

SPECIAL ISSUE ON CORRECT UNDERSTANDING
OF GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE

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China **i**nsight

**EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
PROMOTES SOUND
PERFORMANCE MINDSET**

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CPC Launches Education Campaign to Promote Sound Performance Mindset

The General Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has issued a circular to launch a Party-wide campaign to guide CPC members, especially officials, in establishing and practicing a correct understanding of what it means to perform well.

The campaign, running from late February to July, focuses on leadership teams and leading officials of the CPC at the county and director level and above, with particular emphasis on chief officials, according to the circular.

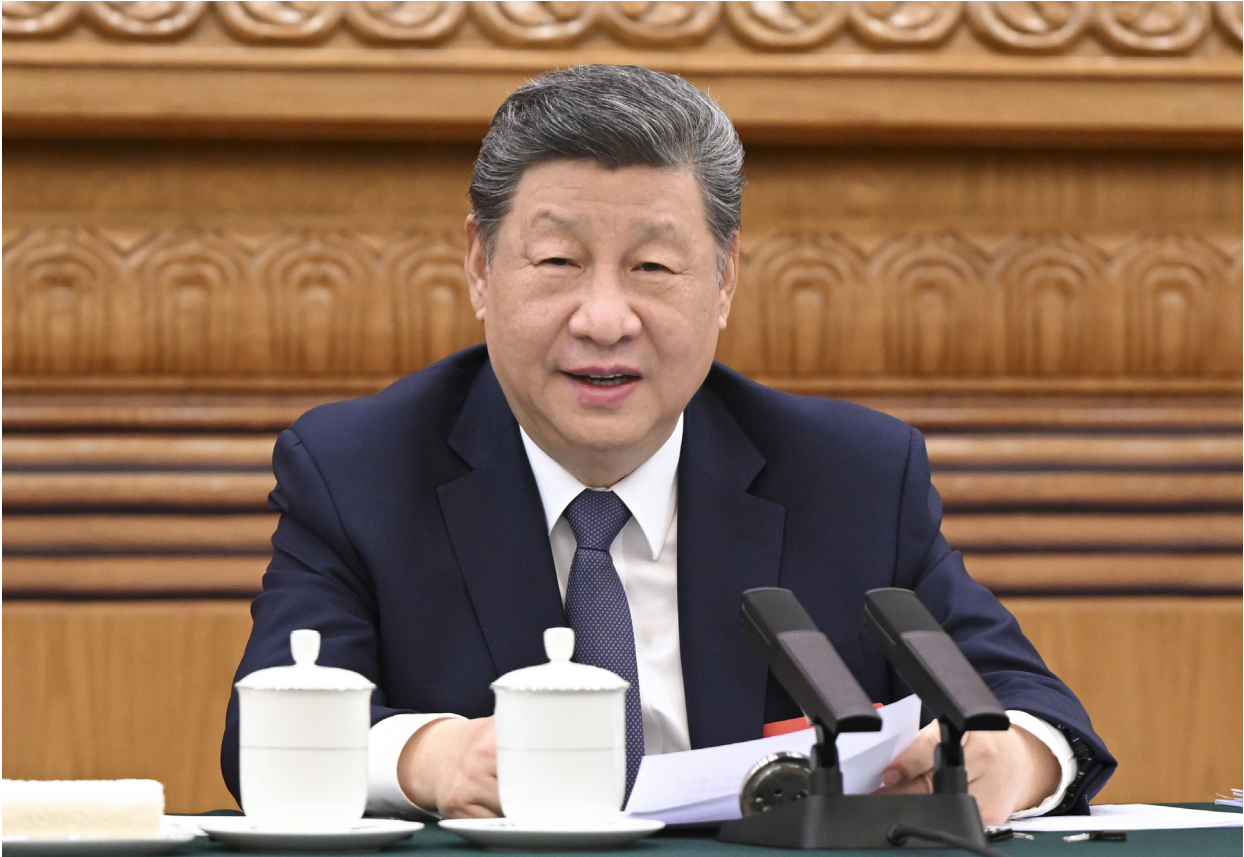
It urges efforts to guide Party organizations at all levels, as well as Party members and officials, to deliver tangible benefits to the people through practical work, address misguided views about achievements, and ensure the effective implementation of major decisions made by the Party Central Committee, laying a solid foundation for the start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30) and supporting China's broader modernization drive.

The campaign emphasizes guiding CPC members to maintain a people-centered approach and take concrete action to meet public needs, the circular notes.

The circular also stresses the need for a differentiated approach tailored to local and sectoral conditions in carrying out the campaign, while warning against empty formalities.

(Xinhua News Agency, BEIJING, February 23, 2026)

Xi Jinping's Discourses on Cultivating a Correct Understanding of Governance Performance



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, takes part in a deliberation with his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu Province at the Fourth Session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, on March 5, 2026. Xi said effective Party governance provides a stronger guarantee for economic and social development, urging earnest efforts to organize and carry out the Party-wide education campaign on establishing and practicing the correct view of what it means to perform well. He also called for efforts to strengthen public trust through concrete steps in full and rigorous Party self-governance (XINHUA)

In the post of county Party secretary, many of you are ambitious to succeed. You should be. When I was in Zhengding, I could see that the people led a hard life due to the poor local economy. I was worried, and felt an urge to change the situation as quickly as possible. But firstly one must have a correct understanding of what one can achieve in office, and “choose to do the things that the people want to be done, and avoid doing things that the people disapprove of.” You must be dedicated to your work in a down-to-earth, realistic and pragmatic manner, and make solid and tangible efforts. You should work in the people’s interests, and never indulge in wasteful showcase projects to prop up your own image.

—Excerpt from the speech at the meeting with a class of county Party secretaries at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee on January 12, 2015

There is no use in saying, “I won’t get the credit for success.” If a blueprint is good, factually based, scientifically sound and well-received by the people, we should keep working on it, one administration after another, and the outcome of our work will be real and appreciated and remembered by the people.

—Excerpt from the speech at the second meeting of the Second Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee on February 28, 2013

We must consider serving the people and working for their wellbeing to be our primary political goal. The Party measures job performance of its members by how much good they have done for the people. Party members and officials, particularly senior ones, must be aware that the power in their hands and the positions they hold are



Chinese President Xi Jinping talks with delivery workers while visiting a community canteen for seniors in Xicheng District of Beijing, capital of China, on February 10, 2026 (XINHUA)

entrusted by the Party and the people, and can only be used for advancing the Party's undertakings for the benefit of the people. Leading officials at all levels must take the right attitude towards power, job performance and career, and take concrete actions to benefit the local people during their term in office, rather than indulging their vanity, pursuing unearned prestige, or achieving worthless outcomes.

—Excerpt from the speech at the deliberation session of the Inner Mongolia delegation to the Third Session of the 13th National People's Congress on May 22, 2020

We should adopt the right approach to our job performance. We should contribute our share to our cause without claiming credit for its success. We should hammer away until a job is done, and be down-to-earth in our approach to work.

—Excerpt from the speech at the opening ceremony of a training program for younger officials at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee during its 2019 spring semester

Favoring form over substance and bureaucratism are the archenemies of the healthy growth of our Party and the state. We need to start with

leading officials, especially those at the higher levels, and urge them to adopt the right view on job performance, respect reality and the needs of the people, and strengthen systems thinking and rational planning, so as to serve and benefit the people. They must not fail to put an end to favoring form over substance, going through the motions, or launching expensive and ill-considered projects. We must implement the system for evaluating officials and inspecting their work in order to have them better perform their duties.

—Excerpt from the speech at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 18, 2022

We will improve the system for assessing officials' performance and see that officials have a correct understanding of what it means to perform well. We should also see that officials can be demoted as well as promoted and dismissed as well as recruited, thereby creating an environment in which the competent are elevated, the outstanding are rewarded, the mediocre are demoted, and the incompetent are dismissed.

—Excerpt from the report to the 20th CPC National Congress on October 16, 2022

What Does It Mean to “Perform Well?”

Who should governance achievements serve?

Governance achievements must benefit the people. This requires Party officials to let go of the utilitarian mindset of “seeking achievements for their own sake,” and instead make improving people’s wellbeing the ultimate goal of their efforts. It is essential to take public satisfaction as the fundamental criterion for evaluating performance, improve the mechanisms for public assessment of such performance and expand avenues for people’s participation in the evaluation process. The opinions and suggestions of the people should be important guides for recalibrating the direction of governance performance and optimizing work measures.

What kind of governance achievements should be pursued?

Party officials must properly manage the relationship between “immediate eye-catching achievements” and “long-term foundational contributions,” and fully, accurately, and comprehensively act on the new development philosophy. They should focus on delivering tangible results in pressing tasks and addressing the urgent needs and difficulties facing the people, producing visible and tangible development outcomes. At the same time, they must take a long-term view, putting solid work into laying foundations, boosting future sustainability and fostering lasting benefits—avoiding quick fixes or short-term gains.

What should governance achievements rely on?

President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said being pragmatic is an essential quality of Communists. One must seek truth from facts, be practical and realistic, and be down to earth. This requires Party officials to tackle challenges through practical work and drive development with a sense of responsibility. They should contribute their share to their cause without claiming credit for its success, and carry out the development tasks of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period. It is important to proceed from reality in all endeavors—grasp the true situation, take practical measures, focus on concrete outcomes and pursue genuine results. On the basis of respecting the laws of development, they should actively explore and innovate to resolve bottlenecks and difficulties in development. At the same time, efforts must be intensified to improve work conduct, foster a working style that values pragmatism and initiative, strengthen execution, and establish a closed-loop management mechanism for work—clarifying responsibilities, tightening oversight, and guiding officials to fulfill their duties, take charge of their roles, and deliver on their responsibilities.

Stories of Xi Jinping


Efforts to define and apply a people-centered approach to performance evaluation



Chinese President and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Xi Jinping (2nd R front), also Chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits people in Liangjiahe Village, Wen'anyi Township of Yanchuan County, Yan'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on February 13, 2015. Xi made a tour in Shaanxi on February 13-16, and extended festival greetings to locals and people across the nation ahead of the Spring Festival, which fell on February 19 (XINHUA)

What constitutes a correct understanding of governance performance, and how can it be put into practice? Looking back, examples such as a well, a bicycle and an ancient residence illustrate Xi Jinping's efforts to define and apply a people-centered approach to performance evaluation during his time in local governance.

“I have my roots deep in the northern Shaanxi plateau because it cultivate my unchanging mission: to do practical things for the people!”

 Liangjiahe, Shaanxi Province

From 1969 to 1975, Xi Jinping lived and worked in Liangjiahe Village as an educated youth in Shaanxi Province. It was there that he joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) and, in 1974, was elected Party chief of Liangjiahe Village. Xi led a series of initiatives, including digging a well that still provides drinking water today.

He wrote in an article: “As a public servant of the people, I have my roots deep in the northern Shaanxi plateau because it cultivated my unchanging mission: to do practical things for the people!”

Communists must bear in mind that working for the people's well-being is their greatest political achievement. On January 8, 1974, People's Daily published a report on the large-scale promotion of biogas in Sichuan Province. After reading it, Xi Jinping made a special trip to Sichuan to learn from their experience. That July, he led Liangjiahe villagers to build Shaanxi's first biogas digester.

When working in Zhengding County, Hebei Province,

from 1982 to 1985, Xi Jinping often rode an old bicycle conducting fact-finding missions. He visited all 25 communes and over 220 production teams in the county.

Recalling these field visits in January 2015, he said, “It was a bit arduous, but it gave me a true grasp of the situation, and brought me closer, both in distance and in feeling, to grassroots officials and the people.”

In October 1984, then secretary of the CPC Zhengding County Committee, Xi Jinping led his staff to the main street, set up tables and benches, and distributed public opinion surveys. Investigation and research are treasured traditions of the CPC and fundamental skills for effective governance.

During the urban development boom of the 1980s and 1990s, the former residence of Lin Juemin, a renowned revolutionary hero, in Fuzhou’s Sanfang Qixiang (Three Lanes and Seven Alleys) faced demolition. Upon learning this, Xi Jinping immediately halted the plan. In March 1991, he held a site meeting on cultural heritage, preserving the ancient city’s cultural roots.

In the early 2000s, the West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, faced shrinking water area, deteriorating water quality, damaged landscapes, and encroached

“Cities are built by the people and for the people.”

📍 Shanghai

public spaces. Xi Jinping, then Party chief of Zhejiang Province, conducted multiple surveys and set principles for its comprehensive restoration. Over 180 historical and cultural sites were restored, and the lake’s area gradually recovered.

In June 2011, the West Lake Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

For generations, residents in some of Shanghai’s old alleys relied on chamber pots, a basic hardship that drew Xi Jinping’s attention when serving as Party chief of Shanghai in 2007. During grassroots visits, he often spoke of renovating old neighborhoods. After sustained efforts, by September 2025, Shanghai had essentially completed its citywide program to eliminate “bucket toilets.” 🇨🇳

(Source: People’s Daily App)



Cangxia area before its major renovation (FILE)



Cangxia New Town in Fuzhou, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on July 13, 2025. Cangxia, a formerly dilapidated area, has been transformed into a modern neighborhood after a major renovation that started in July 2000 and lasted over a year (XINHUA)

Political Parties Exchange Views on Correct Understanding of Governance Performance

Thematic Dialogue Between the CPC and International Political Parties Titled “Putting the People First—Mission and Responsibility of Political Parties” Held

On May 8, the Thematic Dialogue Between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and International Political Parties titled “Putting the People First—Mission and Responsibility of Political Parties” was jointly held by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) and the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee in Xingtang County, Hebei Province. About 180 people attended the meeting, including Lord Vaea, Speaker of Tonga’s Parliament, and other representatives from political parties, parliaments and governments of more than 20 countries.

In his speech, Liu Haixing, Minister of the IDCPC, introduced that the CPC is currently conducting an education campaign on establishing and practicing a correct view on governance performance, to educate and guide Party members and cadres to uphold the principles of “serving the public good, benefiting the people, making scientific decisions, and working diligently,” further creating achievements that can withstand the test of practice, the people, and history. This year marks the 105th anniversary of the CPC’s

founding. Standing at a new starting point in history, the CPC is willing to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning with political parties around the world, act as builders, defenders, guardians, and protectors of people’s happiness.

The foreign guests said a correct understanding of governance performance must be grounded in the real experiences of the people. It (the performance) is measured in whether families are supported, whether livelihoods are strengthened, and whether communities are resilient. The development story of Xingtang County in Hebei Province embodies the tremendous achievements made by the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core in upholding the people-centered governance philosophy and leading the Chinese people in poverty alleviation and rural revitalization. China has proven to the world with its own development that only by adhering to and consistently implementing the people-centered development philosophy can a country take on a new look and move towards common prosperity. **C**



Government leaders from Laos (left) and officials of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, Nicaragua’s ruling party, visit an electric technology company in Xingtang County, Hebei Province, on May 8 as part of their study tour in China. They interacted with local officials and business executives to learn how the development of specialty industries had contributed to extreme poverty alleviation efforts in the region (COURTESY PHOTO/ XINHUA)

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