

Research Series on the Chinese Dream
and China's Development Path

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Qunhui Huang
Jinling Wang *Editors*

The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang's Practice—General Report Volume



 Springer

Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path

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The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang's Practice—General Report Volume



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Foreword I

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has delivered a series of important speeches, thoroughly answering a number of significant theoretical and realistic questions concerning the development of the Party and the country's cause under the new situation, presenting the grand vision for the future development of the Party and the country, and providing scientific guidelines and basic principles for our efforts in achieving new goals from the new starting point. The deep thinking and rich practice of comrade Xi Jinping during his work in Zhejiang Province serves as a good model of scientifically utilizing the Marxist world view and methodology to address the issues of contemporary China; such thinking and practice also highly embodies the adherence to the ideological line of seeking truth from facts, to dialectical materialism and historical materialism. In March, 2014, in order to deepen the understanding of the internal connection among a series of important speeches delivered by Xi Jinping from the great perspective of history and in light of the general developmental trend, and really profoundly increase the level of thoughts and theories, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences cooperated with the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province to initiate some research on the major issue of "The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang's Practice".

With painstaking research for nearly 1 year, the book series "The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang's Practice" was officially published. With about 2 million words, made up of seven volumes of monographs, the book series reveals, in a panoramic and three-dimensional way, the developmental experience gathered by Zhejiang through the "Eight-Eight Strategies". The "Eight-Eight Strategies" are the scientific ideas and strategic line of thought developed by comrade Xi Jinping while conducting in-depth surveys and research, scientifically analyzing the situation of Zhejiang Province and proceeding from Zhejiang's reality in all respects; the "Eight-Eight Strategies" presents the goals and principles for Zhejiang's practice in realizing the Chinese Dream, as well as the paths and methods for Zhejiang's practice. The achievements reached through the practice of the "Eight-Eight Strategies" make up the Zhejiang experience which is mainly characterized by and basically covers a people-oriented diversified economy, an inclusive and orderly

society, cultural self-improvement and innovation, well-functioning services from the government, strong and vigorous Party building. Since the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, especially the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province has continued to unswervingly carry out the “Eight-Eight Strategies”, push forward new practices and fresh explorations in Zhejiang. The prominent features and basic experience of Zhejiang’s practice in realizing the Chinese Dream during the new stage can be summarized as follows: economically, change is forced under pressure and active guidance is provided; politically, good democracy is achieved at the grassroots level and there is an effective government; culturally, pragmatic and trustworthy approaches are adopted, learning and goodwill are advocated; socially, rural and urban areas are integrated, it is safe and harmonious; ecologically, there is clean water and lush mountains, “gold and silver mountains”; in terms of the Party building, the foundation has been consolidated and play has been given to advantages. The experience from the “Eight-Eight Strategies” belongs not only to Zhejiang but also to the whole country. At present, China has entered a decisive stage for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and a crucial period for comprehensively intensifying reforms, so we must tackle the difficulties in keeping a balance among reform, development and stability and address global issues. Continuously summing up the basic experience gathered by Zhejiang’s people through in-depth scientific explorations and successful practice in realizing the Chinese Dream is of particularly important theoretical value and practical significance for us to correctly understand the environment of the times, the domestic and international situations, and to calmly cope with various risks and challenges.

The book series offers five-point important inspirations from Zhejiang’s practice in realizing the Chinese Dream, which deserves our careful consideration. These inspirations are as follows: We must always uphold and strengthen the Party’s scientific leadership; we must give full scope to the decisive role of the market in resource allocation and give play to the government’s role in a better manner; we must attach great importance to tapping and carrying forward traditional culture and leverage cultural soft power to support and boost economic hard power; we must combine scientific planning and innovation with our inheritance, carry through one blueprint to pursue development; finally, we must carry forward and respect the natural law governing relevant aspects, respect practice and talents as well as the pioneering spirit of the people.

The research for and compilation of “The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang’s Practice” book series is a model of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ efforts in building a new type of think tanks with Chinese characteristics and giving play to those think tanks. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences is endeavoring to turn itself into an internationally influential, world-famous think tank, and to take practical actions to realize the Chinese Dream of all the people engaged in the theories of philosophy and social science. We should also uphold the Party’s leadership and follow the correct political direction and academic orientation; moreover, we should focus on central tasks and serve the general situation, keep to the scientific spirit and encourage bold explorations, intensify the reforms,

constantly push forward innovations regarding the institutions, the mechanism and organization. Only in this way, can we fully perform the important functions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: Offering advice and suggestions concerning state affairs, conducting theoretical innovation, guiding public opinion, providing social services, and carrying out public diplomacy.

The book series is the result of a second round of cooperative research jointly conducted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Party Committee, and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province. In 2005, both sides cooperated on researching the major issue of "The Zhejiang Experience and Its Implication for the Development of China". In 2007, the book series "The Zhejiang Experience and Its Implication for the Development of China—The Scientific Way of Development and Harmonious Society Building in Zhejiang" (six volumes) were published. These books have exerted a far-reaching impact on the society; they have given rise to a paradigm and mechanism in which the academic research institutions work closely with local governments, theory comes from and acts on practice. This cooperative research continues and enlarges upon the previous research. The Leading Party Group of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province attached great importance to this work, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences assigned the directors of 7 research institutes and more than 20 backbone research fellows to participate in this work, while Zhejiang Province also carefully chose and assigned more than 30 research elites, the Party and government leading cadres to jointly carry out surveys. The manuscripts were revised many times; after the finalization of manuscripts, the experts from both sides carefully revised them again and again, while the leaders of various departments of Zhejiang Province, including the Department of Publicity under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, the Policy Research Office under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, offered many valuable opinions and suggestions. In particular, comrade Xia Baolong provided meticulous guidance on many occasions and prefaced these books. We hereby express heartfelt thanks to them for their hard work!

Let us get together to write a new chapter on Zhejiang and the country's practice in realizing the Chinese Dream.

Beijing
February 2015

Wang Weiguang
President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Secretary of the Leading Party Members'
Group of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Foreword II

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has delivered a series of important speeches from the strategic perspective of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation; these speeches profoundly expound the significant theoretical and practical issues concerning the development of the Party and the country, and present many new creative ideas, viewpoints, judgments, and requirements. The principles from these speeches are the latest achievements made in the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics; they represent the most vivid Marxism for guiding the great struggles with many new historical characteristics. In particular, with a simple and unadorned concept, the Chinese Dream closely combines long-term expectations with reality, and the Party's philosophy of governance with the people's yearning for a beautiful life; it further sheds light on the common goals of the whole Party and the people of all ethnic groups in the country; it profoundly reveals the historical mission of the Chinese nation and the developmental trend of contemporary China; it gives expression to the Party's philosophy of governing for the people; it has become the intellectual banner for the Chinese people to forge ahead in unity; it has also been widely commended and highly recognized by the people from the rest of the world.

When working in Zhejiang, General Secretary Xi Jinping acted in a down-to-earth manner, came out in front, deeply carried out the "Eight-Eight Strategies", and pushed forward the vivid practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Zhejiang, thus leaving a valuable intellectual wealth for Zhejiang. As we study and implement the principles from a series of important speeches delivered by General Secretary Xi Jinping, it is necessary for us to study and implement the important remarks made by General Secretary Xi Jinping while he was working in Zhejiang, gain new insights from them, trustfully use and act upon them. Therefore, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences jointly conducted research on the major issue of "The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang's Practice" as from March 2014, comprehensively

reviewing the historical process in which the successive Party Committees of Zhejiang Province have carried through one blueprint and deeply implemented the “Eight-Eight Strategies” since 2003; both sides scientifically summarized the valuable experience from the stimulating practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Zhejiang, delved into the main line of thought, viewpoints, major decisions and arrangements, on the economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement and the Party building, made and developed when General Secretary Xi Jinping was working in Zhejiang; deeply uncovered and expounded the Marxist stands, viewpoints, and methods contained in them. The extensive research for 10 months gave birth to the final product—the book series “The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang’s Practice”. The book series consists of 7 volumes, including the General Report Volume, the Economy Volume, the Politics Volume, the Society Volume, the Culture Volume, the Ecology Volume, and the Party Building Volume.

With the Chinese Dream as the entry point, the book series “The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang’s Practice” focuses on Zhejiang’s experience, analyzes Zhejiang’s phenomena, and presents comprehensive research on the innovative practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Zhejiang. I believe that the book series will certainly help us better understand the origin of the line of thought and the foundation of practice formed under the principles from a series of important speeches delivered by General Secretary Xi Jinping; they will help us more comprehensively and systematically summarize Zhejiang’s practical experience, more profoundly realize that the “Eight-Eight Strategies” are the general program for guiding Zhejiang’s development, the overall strategy for promoting the work in various respects in Zhejiang and the golden key for understanding, adapting to and leading the new normal; they will help us continue, with tremendous confidence and determination, the great chapter—the “Eight-Eight Strategies”, do a better job at tying to reach the goals set for the future 1, 3, and 5 years, double the value in four respects, move faster to build a modern Zhejiang which is abundant in materials and rich in mind, and a beautiful Zhejiang, create a good life, comprehensively push forward the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Zhejiang, and write a brilliant chapter in Zhejiang for realizing the Chinese Dream.

It is worth noting that the research on the major issue “The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang’s Practice” received a great amount of attention and vigorous support from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. President Wang Weiguang specially led an expert group to Zhejiang for discussing matters concerned with the project, and put forward the requirements for the main contents of the research, its organizational structure, achievement planning, and specific implementation. The Research Group, mainly consisting of the experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences, conducted numerous surveys at the grassroots level, elaborately carried out the research and wrote papers. The local authorities and various departments of Zhejiang Province made

careful preparations, actively cooperated on the relevant work and made great efforts for the relevant research and the publication of the book series. I hereby, on behalf of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, express my heartfelt thanks!

Beijing

February 2015

Xia Baolong

Secretary of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's

Congress of Zhejiang Province

Series Preface

Since China's reform and opening began in 1978, the country has come a long way on the path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Over thirty years of reform, efforts and sustained spectacular economic growth have turned China into the world's second-largest economy and wrought many profound changes in the Chinese society. These historically significant developments have been garnering increasing attention from scholars, governments, and the general public alike around the world since the 1990s, when the newest wave of China studies began to gather steam. Some of the hottest topics have included the so-called China miracle, Chinese phenomenon, Chinese experience, Chinese path, and the Chinese model. Homegrown researchers have soon followed suit. Already hugely productive, this vibrant field is putting out a large number of books each year, with Social Sciences Academic Press alone having published hundreds of titles on a wide range of subjects.

Because most of these books have been written and published in Chinese; however, readership has been limited outside China—even among many who study China—for whom English is still the lingua franca. This language barrier has been an impediment to efforts by academia, business communities, and policy-makers in other countries to form a thorough understanding of contemporary China, of what is distinct about China's past and present may mean not only for her future but also for the future of the world. The need to remove such an impediment is both real and urgent, and the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* is my answer to the call.

This series features some of the most notable achievements from the last 20 years by scholars in China in a variety of research topics related to reform and opening. They include both theoretical explorations and empirical studies and cover economy, society, politics, law, culture, and ecology; the six areas in which reform and opening policies have had the deepest impact and farthest-reaching consequences for the country. Authors for the series have also tried to articulate their visions of the “Chinese Dream” and how the country can realize it in these fields and beyond.

All of the editors and authors for the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* are both longtime students of reform and opening and recognized authorities in their respective academic fields. Their credentials and expertise lend credibility to these books, each of which has been subjected to a rigorous peer review process for inclusion in the series. As part of the Reform and Development Program under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television of the People's Republic of China, the series is published by Springer, a Germany-based academic publisher of international repute, and distributed overseas. I am confident that it will help fill a lacuna in studies of China in the era of reform and opening.

Xie Shouguang

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Chapter 1

Main Report: Zhejiang's Experiments Regarding the Chinese Dream and Its Inspirations



Yingqiu Liu

Since the beginning of the 21st century, guided by the principles established during the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Zhejiang, a province which has gradually gained prominence since reform and opening-up, has stayed ahead by carrying out the “Eight-Eight Strategies” and pragmatic work, thus making a series of brilliant achievements and bringing about Zhejiang’s experience—which

This report was prepared by the authors on the basis of field surveys in Zhejiang conducted by the Research Group including the authors and subsequently, for three times, by the Group of the General Report led by the authors; the opinions from the Department of Publicity under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, the Research Office under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, the Research Center of the People’s Government of Zhejiang Province, the research offices under the People’s Congress and the People’s Political Consultative Conference of Zhejiang Province, the Party History Research Office of Zhejiang Province, Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences, relevant departments of the Party Committee and the People’s Government of Zhejiang Province, the people in charge of some cities, counties, towns, villages and enterprises, the representatives of urban and rural residents, relevant experts and scholars; a great deal of relevant literature; the research results of Yuan Lei, Ge Daoshun, Zhong Qi, Yu Hongxia from the Group of the General Report and Yun Jie, the person in charge of the Politics Volume and Jia Xudong, the person in charge of the Culture Volume from the sub-report groups. After the first draft of this paper was completed, relevant revision and improvement opinions were solicited from Huang Qunhui and Wang Jinling as the Deputy Directors of the Group of the General Report, and Peng Shan as the Secretary of the Group of the General Report. After further revision, relevant opinions were solicited from research fellow Li Peilin, an alternate member of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, a member of the Leading Party Group of and Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Leader of the Research Group for “The Chinese Dream and Zhejiang’s Practice”; Ge Huijun, an alternate member of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, a member of the Standing Committee of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, Director of the Department of Publicity under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province; comrade Hu Jian, the coordinator of the research and Executive Deputy Director of the Department of Publicity under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province; Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences. The final draft was defined through further revision and improvement based on their valuable opinions.

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has been widely recognized at home and abroad and has actively been drawn upon in the rest of the country—which is mainly characterized by and basically covers a people-oriented diversified economy, an inclusive and orderly society, cultural self-improvement and innovation, well-functioning services from the government, a strong and vigorous building up of the Party,¹ as well as yielding the first batch of fruitful results at the provincial level with respect to the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. Since the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, especially the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the people of Zhejiang have continued to follow the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, to forge ahead with reforms and innovations according to the requirements of pursuing scientific development, inclusive development and sustainable development which are separately governed by economic law, social law and natural law, thus bringing forth new practice, experimentations and experience in, at the provincial level, building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, becoming the first to achieve modernization, and moving toward realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Zhejiang's successful practice in realizing the Chinese Dream is a great attempt by the people of Zhejiang to earnestly promote scientific development, build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, create abundant materials, substantially enrich the mind, persistently boost social harmony, actively make it environmentally friendly, and comprehensively achieve a high level of safety under the rule of law. Summing up the basic experience gained by the people of Zhejiang through bold, in-depth and scientific experimentations and comprehensive practice in realizing the Chinese Dream is of particularly important theoretical value and practical significance for effectively coping with the challenges amidst the complex and changing international situation, and arising out of arduous tasks for achieving development through reforms while maintaining stability amidst the acute contradictions in economic and social development under the new normal during the new stage in the new century; smoothly realizing the ambitious goals of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, ultimately turning China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious.

1.1 Zhejiang's Basic Practice in Realizing the Chinese Dream During the New Stage in the New Century, and Its Main Achievements

Regarding the above-mentioned new stage in the new century, first, the stage is a crucial and decisive one for China to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects through economic and social development after entering the 21st century. It is a stage of middle-income development at which China has ranked No. 2 in the world in GDP for more than five years and China's per capita GDP has reached

¹See Liu et al. (2007), pp. 1–35.

USD 7,000; it is also a stage at which China faces the challenge of smoothly crossing the middle-income trap in its economic and social development. Second, it is a crucial and decisive stage for China to tackle tough problems and huge difficulties in intensifying the reforms. During this stage, the following tasks are formidable and call for further comprehensively intensifying the reforms: Smoothly breaking through the blockades of vested interests; getting rid of all of the problems regarding institutions and mechanisms which hinder sustained healthy economic and social development; effectively dispelling various kinds of negative energy which impede the improvement of the socialist institutions and mechanisms with Chinese characteristics; better coordinating and fully unleashing various kinds of positive energy which will promote social development; better maintaining a balance among various kinds of legitimate social interests; better adjusting various social relationships; and better regulating various social behaviors. Finally, it is also a new stage in the new century at which China faces a number of important strategic opportunities for its development and the country must address many challenges amidst the complex and changing international situation. China is faced with new tests and needs to have a greater capability and greater wisdom as it endeavors to adeptly and more properly handle the relations with the USA, the EU, Russia and the developing countries and territories, and to better seize and effectively address the opportunities and challenges that exist in China's participation in the international market and its competition, and to realize the strategic goal of China's peaceful development during this process.

With respect to the above-mentioned new stage in the new century, for Zhejiang, first, the stage is the new stage in the new century for Zhejiang's economic and social development after the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Before the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the then Secretary of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province Xi Jinping, based on in-depth surveys, envisioned the "Eight-Eight Strategies", centering on eight advantages and eight measures, in the first half of 2003. In July of the same year, the 4th session of the 11th Party Committee of Zhejiang Province decided to intensely carry out the "Eight-Eight Strategies",² initiating a new journey for sustained, healthy, coordinated rapid economic and social development in Zhejiang. The goals of building a Safe

²The "Eight-Eight Strategies" are the strategic arrangements officially made by the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province in 2003 for leveraging eight advantages and carrying out eight measures. Their basic components are as follows: First, further giving play to Zhejiang's advantages regarding institutions and mechanisms, earnestly promoting common development of the economy with different types of ownership while making sure that public ownership remains dominant, continuously improving the socialist market economy system; second, further drawing on Zhejiang's geographical advantage, proactively keeping in line with Shanghai, actively engaging in cooperation and communication with the Yangtze River Delta, constantly increasing the level of opening-up internally and externally; third, further leveraging the advantages of massive characteristic industries in Zhejiang, speeding up the building of advanced manufacturing bases, undertaking the path of new industrialization; fourth, further giving play to Zhejiang's advantages in coordinated urban and rural development, quickening urban and rural integration; fifth, further utilizing Zhejiang's ecological advantage, turning Zhejiang into an ecological province, building a green Zhejiang; sixth, further exploiting the advantages of mountain and marine resources, energetically developing the marine economy, boosting the leapfrog development of the underdeveloped areas, and making the development of the marine economy and the underdeveloped areas the new economic growth point of

Zhejiang and a Zhejiang under the Rule of Law and making it possible for Zhejiang to stay ahead nationwide in building a moderately prosperous society were put forward and gradually achieved under the guidance of that strategy. Second, it also refers to the new stage in the new century for Zhejiang's economic and social development after Zhejiang ranks No. 4 nationwide in both GDP and per capita GDP. As a coastal province in eastern China, Zhejiang ranks No. 25 and No. 11 among 31 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities) across the country, except Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, in land area and total population size, but Zhejiang improved its ranking in GDP and per capita GDP from the 12th place and the 16th place in late 1978 to the 4th place in 2004 and 2007. Except for the fact that Zhejiang has declined in ranking in per capita GDP to the 5th place since 2009, Zhejiang has always maintained the 4th place nationwide in GDP. As Zhejiang is a province which is small in terms of resources, it covers a small area, and features "70% mountains, 10% water and 20% farmland", Zhejiang has always ranked No. 4 and No. 5 nationwide in economic aggregate and per capita GDP; this shows a new period, a new stage and new characteristics for Zhejiang's economic and social development; this also, to some extent, indicates that Zhejiang's experience in achieving sustained, healthy, coordinated rapid economic and social development is typical in nature but that experience is also important for the rest of the country as it can inspire and lead economic and social development in the rest of the country.

Zhejiang's practice in realizing the Chinese Dream during the new stage in the new century has resulted in a series of important achievements. They can be summarized as follows.

1. The economy improved in both quality and quantity, qualitative improvement was faster than quantitative growth

First, the industrial structure continued to be upgraded. The ratio of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries in Zhejiang was 38.1:43.3:18.7 in 1978. During this period, the proportion of agriculture in Zhejiang was higher than the national average level, while the proportions of the secondary and tertiary industries in Zhejiang were lower than the national average levels. In 2014, the ratio of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries in Zhejiang became 4.4:47.7:47.9, Zhejiang showed prominent characteristics that the proportion of the secondary industry was apparently higher than the national average level, that of the tertiary industry was the same as the national average level, while that of the primary industry was close to the level of the developed countries. These characteristics suggest that currently Zhejiang has thoroughly developed from a small agricultural province where the level of economic development is obviously lower than the national level into an industrially powerful province with coordinated development of the secondary and tertiary industries.

Zhejiang Province; seventh, further utilizing Zhejiang's environmental advantages, actively pushing forward the main construction mainly including five major ten-billion projects, practically strengthening legal construction, credit construction and improving the efficiency of entities; eighth, further leveraging Zhejiang's humanistic advantage, actively rejuvenating the province through science, technology and talents, stepping up efforts to turn Zhejiang into a culturally strong province. See Liu et al. (2007), p. 5.

Second, energy consumption per unit of GDP declined substantially, output performance improved greatly. Take the monitoring result concerning the energy-intensive products in the industrial field in 2013 as an example: 26 products among 36 monitored products in Zhejiang saw a sharp decrease in energy consumption per unit, Zhejiang led the way nationwide in energy consumption per unit with respect to such products as oil refining, ethylene, iron and steel products. In 2014, the industrial enterprises above the designated size saw a 0.2% decrease in energy consumption and a 6.7% decline in energy consumption per unit of industrial added value over the previous year.³ The efficiency of Zhejiang's output showed continued great improvement as a consequence. This is also an important reason why Zhejiang has ranked No. 4 and No. 5 nationwide in GDP and per capita GDP since 2004 and 2005.

Third, the unique advantage of economic development produced further effects. (1) The private sector of the economy further played the role of an important pillar while full scope was given to the leading role of the state-owned sector of the economy. For example, in late 2013, the proportion of the added value from the state-owned and state-owned holding industrial enterprises above the designated size mainly in the fields having a vital bearing on national economic development decreased to 16.84%, but the leading role of these state-owned and state-owned holding industrial enterprises was apparent; the added value from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and foreign-invested industrial enterprises accounted for 24.87%, roughly the same as the national average level; the added value of private industrial enterprises above the designated size accounted for 58.3%, the role of private industrial enterprises as the foundation and pillar was very evident.⁴ (2) The quality-based brand advantages improved markedly. For example, 52 brands from Zhejiang were included in the new list of 599 well-known Chinese brands published by the State Administration of Industry and Commerce in 2012, accounting for 1/10 of all well-known Chinese brands across the country. In late 2012, Zhejiang's enterprises owned 318 well-known Chinese brands administratively identified and recognized by the competent national department, Zhejiang stayed ahead nationwide in the number of owned well-known Chinese brands, the brand advantages were considerably apparent. (3) The massive economy with industrial clusters as important carriers continued to produce unique demonstration effects: industrial agglomeration, high quality and high added value of products. For example, the following industries in particular areas showed massive industrial agglomeration, high added value and they played an increasingly prominent driving role: textile fabrics in Shaoxing, small commodities in Yiwu, apparel in Ningbo, leather in Haining, hardware in Yongkang, lighters and low-voltage apparatuses in Wenzhou, stockings in Zhuji, the wood industry in Jiahsan, woollen sweaters in Tongxiang, industrial molds and plastics in Cixi, ties in Shengzhou, labels and woven bags in Cangnan, and motorcycles in Wenling.

Fourth, traditional industries became combined with modern information technology; economic growth presented new forms of business; high quality gradually became the new normal in Zhejiang's future economic development. As the modern

³Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics (2014).

⁴Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics (2013).

information technology, represented by big data and cloud computing, has been thoroughly combined with the traditional manufacturing industry and the logistics industry, such a combination has produced two effects: continuously accelerating market circulation and turnover in Zhejiang, and greatly enhancing endogenous integration between the real economy and the virtual economy and the efficiency of resource allocation in Zhejiang. Both effects show that the recent development of Zhejiang's economy exhibits new forms of business, and they also suggest the new normal of Zhejiang's future economic development.

Fifth, the income gap between urban and rural areas was lower than the national average level; the people's well-being improved continuously; the society was harmonious and stable. The income levels of and the income gap between urban and rural areas constitute an important indicator for measuring the level of economic development and the quality of an area. In 2014, Zhejiang's per capita GDP was 72,967 (USD 11,878 based on the annual average exchange rate).⁵ The average ratio of the income of urban residents to that of rural residents was 2.4:1 in 2013, noticeably lower than the national average ratio of 4.1:1 in 2012,⁶ roughly equivalent to the highest level (2.49:1) of income gap between urban and rural residents in the USA during the 1930s when the per capita GDP was USD 8,688.7 (based on the RMB-USD exchange rate in 2008).⁷ Such a situation shows that with more than 30 years of continued development since reform and opening-up, Zhejiang's economic growth and developmental quality have reached fairly high levels.

Overall, during the past decade, Zhejiang's economy showed sustained rapid growth, an improvement in the quality of economic development was obviously faster than the quantitative expansion.

2. The construction of Zhejiang under the rule of law entered a new stage, the building of a safe Zhejiang reached a new level

First, the construction of Zhejiang under the rule of law ushered in a new stage. According to the overall requirement of the "Eight-Eight Strategies", in April, 2006, the 10th Plenary (Enlarged) Session of the 11th Party Committee of Zhejiang Province deliberated and adopted the *Decision of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province Concerning the Building of Zhejiang under the Rule of Law*, specifying the overall goal, basic principles and main tasks for building Zhejiang under the rule of law, fully initiating it. According to the overall goal and general task for building Zhejiang under the rule of law, Zhejiang actively explored and improved the relations between the Party's role in grasping the overall situation and the role of the people's congress and government in law-based effective administration, it gave full play to

⁵Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics (2014).

⁶Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics (2013); The National Bureau of Statistics (2014).

⁷See Gu and Kang, A Study of Feasible Measures for Narrowing China's Urban-Rural Income Gap—Drawing upon the Experience from the U.S., Japan and South Korea, *Development Research*. 2011, (2):83; The U.S. GDP and Per Capita GDP over the Years, wenku.baidu.com. http://wenku.baidu.com/link?url=Vm4PKsalfWBEPwOiTHNLAz-TpDIH_vcZuFbw9jnJC77TgAOI8bIDSGWhOM4h07bh2yuzRdx1-buduT_Jc8NsuJs3-PjkWivSYgKkHEsiPsq, accessed on 2015-01-08.

the Party's leading role and the dynamic role of the people's congress and government, gradually brought about the master plan and concrete practice, involving the construction of Zhejiang under the rule of law, and these aspects have the following characteristics: The fundamental part is the governance of the country under the rule of law; law enforcement for the people is the essential requirement; fairness and justice represents the value pursuit; the important mission lies in serving the general situation; the fundamental guarantee is based on the Party's leadership; the basic goal consists of improving the rule of law in various fields including the economic, political, cultural, social fields, government decision-making and management; the important foundation and basic principle lie in practically respecting and effectively guaranteeing the rights and interests of the overwhelming majority of the people in the political, economic, cultural, social and other fields. Zhejiang stayed ahead nationwide in the rule of law.

Second, the building of a safe Zhejiang reached a new level. The Party Committee of Zhejiang Province put forward the new concept—the building of a safe Zhejiang in terms of pursuing scientific development and building a harmonious society; moreover, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province made the *Decision of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province on Building a Safe Zhejiang and Promoting Social Harmony and Stability* in May, 2004. The document specifies the overall goal and general principle for the building of a safe Zhejiang in a broad sense, as follows: development promotes harmony; democracy boosts harmony; fairness brings about harmony; management seeks to achieve harmony; a high level of stability guarantees harmony; culture fosters harmony. The document presents the overall arrangements for building a harmonious society with Chinese characteristics, the features of the times and Zhejiang's characteristics regarding economics, politics, culture, society, external contacts and others. On this basis, in April, 2008, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province further made the *Decision on Comprehensively Improving the People's Livelihood and Promoting Social Harmony*, further clarifying the policy connotation and concrete measures for the building of a safe Zhejiang at a higher level of understanding. In June, 2011, in order to better cope with the new situation, problems and challenges in Zhejiang's social management during the period of the 12th Five-Year Plan, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province made the *Decision on Strengthening and Innovating Social Management*, further deepening and developing the scientific connotation of the building of a safe Zhejiang. With bold explorations and in-depth practice for nearly ten years, a degree of success has been achieved in building a safe Zhejiang; Zhejiang has reached a new height in social management innovation, Zhejiang has made remarkable achievements in grassroots Party building, harmonious labor relations, public security management, comprehensive governance of online public opinion and in other fields. Zhejiang has witnessed marked decreases in vicious mass incidents, the cases involving violation of laws, criminal activities, the letters sent and visits paid by the people for lodging complaints to higher authorities and regarding other aspects; in Zhejiang, economic and social life has featured the new normal in the following aspects: the people can get access to education, medical service and old-age care when they need them; the achievers are provided with the opportunities for doing something meaningful; the

people in communities get along well with each other; the urban and rural areas develop in a coordinated and balanced way.

3. The cohesive force of the Zhejiang Spirit further enhanced, Zhejiang's cultural development reached a new level

Culture is inseparable from "spirit", while "spirit" and economy are often twin sisters. The Zhejiang Spirit epitomizes Zhejiang's culture, while Zhejiang's culture is an important support for Zhejiang's economy and its development. Furthermore, once the power of culture is combined with the forces behind economic and social development, culture will become the intrinsic "booster" for economic development and the important "adhesive" for social harmony⁸; it will also further evolve into the "main switch" for the mechanism of making ecological progress, and will ultimately become the special "navigation light" for political civilization.⁹

Zhejiang has fostered a fine cultural tradition of placing equal emphasis on both righteousness and benefit, simultaneously developing agriculture and commerce since ancient times. After the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, in light of the province's reality, social situation, and the cultural advantages from historical and cultural deposits, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province made the *Decision on Accelerating the Building of a Culturally Large Province* in July, 2005, and launched eight major construction programs covering the quality of civilization, excellent cultural goods, cultural study, cultural protection, cultural industrial promotion, construction of a cultural front, cultural communication and cultivation of cultural talents, so as to arouse and completely uncover the Zhejiang Spirit characterized by ceaseless self-improvement, grittiness, great courage in innovation and pursuit of substantial results, and lead Zhejiang's economic and social development. Afterwards, the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province developed the *Plan of Zhejiang Province for Promoting Vigorous Cultural Development and Great Cultural Prosperity (2008–2012)* in June, 2008; it made the *Decision on Conscientiously Implementing the Principles from the 6th Plenary Session of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Earnestly Promoting the Building of a Culturally Strong Province* on the basis of summarizing the practical experience in building a culturally large province in November, 2011, further intensifying efforts to turn Zhejiang from a culturally large province into a culturally strong province. During this process, actions were taken to fully launch Program 122 which centers on fostering socialist core values, and mainly includes the Plan for the Revitalization of the Top 100 Cultural Enterprises, the Plan for the Development of 20 Key Cultural Industrial Parks, and the Plan for Boosting the Listing of 20 Fast-growing Cultural Enterprises with Great Developmental Potential. During the period, more than 1,600 educational bases to foster patriotism above the county level emerged, and more than 1 million primary and middle school students participated in educa-

⁸Xi (2007).

⁹The "navigation light" is something summarized by Xi Jinping. See Party History Research Office of Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee, *Making the People Rich by Starting Business and of Building a Strong Province through Innovation—Since the 12th Party Congress of Zhejiang Province*, Zhejiang People's Publishing House, 2012.

tion on patriotism reading activities each year. The Spring Mud Program—hailed by the people as a program which makes children happy, parents satisfied, schools gratified and the society reassured—was carried out in more than 10,000 natural villages in an extensive way, more than 2 million juveniles took part in this activity each year. Cultural stations, cultural centers, libraries, museums, village-level cultural activity rooms mushroomed; there were more than 45,000 grassroots service stations for cultural information sharing. As from 2012, with provincial-level financial resources allocated for active support, Zhejiang Province actively promoted and earnestly developed rural cultural and intellectual landmarks—the program for building cultural auditoria in rural areas. The rural cultural auditorium consists of a hall, lecture room, a cultural and sports center, a service center for the convenience of the people and a cultural corridor. The launch and active promotion of the program for building rural cultural auditoria caters to the increasing cultural needs of the people after a continued great increase in the per capita income of rural people; it offers a greater number of better homes dedicated to enriching the minds of the people in rural areas; it ensures that the people in rural areas can not only have sites for living but also obtain the opportunities for cultural improvement. The excellent cultural goods were made available, cultural products were provided to rural areas, cultural auditoria were built in a large number of villages, an intangible cultural heritage was energetically protected; the cultural market and the cultural industry promoted each other, meeting the different cultural needs of the people at different levels, greatly improving the cultural soft power and effectively developing the economic hard power. Moreover, as efforts to spread fundamental socialist values have been intensified, the “Most Beautiful Zhejiang People” represent the prevailing trend. So far, Zhejiang’s culture profoundly imbued with the Zhejiang Spirit has become a dazzling and multidimensional symbol of Zhejiang in economic and social development.

4. Social security developed in an all-round way, the people’s well-being improved substantially

First, social security showed all-round development. As early as 2003, Zhejiang issued and implemented the *Implementation Opinions on the Establishment of the New Rural Cooperative Medical Care System (Trial)*, Zhejiang became the first across the country to establish the new rural cooperative medical care system with a comprehensive arrangement for serious diseases, under which a county is taken as a unit. As of 2014, 24,426,000 people was covered by basic endowment insurance in enterprises, 19,000,000 people had basic medical insurance for urban workers, 12,104,000 people had unemployment insurance, 18,994,000 people work-related injury insurance and 12,489,000 people had maternity insurance, all of whom had increased greatly compared with the period before 2003. Currently, the monthly per capita level of basic pension for retirees from enterprises exceeds 2,500 yuan.¹⁰ Therefore, Zhejiang has generally built an extensive social security system which meets basic needs, provides full coverage, is multi-level, coordinated, sustainable

¹⁰Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics (2014).

and efficient; Zhejiang has stayed ahead among provinces across the country in the construction of social security for residents and its level of development.

Second, the employment service system improved constantly, the labor relations characterized by mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation gradually took shape. For example, according to the strategic arrangements made by the Party Committee and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, the Hangzhou Municipal Government became the first to issue and implement the *Implementation Opinions on Completely Developing the Harmonious Labor Relations*, the *Opinions on Strengthening the Improvement in Corporate Social Responsibility*, the *Evaluation System of Hangzhou City for the Labor Relation Harmony Index (Trial)* and other relevant laws and regulations; quantitative and qualitative analysis and official statistics were combined with third-party surveys; relatively complete employment service systems and mechanisms were built at the institutional level. Based on the above policy requirements, Xiaoshan District of Hangzhou City carried out the *Criteria for Harmonious Labor Relations in Enterprises (Trial)* as from 2011, specifying 29 provisions for dealing with the labor relations within enterprises regarding 8 aspects, including labor contracts, employee wages and social insurance; it sets forth more explicit certification criteria for addressing the harmonious labor relations in enterprises; it also specifies the concrete links and requirements for their implementation. The implementation of these policy measures has delivered win-win outcomes for both labor and capital to the extent that employees and enterprises obtain tangible benefits, the economy develops and the society becomes harmonious; the win-win labor relations have gradually taken shape; this indicates that Zhejiang has made positive achievements in building the employment service system and addressing labor relations.

Third, a rational comprehensive arrangement for income distribution was made, and the efforts in social fairness have been constantly intensified. At the present stage in China, the unfairness in income distribution is reflected in the following aspects: the rural-urban gap and the personal income gap are too large; the wage standards are not the same within enterprises or government departments; income is not commensurate with labor contribution. In an effort at promoting vigorous development of the market economy, Zhejiang attached great importance to and actively pushed forward a rational comprehensive arrangement for the income distribution relations, placed emphasis on unifying wage standards for civil servants, cancelled private co-fers and comprehensively carried out the system for creating bonus and allowance standards to be set by single government departments; Zhejiang has made significant achievements in adjusting the income distribution relations and coordinating various standards. Take Yiwu as an example: Yiwu carried out reforms to ensure the same wage level for civil servants of the same class and roughly the same wage levels for temporary staff, such as drivers and cleaners, in state organs. With coordination of income distribution criteria, the unfairness in the income distribution field has been effectively eliminated, social fairness has been achieved on a wider scope, and the efficiency of work has been improved in government, enterprise and social services.

Fourth, citizens' welfare has improved continuously, the people's well-being has enhanced greatly. For example, Zhejiang made 12-year compulsory education uni-

versal; the gross enrollment rate in higher education in Zhejiang reached 54.0% in late 2014, up 39.0 percentage points over 2001, suggesting a spectacular achievement. In Zhejiang, the per capita area for the building of housing for urban and rural residents increased from 18.5 m² and 13 m² in 2001 to 40.9 m² and 61.5 m² in 2014, up 100% and 400%, respectively. In 2014, the per capita disposable income of urban and rural residents was 40,393 yuan and 19,373 yuan in Zhejiang, ranking Zhejiang No. 1 among provinces across the country for 13 and 29 consecutive years, respectively¹¹; in 2013, the Engel coefficient of urban and rural households was 34.4% and 35.6%, much lower than the national average levels during the same period.¹² Furthermore, whether in large and medium-sized cities or in micro and small communities or in rural areas in Zhejiang, an important indicator for measuring the improvement of citizens' welfare—public security—also reached a fairly high level. According to a relevant survey, the proportion of rural and urban residents satisfied with security in Zhejiang remained high for many consecutive years, and it further increased to 95.93% in 2013.

5. A new stride was made in ecological construction, great progress was made in the ecological field

“Moving toward a new era of ecological advancement to turn China into a beautiful country is an important part of the efforts to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.”¹³ This is not only the consistent thought of General Secretary Xi Jinping, but it had also become his basic working practice when he served as the Secretary of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province. In January, 2003, with the approval of the State Environmental Protection Administration, Zhejiang Province was designated as one of the five pilot provinces for ecological construction in the country. In May, 2003, the then Secretary of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, Xi Jinping, led efforts to establish the Leading Group for Building an Ecological Province; in June, the *Decision on Building an Ecological Province* was issued; in July, “further leveraging Zhejiang's ecological advantages to build an ecological province and a green Zhejiang” was incorporated into the “Eight-Eight Strategies”¹⁴; in August, the *Plan of Zhejiang for Building an Ecological Province* was officially released. Based on the above strategic arrangements, overall planning and implementation, in early August, the People's Government of Zhejiang Province developed and implemented six major action plans for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, covering energy conservation and consumption reduction, resource saving, intensive land use and environmental protection, thus initiating the

¹¹ Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics (2014).

¹² See the Group of the Theoretical Study Center under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province: The Major Theoretical Achievements in the Practice of the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in Zhejiang—the Understanding and Experience after Studying Two Monographs Including *Carrying out Solid Work to Stay Ahead* and *Zhijiang Xinyu*, *Zhejiang Daily*, April 1, 2014, Page 1–2.

¹³ See the Xinhua News Agency (2013).

¹⁴ The Party History Research Office under the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province: *Carrying out Solid Work to Stay Ahead*, Zhejiang People's Publishing House, 2007, p. 3.