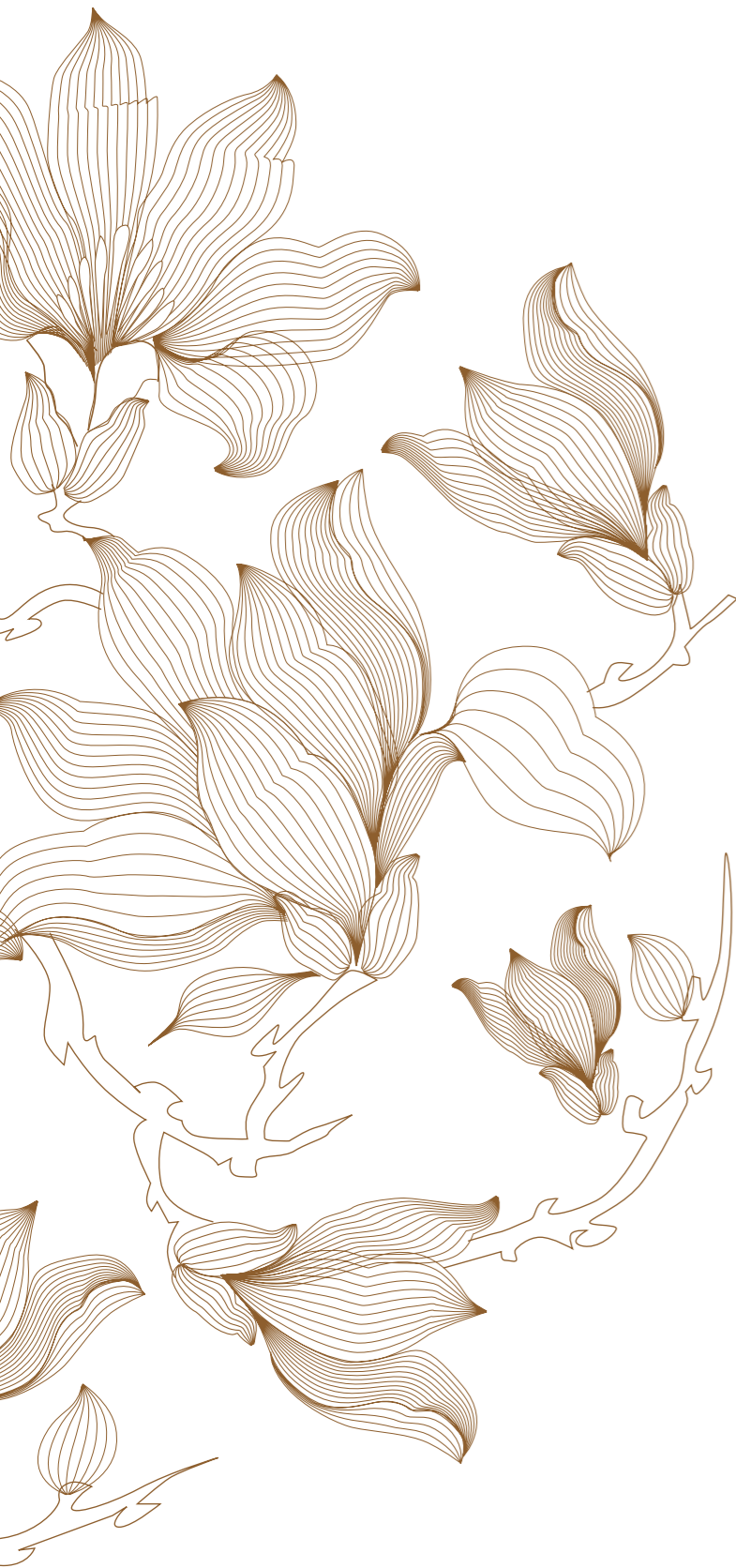
2

Fully Embody the Modern Democratic Spirit: the System of the Party's Congresses



1. The important role the system of the Party's congresses plays in intra- Party democracy

The system of the CPC's congresses fully embodies representative election – the modern democratic spirit. On the one hand, delegates to the Party's national congresses and its local congresses at all levels (hereinafter referred to Party delegates) are elected democratically from among Party members in all regions and fields of endeavor throughout the country. On the other hand, the delegates represent the interests of the entire Party membership, embody the will of Party members, participate in important affairs of the Party, and exercise important functions and powers. During recent years, improving the system of the Party's congresses has been a major move taken by the CPC Central Committee to promote intra-Party democracy. According to the Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Certain Questions Concerning Strengthening and Improving Party Building in the New Situation adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the Seventeenth Central Committee, "We should improve the composition of delegates to the Party's congresses by including more delegates from primary Party organizations and from more areas and fields of endeavor. We need to expand the participation by delegates to the Party's congresses in nominating and recommending candidates, and improve the way candidates are nominated. It is imperative to establish a system whereby delegates to the Party's congresses at all levels make proposals. The system of fixed tenures for delegates to the Party's congresses should be implemented and improved. We need to establish sound systems and methods for delegates to participate in major policymaking, take part in the recommendation and democratic evaluation of important cadres, attend relevant meetings of Party committees as observers, and keep in touch with Party members and the general public. It is essential to do a good job in getting in touch with delegates, ensure they fully exercise all of their rights, and report all the comments and suggestions of Party members. We should continue to implement the system of Party congresses with a fixed term on a trial basis in selected counties, cities and districts."



Link: More democracy in the election of delegates to the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC.

First, when all electoral units held congresses or conferences of the Party to elect their delegates to the Seventeenth National Congress, the number of their candidates were generally more than 15% than the number of posts, an increase of 5 percentage points over the Sixteenth National Congress. Voters had more candidates to choose from so that they could choose the best of them. Second, candidates recommended by Party committees at the county (city) and municipal (prefectural) levels were no longer decided by the standing committees of these Party committees, and they were nominated now by the standing committees and decided at their plenary sessions. This led to the more democratic recommendation of preliminary candidates for delegates and better reflected the will of Party organizations at all levels and Party members. Third, all electoral units posted appropriate public notices about their preliminary candidates for delegates and solicited the opinion of more Party members and members of the general public to subject themselves to their oversight. Fourth, all provincial, district and city Party committees reported the situation to and solicited the opinion of provincial committees of democratic parties, provincial federations of industry and commerce and persons without party affiliation before deciding preliminary candidates for delegates at plenary sessions.

Link: The Political Bureau of the Central Committee is elected at the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC.

On October 22, 2007, the 25-member Political Bureau of the Central Committee was elected at the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC. This time a major change occurred to the way candidates for members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee were selected: These candidates were nominated through democratic recommendation. Earlier on June 25, 2007, the Central Committee of the CPC held a meeting of leading cadres in Beijing to democratically recommend candidates for members of the Political Bureau. Over 400 members and alternate members of the Central Committee of the Sixteenth Central Committee and relevant leaders attended the meeting, and each of them had a vote. This was an important meeting on democratic recommendation held by the CPC. The recommendation made it possible for some outstanding cadres who had both ability and political integrity, had achieved prominent work results and were widely accepted to be selected as candidates for members of the Political Bureau.

2. Implementing the tenure system for delegates to Party congresses and the system of Party congresses with a fixed term on a trial basis

At present, 97 counties, county-level cities and districts in 21 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government (not including Taiwan Province and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions) are implementing the system of Party congresses with a fixed term on a trial basis. The basic content and methods are: implementing the system of Party congresses with a fixed term and the annual meeting system of Party congresses. In May 2008, the Provisional Regulations on the Tenure System for Delegates to the National Congress and the Local Congresses at All Levels of the CPC were promulgated. After that the tenure system for delegates to Party congresses and the supporting system for delegates to make proposals, system of intra-Party information sharing, and system for Party delegates to attend plenary sessions of Party committees as observers were gradually established and improved in all localities. The system of Party congresses with a fixed term and the tenure system for delegates to Party congresses make it possible for Party delegates to fully exercise their rights over Party affairs when Party congresses are not in session and play a major role in respecting the principal position of Party members, safeguarding their democratic rights, increase transparency in Party affairs, and creating an environment for democratic discussion in the Party.



Huizhou Party delegates inspect certificate issuing services of government functionary departments.

Link: A brief introduction to the implementation of the system of Party congresses with a fixed term on a trial basis.

On June 6, 2003, the Resolution of the Eighth Congress of the CPC Huizhou Municipal Committee on Implementing of the System of Party Congresses with a Fixed Term on a Trial Basis and the System of Party Congresses with a Fixed Term of the CPC Huizhou Municipal Committee (for trial implementation) were adopted at the Eighth Congress of the CPC Huizhou Municipal Committee. According to the guiding principles of the congress, the Huizhou Municipal Committee transferred persons from the city's Organization Department of the CPC to establish the Party Delegate Liaison Office, thus beginning the implementation of the system on a trial basis. In March 2004, the Huizhou Regulations on Handling the Proposals and Suggestions of Party Delegates (for trial implementation) were adopted at the Second Session of the Eighth Congress of the CPC Huizhou Municipal Committee. Huizhou was the first city to formally establish the system for the proposals of Party delegates on a trial basis throughout the country (except Taiwan and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions). Today submitting proposals to Party congresses has become a main channel through which Party delegates directly deliberate on Party and government affairs. On March 1, 2005, the Provisional Measures of the CPC Huizhou Committee on Party Delegates' Inspection Tours were formally introduced. Never before had any similar measures been worked out in the country. Huizhou's trial implementation of the system of Party congresses with a fixed term was widely acclaimed by Party delegates. Since 2004, more than 90% of Huizhou's Party delegates have attended each annual session of the Party Congress.

3

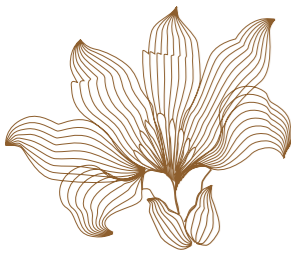
A Combination of Collective Leadership and Division of Responsibilities Among Individuals

The leadership system of the CPC is a combination of the system that combines collective leadership with division of responsibilities among individuals under the principle of democratic centralism.

According to the Constitution of the CPC, "Party committees at all levels function on the system of combining collective leadership with division of responsibilities for individuals. All major issues shall be decided upon by the Party committees after discussion in accordance with the principle of collective leadership, democratic centralism, individual consultations and decision by meetings. The members of the Party committees should earnestly exercise their functions and powers in accordance with the collective decisions taken and division of work."

In order to further uphold and improve collective leadership, the CPC stresses in the political report at its Seventeenth National Congress that "We will strictly implement democratic centralism, improve the system that combines collective leadership with division of responsibilities among individuals, and oppose and prevent arbitrary decision making by an individual or a minority of people." The CPC added to Paragraph 2, Article 21 of its Constitution "The Political Bureau reports its work to the plenary sessions of the Central Committee and accepts their oversight." It also added a paragraph to Article 27 requiring that the standing committees of the local Party committees at all levels regularly report their work to plenary sessions of local Party committees and accept their oversight. At the Fourth Plenary Session of the Seventeenth Central Committee, the CPC made the following requirements on intra-Party democratic decision making mechanism: Before decisions are made, efforts should be made to "strengthen Party committees' consultative work for decision making, conduct good future-oriented and countermeasure-related research on major issues, listen to the comments and suggestions from a wide range of Party members, members of the general public, and cadres at the primary level, and ensure that advisory bodies, experts, scholars and public hearing play their role in the decision-making process. When decisions are made, it is imperative to "ensure that the plenary sessions of Party committees play an important role in making decisions on major issues, improve the rules of procedure and decision-making process of standing committees of Party committees, implement and improve the system of voting whereby local Party committees discuss and decide major issues and placing important cadres, and improve and standardize the system whereby standing committees of Party committees regularly report their work to the plenary sessions of Party committees and accept their oversight." After decisions are made, it is essential to "implement the system of reporting major policy decisions and improve the mechanism of correcting decisions and the system of assigning responsibilities for wrong decisions."

During recent years, focusing on improving the system of combining collective leadership with division of responsibilities among individuals, the Central Committee and local committees of the Party have introduced policies and regulations, innovated their working methods, constantly improved their governance capacity to use democratic methods to reach consensus and carry out work, created a very favorable democratic atmosphere in making intra-Party decisions, listened to differing opinions and prevented individuals or a minority of people from having the final say.



Link: The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee takes the lead in implementing the system of soliciting comments and suggestions concerning major policy decisions.

Before making major policy decisions, the CPC Central Committee attaches great importance to extensively promoting democracy, conducting in-depth investigations and studies, listening to the opinions of all localities and departments and the democratic parties, and holding collective discussions. Previously the Party had referred its draft political reports to its national congresses and draft amendments to its Constitution to only members of provincial and ministerial leading bodies for their comments and suggestions, but it referred its draft political report to its Seventeenth National Congress and draft amendments to its Constitution to more people to include delegates to its Sixteenth National Congress. In addition, it also referred the draft Decision of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Seventeenth Central Committee to members of provincial and ministerial leading bodies and delegates to its Seventeenth National Congress for their comments and suggestions. It also invited some delegates to the Seventeenth National Congress at the primary level to that plenary session. At the primary level, all localities have established the hearing and consultation system before decisions are made on Party affairs.

At local levels, the CPC also attaches great importance to exploring the hearing and consultation system. Take Anyuan County, Jiangxi Province, for example. The county has made a rule that all major Party affairs at the township and village levels are in principle subjected to hearing and consultation. The hearers at the town and township level are mainly Party delegates, representatives of village cadres and veteran cadres and stakeholders, and their number is flexibly decided by towns and townships on the basis of what the hearing and consultation

are about. The operating procedure of the hearing and consultation system is as follows: 1) study and decide topics; 2) decide hearers and consultants; 3) refer topics to hearers and consultants; 4) have interviews with hearers and consultants for their comments and suggestions; and 5) hold hearing and consultation meetings. Centering on the hearing and consultation system, the county established a sound advance notice system for hearing on consultation about Party affairs, a system that keeps hearers in touch with the general public and other supporting measures. The county has integrated the hearing and consultation about Party affairs, the first link in decision making, with the system of referring Party affairs first to Party members, a key link in decision making, and the oversight of implementation of policy decisions, the follow-up link in decision making, in order that decisions are made through discussion and are implemented effectively.



Longtou Village, Chetou Town, Anyuan County, Jiangxi Province, holds a hearing and consultation meeting on Party affairs to study plans for repairing canals.

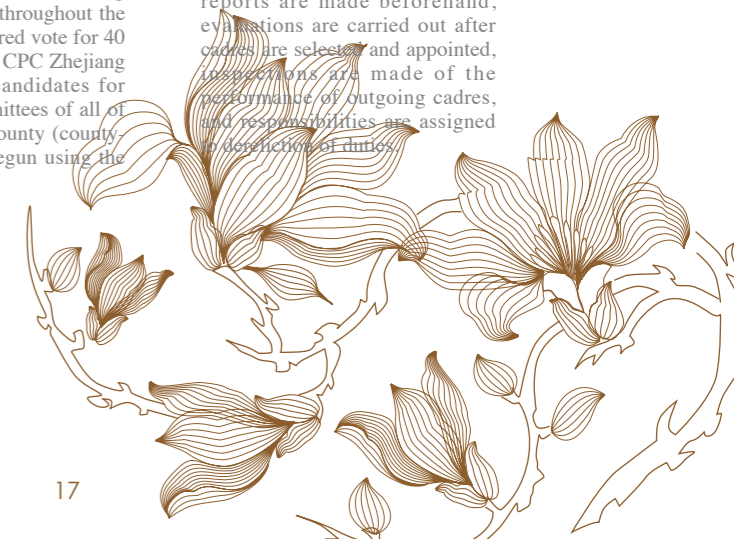
Link: The system of voting for decision making about major policies, important appointments and dismissals, decisions on investment in major projects, and the use of large sums of money.

Certain Regulations on Intra-Party Political Life are an important document adopted at the Fifth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC in 1980 to address the excessive centralization of power in the Party especially during the Cultural Revolution. The second part of the document states that it is necessary to “uphold collective leadership and oppose arbitrary decision making by an individual.” The first paragraph clearly specifies the major issues under collective leadership, stating, “Major issues concerning the Party’s line, principles and policies, plans for major tasks, appointments, dismissals and transfer of important cadres and solution of their problems, important issues involving the interests of the general public, and issues that leading organs at higher levels require Party committees to make collective decisions about – all these must be referred to Party committees, their standing committees, secretariats or leading Party members’ groups as appropriate for collective discussion before decisions are made, and they must not be decided by an individual arbitrarily.” This provided the basis for the gradual formation of the system whereby major policies, important appointments and dismissals, decisions on investment in major projects, and the use of large sums of money must be discussed collectively before decisions are made in the practice of reform and opening up. During recent years, the call has become increasingly louder for these major issues to be decided through the system of voting by collective leadership. Next is an example of the use of the system of voting for cadres of the standing committees of the Party committees at the provincial, municipal and county levels in Zhejiang Province.

Since the introduction of the reform and opening up policy, Zhejiang Province has constantly innovated its way of deciding the placement of cadres. As early as 1988, the CPC Jiaojiang District Committee in Taizhou introduced the system of voting by secret ballot for the appointments and dismissals of all cadres under its jurisdiction. In 2004, Zhejiang Province implemented the system of voting by secret ballot for the cadres of the standing committees of all of its municipal and county (county-level city and district) Party committees. By 2008 the system of voting had been used 647 times for 12,716 cadres of the standing committees of the Party committees at all levels throughout the province (including veto for five cadres and deferred vote for 40 others). On March 25, 2009, for the first time the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee voted in favor of 56 candidates for cadres by secret ballot. So far the standing committees of all of Zhejiang Province’s provincial, municipal and county (county-level city and district) Party committees have begun using the system of voting for placing cadres.

Link: Correcting wrong decisions and assigning responsibilities for mistakes.

The CPC mainly uses the accountability system and the oversight system for Party and government leading cadres to correct wrong decisions and assign responsibilities for mistakes. For example, regarding the selection and appointment of cadres, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee jointly issued the Measures for Assigning Responsibilities for the Work of Selecting and Appointing Party and Government Cadres (for trial implementation), Measures for Reporting Relevant Matters Concerning the Work of Selecting and Appointing Party and Government Cadres (for trial implementation), Measures for the Standing Committees of Local Party Committees to Report the Work of Selecting and Appointing Party and Government Cadres to the Plenary Sessions of Party Committees (for trial implementation), and Measures for Inspecting How Well Outgoing Secretaries of Municipal and County Party Committees Perform Their Duties in the Work of Selecting and Appointing Party and Government Cadres (for trial implementation) in March 2000. These four oversight systems constitute a democratic decision-making mechanism for selecting and appointing cadres whereby reports are made beforehand, evaluations are carried out after cadres are selected and appointed, inspections are made of the performance of outgoing cadres, and responsibilities are assigned in dependence of duties.



4

Ensuring Party Members Fully Understand Intra-Party Situations, Express Their Views and Exercise Their Oversight Rights: the Systems of Transparency in Party Affairs, Party Members Expressing Their Views and Intra-Party Democratic Oversight

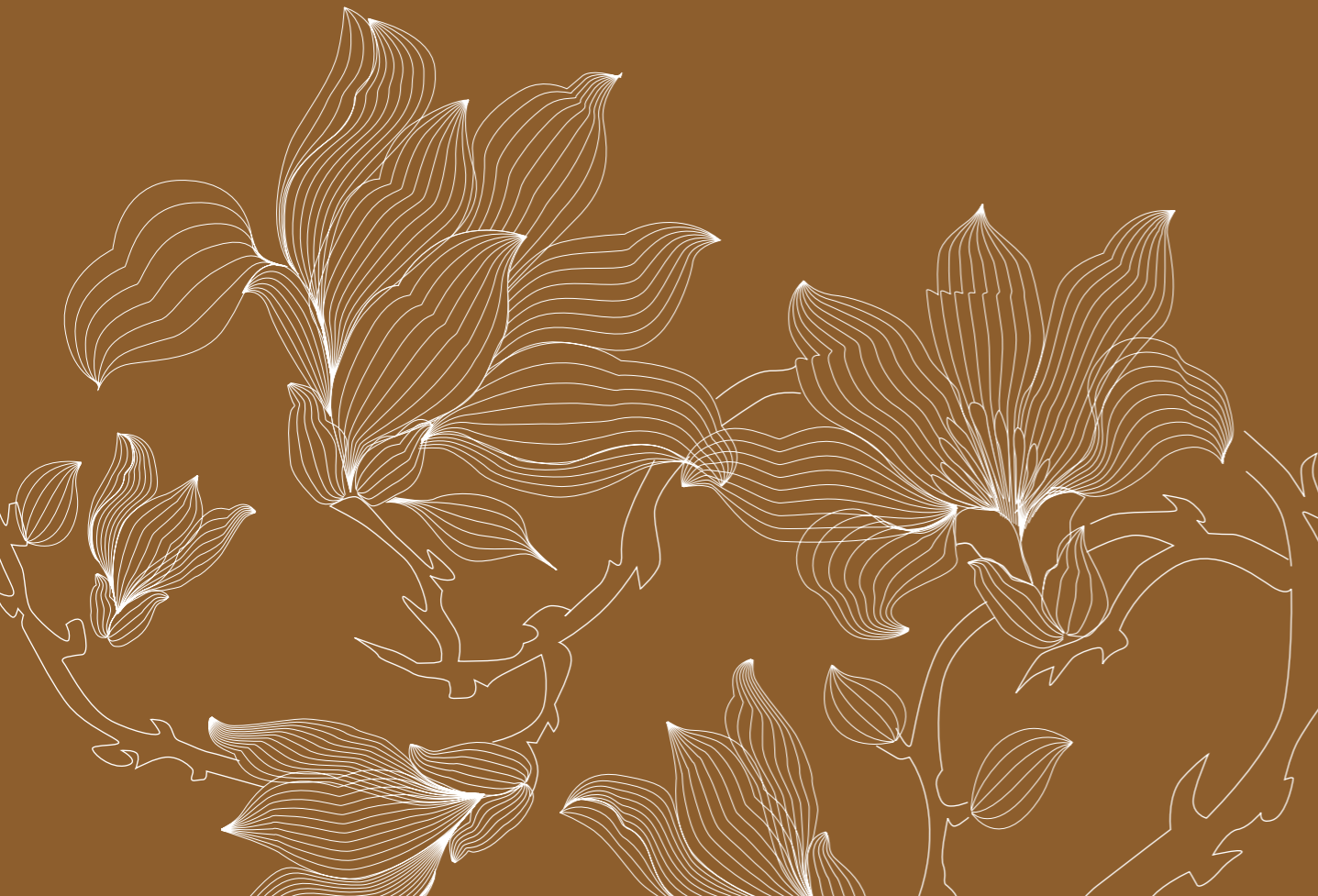


The fundamental purpose of the CPC's intra-Party democracy is to safeguard Party members' democratic rights.

The Decision of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Seventeenth Central Committee makes it clear that priorities of the work to safeguard the principal position and democratic rights of Party members are to increase transparency in Party affairs; improve the intra-Party information-sharing system; promptly release intra-Party information; keep the channel open for sharing intra-Party information from top to bottom; establish a press spokesperson system for Party committees; make Party newspapers and journals and Party-building websites a success; expand the channel through which Party members express their views; establish sound systems holding hearings and consultations about Party affairs and enabling Party members to evaluate members of the leading bodies of primary Party organizations on a regular basis; and create an environment for intra-Party democratic discussion and oversight. During recent years, focusing on work priorities, the Central Committee and local committees of the Party have constantly explored the way of safeguarding Party members' rights to know, to participate, to elect and to oversee, gradually established and improved relevant rules and regulations, and implemented all kinds of innovative measures step by step, thus considerably increasing the enthusiasm and initiative of Party members and cadres for participating in Party affairs, improving the intra-Party democratic atmosphere, and enhancing the Party's solidarity, unity, vigor and vitality.

1. Increase transparency in Party affairs and safeguard Party members' right to know

Increasing transparency in Party affairs means that all Party leadership activities and Party affairs activities carried out by the Central Committee and local committees, except those involving Party and state secrets, must be made as transparent as possible, in order to increase openness in Party affairs work. Party affairs can be made transparent either inside the Party or to the general public. In July 2009, the Central Leading Group for Transparency in Party Affairs was established in Beijing to improve leadership and guidance over the work of increasing transparency in Party affairs. At present, there are diversified ways of increasing transparency in Party affairs. For example, Party institutions open websites on the Internet. According to statistics, so far over ten institutions directly under the CPC Central Committee, more than half of the total, have their own websites. In addition, local Party committees at all levels are gradually opening their websites. Another example is that Party committees at all levels establish the press spokesperson system. Since 2004, the departments of the CPC Central Committee have preliminarily established the press spokesperson system. Recently, most local Party committees throughout the country (except Taiwan and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions) have appointed their press spokespersons.



Link: The Party Literature Research Office of the CPC Central Committee establishes its website.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Party Literature Research Office of the CPC Central Committee, the office opened its website www.wxyjs.org.cn on May 11, 2010. The website offers a window on the work results of the office and makes it convenient for people to have a better understanding of its work, tasks and experts. The website runs columns such as "About the Office," "Organization," "Leadership," "Events," "Research," "Staff," "Literature," "Work Results" and "Academic Forums." The office also has sub-websites for the China CPC Literature Research Society, the journal Literature of the Communist Party of China, and Central Party Literature Publishing House.



Website of the Party Literature Research Office of the CPC Central Committee.

Link: The CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee publishes a list of the press spokespersons of Party committees.

Press Spokespersons of Party Committees in Suzhou		
Organization	Name	Telephone
CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Chen Rong	6861-0466
CPC Zhangjiagang Municipal Committee	Qian Jindong	5869-2780
CPC Changshu Municipal Committee	Xi Jian	5288-0330
CPC Taichang Municipal Committee	Gong Jinming	5352-4016
CPC Kunshan Municipal Committee	Qian Junxiang	5738-3197
CPC Wujiang Municipal Committee	Ji Xiaofeng	6398-0728
CPC Wuzhong District Municipal Committee, Suzhou	Zhou Fengxiang	6525-3436
CPC Xiangcheng District Municipal Committee, Suzhou	Yu Wei	8518-1020
CPC Pingjiang District Municipal Committee, Suzhou	Zhang Si	6770-6246
CPC Canglang District Municipal Committee, Suzhou	Zhu Xihong	6521-3144
CPC Jinli District Municipal Committee, Suzhou	Wang Xiangyun	6534-5286
CPC Suzhou Industrial Zone Working Committee	Yao Wenlei	6668-1811
CPC Suzhou National New- and High-Tech Industrial Development Zone Working Committee	Zhou Wanbin	6809-8472
CPC Suzhou Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection	Zhang Guochang	6861-0353
Organization Department of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Jin Jie	6861-0258
Publicity Department of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Li Fang	6861-0421
United Front Work Department of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Qian Peihua	6522-2767
Committee of Procuratorial, Judicial and Public Security Affairs of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Jiang Guozhong	6855-9811
Rural Affairs Office of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Lu Yongsheng	6861-0553
Taiwan Affairs Office of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Shen Rong	6521-2063
Party History Working Office of the CPC Suzhou Municipal Committee	Zhou Jianping	6861-0622
Suzhou Municipal Archives	Chen Xingnan	6861-7205
Suzhou Cultural and Ethical Progress Office	Liu Wenwei	6861-5719

Link:

On May 12, 2010, the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee held a press conference on Party members' paying "special membership dues" for the relief efforts of the Wenchuan Earthquake. At the conference leaders of the Organization Department of the Central Committee and the organization departments of the CPC committees of the five provinces and municipalities directly under the central government of Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi, Yunnan and Chongqing discussed how the special dues should be divided up and what projects should be built with these dues.

9.73 billion yuan in "special Party membership dues" paid by over 45.5 million Party members in support of the areas struck by the Wenchuan Earthquake

Used to support the construction of:		Speech dues went to	
Rural houses	1.365 million households	Sichuan	8.03 billion yuan
Primary and second school buildings	37	Gansu	1 billion yuan
Hospitals and others	168	Shaanxi	500 million yuan
		Chongqing	100 million yuan
		Yunnan	100 million yuan

Special dues mainly used to

- Help earthquake-hit counties and county-level cities with the collapsed or damaged rural houses and other projects affecting people's lives
- Help every hardest-hit county and county-level city rebuild a secondary school and a primary school and help every hard-hit county build a secondary school or a primary school
- Help hardest-hit counties and county-level cities rebuild or repair damaged venues of village-level organizations, distance learning centers for rural Party members and cadres, and other facilities
- Compensation for death attributable to service during the earthquake

Made by Feng Qi
Released by Xinhua News Agency

An illustration of how the 9.73 billion yuan in "special Party membership dues" paid to support the victims of the Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan.



2. Establish sound intra-Party oversight regulations and guarantee Party members' oversight right

Since 2003 the CPC issued and implemented a number intra-Party oversight including the Intra-Party Oversight Regulations of the CPC, the Program for Establishing a Sound System for Preventing and Punishing Corruption Encompassing Education, Institutions and Oversight, the Provisional Measures for Warning or Encouraging Party Members and Cadres Through Discussion or Letters, the Provisional Regulations on Having Party Members and Cadres Report on Their Work Probity, and the Measures for Members of Local Party Committees and Commissions for Discipline Inspection to Carry Out Intra-Party Inquiries and Interrogations (for trial implementation). A fourth paragraph was added to Article 13 of the Constitution of the CPC amended at the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC on October 2007, "The Party's Central Committee and committees of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government implement the system of inspection tours." In July 2009, the CPC promulgated the Regulations of the CPC on Inspection Tours (for trial implementation). Establishing a system of inspection tours is an important institutional innovation in intra-Party oversight. Compared with other means of intra-Party oversight, oversight by means of inspection tours has its prominent characteristics and strengths. First, inspection tours are made to oversee leading bodies, their members and especially their leaders, so they can effectively oversee those who are first in command, something that has been lacking for a long time. Second, inspection tours provide dynamic and proactive oversight on a regular basis. Third, instead of overseeing results, inspection tours oversee the process and move their focus to problems before they arise. Fourth, inspection tours can be carried out among many targets in a relatively concentrated period of time and in a fairly flexible manner to have a full understanding the situation.



Link:

While the CPC Central Committee is attaching more and more importance to intra-Party oversight, Party committees throughout the country (except Taiwan and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions) are working hard to explore the path to primary intra-Party democratic oversight. For example, Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu Province, issued the Guidelines on Establishing Commissions for Discipline Oversight in the Party Committees or General Party Branches in All Villages in Zhangjiagang in April 2006. Thanks to over three years of effort, the city has established commissions for discipline inspection in all of its 175 administrative villages to include Party members who are politically integrated, enjoy considerable popular support and are highly capable of deliberating on state affairs. These commissions have become the overseers of primary Party organizations. In the "sunshine audit" project with the participation of village commissions for discipline oversight, village accountants and representatives of villagers in 2009, Zhangjiagang carried out comprehensive audit of 109 items involving 5.1046 trillion yuan, offered 150 audit opinions and suggestions and issued 37 audit reports demanding improvement, and 134 of these audit suggestions were adopted. "To effectively oversee large numbers of official officials," a leader of the Zhangjiagang Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection said, "it is essential to make good use of people's wisdom and strength and give full play to the role of the veteran Party members and cadres who enjoy high prestige, command universal respect, are fair and just in handling affairs, and know their village affairs well."

3. Explore how to improve the mechanism whereby Party members express their will and guarantee their participation right

In promoting transparency in Party affairs, democratic decision making, and democratic oversight, all localities have attached great importance to expanding the channel through which Party members express their will, created an environment for intra-Party democratic discussion, encouraged Party members to speak the truth and protected those who do, and introduced many systems whereby Party members to express their will, thus effectively guaranteeing their participation right.



Link:

Since 2008, Tai'an, Shandong Province, has been implementing at the primary level the democratic systems of publicly recommending and directly electing members of leading bodies of Party organizations (The idea is to have candidates through Party members recommending themselves, Party members jointly recommending candidates and Party organizations recommending candidates and to have all Party members involved directly elect leading bodies of Party organizations), proposing important issues be discussed, making interrogations and providing oversight, and evaluating the performance of leading bodies of Party organizations on a regular basis. These systems make it possible for Party members to express their will and effectively guarantee Party members' democratic rights. For example, when Houting Village, Pengji Town, Dongping County, Tai'an, Shandong, wanted to launch a rubber products project involving an investment of 10 million yuan in 2009, the village Party branch invited people from the County Environmental Protection and the Pengji Town Investment Projects Office to evaluate the project at the presence of the village's Party members. When it came to a vote, most of these Party members voted against the project over environmental concerns. As a result, the village gave up the project. On the 15th day of every month, Party members can make inquiries and interrogations to Party organizations about their questions concerning Party and government affairs. In Dongping County, Tai'an, every Party member has a "public sentiment form" through which they offer their advice and make proposals, thus further ensuring their right to make suggestions. Once every six months Tai'an openly and democratically evaluates the performance of members of leading bodies of primary Party organizations. Since 2008, the city has evaluated over 3,500 of these leading bodies in rural areas and 15,000 of their members, talked with 240 village cadres and admonished 82 of them.

5

A Positive, Serious and Rich System of Intra-Party Life



According to the Constitution of the CPC, “Every Party member, irrespective of position, must be organized into a branch, cell or other specific unit of the Party to participate in the regular activities of the Party organization and accept oversight by the masses inside and outside the Party. Leading Party cadres must attend democratic meetings held by the Party committee or leading Party members’ group. There shall be no privileged Party members who do not participate in the regular activities of the Party organization and do not accept oversight by the masses inside and outside the Party.”

1. The system of intra-Party life featuring regular meetings of members of Party branches, branch committees and Party groups and Party lectures

The organizational life of the Party mainly includes conferences of Party members, meetings of members of Party branches, meetings of Party groups, democratic meetings of Party members and leading cadres, Party lectures, democratic evaluation of the performance of Party members, and election of advanced Party members and organizations. Of these meetings, the regular meetings of members of Party branches, branch committees and Party groups and Party lectures are the most important and are the main systems. These strict systems of intra-Party life have strengthened the education, supervision and oversight of Party members, increased their awareness of the Party's purpose and of the importance of being Party members, and encouraged Party members to play a vanguard and exemplary role.



Link: Guangxi University established online Party branches and promotes the life of Party branches for floating Party members.

Yu Chongguang, a floating Party member of Guangxi Mechanical Engineering College, happily posted on the Internet, "I once again felt the warmth of a 'home.'" The "home" he referred to is the online Party branches of Guangxi University.

As the socialist market economy develops, the mobility of personnel has been on the increase. As some Party members quit their former organizations, they leave their Party branches in those organizations and eventually become floating Party members. In order to address this problem, Guangxi creatively combined the Internet with the activities of Party organizations by establishing online Party branches, representing a breakthrough in traditional Party-building work. The online Party branch for floating Party members functions mainly by organizing and supervising Party members, provide them with theme activities, and offer them services. Making use of the Internet platform, the online Party branch activities of Party organizations such as meetings of Party branches, regular reports on one's thinking, and voting through the voting system are carried out online. Every online Party branch has a complete organization system consisting of the Party branch secretary, deputy secretaries and commissaries in charge of organization and publicity. All these officials are Internet-proficient full Party members in higher classes in the university.

2. Intra-Party democratic meetings featuring criticism and self-criticism

According to the Regulations of the CPC on Intra-Party Oversight (for trial implementation), "Leading Party cadres in Party and state organs at and above the county level should participate in both organizational meetings of their Party branches and groups and the regular democratic meetings of Party members and leading cadres." At organizational meetings of the Party, leading Party cadres must regard themselves as ordinary Party members, actively participate in study and discuss as these Party members do, report what they really think, carefully conduct criticism and self-criticism, and consciously accept the oversight of Party organizations and members.

The principle for democratic meetings is unity-criticism and self-criticism-unity, and its features are sincerity and willingness to expose what one thinks. By conducting criticism and self-criticism at democratic meetings, leading Party cadres have created an atmosphere of democracy and equality within the Party where they can oversee, help and communicate with each other to reach consensus.

Link: A democratic meeting of leading cadres in Hechen Town, Taizhou, Jiangsu Province.

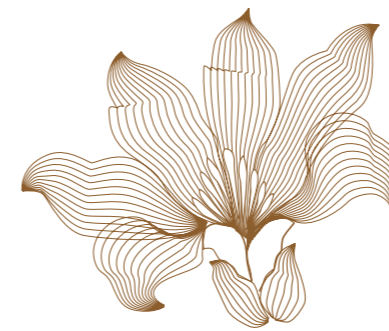
On July 3, 2009, leading cadres held a democratic meeting in Hechen Town, Xinghua, Taizhou, Jiangsu Province. The meeting was focused on ensuring economic growth, improving people's wellbeing, promoting harmony, and contributing to the development of Xinghua, and the participants mainly reviewed the outstanding mistakes they had made in implementing the Scientific Outlook on Development, cultivating their Party spirit, improving their styles of work, implementing the regulations on practicing economy in Party and government agencies, observing the five regulations on incorruption and self-discipline, and implementing the responsibility system of improving Party conduct and building honest government. They further intensified the study and implementation of the Scientific Outlook on Development.



A democratic meeting of leading cadres in Hechen Town, Taizhou, Jiangsu, in progress.

At the beginning of the meeting Shen Decai, Secretary of the Hechen Town Party Committee, reviewed the committee's work on behalf of the committee. According to him: Since 2009, under the correct leadership of the Party committees at higher levels, members of the town Party committee have further freed their minds, broken new ground and innovated, and raised Hechen's economic and social development to a new level. We have achieved more than 50% of both targets against the backdrop of the global financial crisis. Fresh progress has also been registered in Party building and in culture and ethics. The town Party committee was elected an "advanced Party committee" last year and it won the title "four-star Party committee" this year. People's wellbeing has steadily improved and the lack of good roads, drinking water and access to education has been addressed. These achievements are attributable to the town Party committee's success in the four areas as follows: 1) It always takes accelerating development as the primary task. It has firmly established the concept of "developing eastern Xinghua first and giving top priority to the low lying land" and worked to promote the new Hezhen spirit of "making self-improvement and developing innovatively," energetically promoted the development of towns and used urbanization to drive industrialization. 2) It always pursues improvement in people's wellbeing as its ultimate goal. It has worked to address people's lack of employment, drinking water, access to education, and good roads and help them increase their income. Great efforts have been made to upgrade water and gas pipelines in villages. Coverage of the new type of rural cooperative medical care system reached 95% of our villagers. The practice of government organs' assisting their designated targets has been standardized. Our town has been made greener, cleaner, more beautiful and better illuminated. The environment of the town has improved significantly, and the happiness index of the people has been improving. 3) It always takes promoting harmony as its important responsibility. The system whereby leading cadres receive people's visits or visit them at their places have helped solve all kinds of problems at the primary level. Various kinds of development activities have been carried out. Last year, we successfully developed "environmentally beautiful townships and towns in Taizhou." 4) It always takes improving the contingent of cadres as the fundamental guarantee. Efforts have been made to promote ideological and organizational development and to improve the styles of work, with the focus on improving the contingent of secretaries of Party organizations of villages. Leading bodies have been made a more powerful united force through training class for village cadres. He also pointed out the deficiencies in his town's current work. These deficiencies are found mainly in the four areas as follows: 1) Ideas and concepts are not suitable for developing scientifically and leading bodies are far from being a powerful united force. 2) The industrial economy is a far cry from sustainable development and the industrial structure is extensive. 3) The service environment should be more investment-friendly, and services have yet to be improved. 4) We need to improve our style of work in order to become more realistic and practical and strive for more effective implementation.

The participants conscientiously reviewed their work in the first half of the year in accordance with the requirements of the meeting. They identified problems and deficiencies and worked out solutions. In addition, they earnestly conducted criticism and self-criticism.



3. The diversified and vigorous activities of primary Party organizations

Activities of primary Party organizations cover a wide range of areas and are diversified, lively and full of vitality. These activities include organizational activities that give prominence to the vanguard and exemplary role of primary Party organizations and their Party members, including, for example, establishing vanguard positions for Party members and implementing the system whereby Party members promise to accomplish tasks for the good of the general public. The activities also include Party and other lectures focused on ideological and political education and vocational and skill training that meet the practical needs of Party members for their work and study. Competitions are held among Party members so that they try to outdo and learn from each other, catch up with the advanced and help those who lag behind. Debates are held on hotspot issues that are of great concern to Party members and other people. Party day activities on special topics or theme activities are also carried out. Various kinds of activities of primary Party organizations enhance the enthusiasm and initiative of Party members for participating intra-Party affairs, increase the cohesiveness and fighting effectiveness of primary Party organizations, and demonstrate Chinese Communists' purpose of establishing the Party for the public and wielding state power for the people.



Link: Party organizations at all levels and Party members participate in earthquake relief work in Yushu, Qinghai.



Party members and cadres participate in earthquake relief work in Yushu, Qinghai

When Yushu Prefecture, Qinghai, was struck by a devastating earthquake in April 2010, thousands of Communist Party members provided disaster relief throughout the disaster area. They did so regardless of their personal safety, gain and loss to make good the promise they had made when they were sworn in as Party members under the Party flag. Ye Qing, Secretary of the Party branch of Ganda Village in Jiegu Town, Yushu County, struggled to emerge from the ruins, and his wife who had married him for more than ten years had just died in the earthquake. "My village has over 900 villagers," he told himself, "and I'm the Secretary of their Party committee...." Ye Qing suppressed his grief and pain and quickly organized the Party members and cadres who were less injured into a rescue team to start working immediately. As they did not have any rescue tools, they used their bare hands to search through the ruins.... They pulled 114 survivors from the rubble.

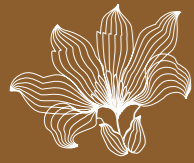
Link: The Party flag flies over Poyang Lake.

Poyang, Yugan and Wannian counties in Shangrao, Jiangxi Province, surround Poyang Lake. More than 800,000 residents there make a living on the lake, and over 50,000 of these fishermen are Party members. As production and life on the lake are very floating, Shangrao began in 2003 to explore the new Party-building model whereby "Party branches are established on the lake, Party groups are founded in docks, the Party flag flies on boats and Party members are held responsible for providing services to the people." Over the past four years, 43 Party branches were established on the lake and 37 Party groups were set up in docks. In addition, activities were carried out on the lake to require Party members to identify themselves and fly the Party flag on their boats, thus fully exploiting their vanguard and exemplary role. The lake area used to have serious security problems and its primary Party organizations used to be weak, but today it has assumed a brand-new look. On the boundless Poyang Lake, over 2,800 fishing boats flying the Party flag cause a sensation. The first thing fishermen have want to see when are in trouble on the lake is a boat flying the Party flag.

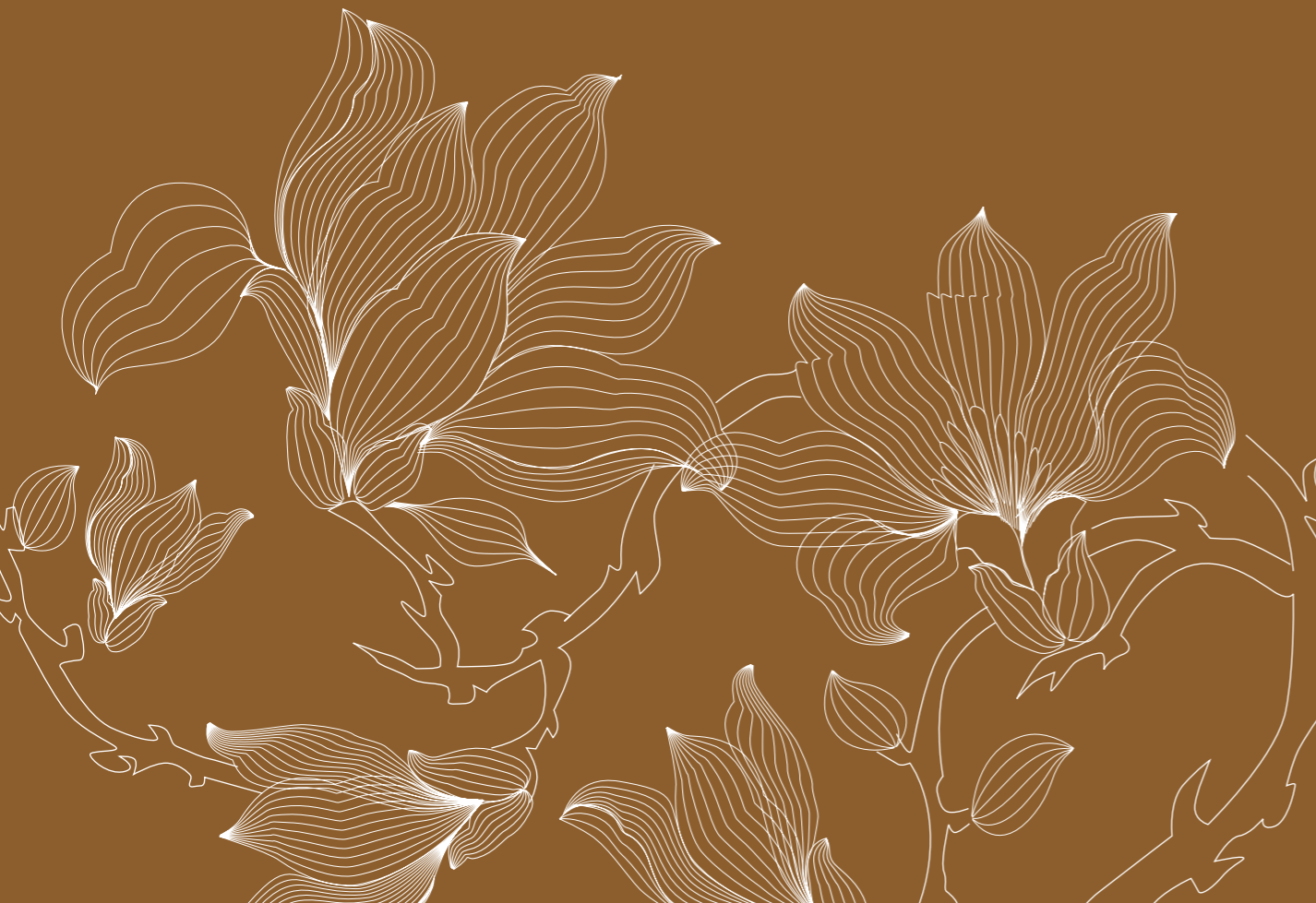


Link: Substance-aided Party lectures in Dandong, Liaoning Province.

No matter how hard the lecturer tries in a Party lecture, his or her audience finds it boring. This is widely believed to be true of traditional Party lectures. Nowadays, however, Party lectures are attractive and inspire their audience in Dandong, Liaoning, to the satisfaction of both the lecturers and audience. These lectures are substance-aided. They are based on one or more individuals and events and given with great élan and with the help of real objects, properties and multimedia tools. They unobtrusively and imperceptibly bring the audience into given circumstances and encourage and guide them to reach ideological consensus and actively participate in exchange of views and discussions. In these lectures, the lecturers and audience interact effectively with each other. In many places in Dandong, all the seats are often occupied in these lectures, and some have to attend them with a seat. Rural Party members live quite a distance from each other so that it is no easy job getting them together for a Party lecture. However, after one attends a lecture, they would be eager to know when the next lecture will be. Kuandian Manchu Autonomous County is a main forestry county and faces arduous forestry reform tasks. It gave a substance-aided Party lecture by beginning with what the three veteran Party members from Group 10, Siping Village, Shuangshanzi Town did to organize the 29 households of the group to carry out forestry reforms. The lecture focused on the policy issues of widespread concern to farmers and aimed at increasing resources, developing the industry, and increasing farmers' income. It made whether its rural audience understood or was interested and whether what was taught was of practical use for farmers the fundamental criteria for its success. After attending the lecture, some vegetable farmer Party members vowed to attend the next lecture, if any, even if it meant that they would have to stop selling vegetables for a day. By the end of July 2009, the 156,000 Party members attended at least one substance-aided Party lecture on average. When Party members receive education, many non-Party members attend the lectures as observers. The number of non-Party members who decide to join the Party and submit Party membership applications after attending these lectures is on the increase. These Party lectures meet the needs of current changes and Party members. They are vivid, inspiring, close to reality and friendly to the audience, make primary Party organizations more cohesive and demonstrate the unity, solidarity and vitality of the Party.



Conclusion



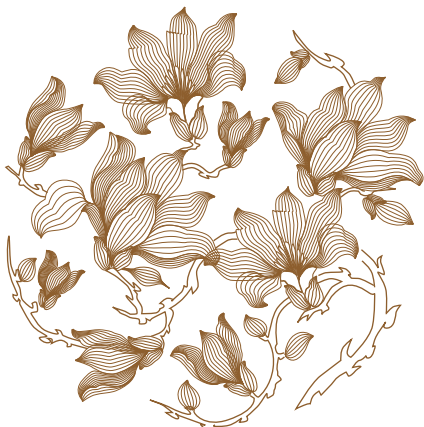
The CPC attaches great importance to developing intra-Party democracy in accordance with national conditions, and strives to progress in the process in an orderly way by carrying out pilot programs at the primary level. The purpose of this is to steadfastly use intra-Party democracy to drive the people's democracy, make the two interact with each other positively and develop together, and initiate a new phase in efforts to improve socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics. The CPC is keenly aware of the problems in intra-Party democracy, including, for example, the system of intra-Party democracy has yet to improve and Party members' democratic rights have not been fully guaranteed. There is still a long way to go to develop intra-Party democracy. It is essential to promote intra-Party democracy and strive to enhance the Party's unity, solidarity and vitality. In this process, the CPC is willing to help the international community fully understand the development of its intra-Party democracy.

Link: The International Department of the CPC Central Committee holds the briefing "Improving Intra-Party Democracy of the Communist Party of China."

On April 27, 2010, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee held the briefing "Improving Intra-Party Democracy of the Communist Party of China." The briefing was attended by over 40 envoys and diplomats from 30 European and American countries. At the meeting, Gao Yongzhong, director of the Institute of Party Building of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee and secretary general of the National Society for Party Building Studies, gave a brief introduction to the improvement in intra-Party democracy of the CPC and then used over 30 minutes to answer questions. The meeting was held when the international community showed great interest in the intra-Party democracy of the CPC. The meeting had an active atmosphere and participants warmly interacted with each other. Following the briefing, the diplomats told reporters that the meeting had helped them acquire a clearer and fuller understanding of the improvement in intra-Party of the CPC and its future prospects.



Gao Yongzhong, director of the Institute of Party Building of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee and secretary general of the National Society for Party Building Studies, introduces intra-Party democracy of the CPC to European and American diplomats.



Institute of Party Building of the Organization Department of
the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China