

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Supervision of officials will step up

By ZHANG YAN
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China will continue its high pressure against corruption next year, strengthen supervision and severely punish officials who break Party rules, according to the top leadership.

A pilot reform program for an integrated supervision system will also be on next year's anti-graft agenda, according to a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on Wednesday.

The meeting, presided over by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, also decided that the seventh plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the country's discipline watchdog, will be held in Beijing from Jan 6 to 8.

At the meeting, members of the Political Bureau listened to the CCDI's work report for 2016 and provided arrangements for combating corruption and building up clean government next year.

The Party has gained the upper hand in the fight against corruption, and "the high pressure against graft will be maintained next year," according to a news release from the meeting.

Punishment for violators will be even harsher, it said.

Anti-graft officers are required to report in a timely manner any clues about officials who might be corrupt. If they help to conceal such information, they will be held accountable as well, according to the release.

Moreover, the meeting decided to require the reform of the supervision system to be pushed forward firmly and steadily next year to make sure that all reform targets are met.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, approved a pilot reform pro-

gram on Sunday to produce an integrated supervision system that will be more authoritative and efficient.

New supervision committees will be tested in Beijing as well as Shanxi and Zhejiang provinces and will gradually be expanded across the country.

According to the NPC decision, the committees will integrate the supervision and corruption prevention departments, as well as People's Procuratorate departments, for handling bribery and dereliction of duty cases or for prevention of duty-related crimes.

The committees will supervise the duty performance, integrity and ethical conduct of public servants. They will investigate and punish corruption and other job-related offenses, and will transfer cases involving suspected criminal offenses to procurators.

All who exercise public power will be supervised by the new committees, according to the decision.

According to CCDI statistics, in the first 11 months of this year, 50,008 Party officials were investigated for breaking Party austerity rules, 37,500 of whom received Party or administrative penalties.

No matter who breaks Party discipline, he or she should be exposed to the public, said Song Dajun, a senior official from the CCDI's Discipline Supervision Department.

CCDI figures show that so far this year, 29,100 such cases, involving more than 43,100 people, have been made public, with the officials' names listed.

Gao Bo, a political researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said, "I believe anti-graft officers will pay more attention to corrupt officials at the grass roots to make sure that all people share the anti-graft success and its benefits," he said.

Xinhua contributed to this story.



Salvation at sea

A Chinese rescue helicopter removes crew members from a fishing boat in the East China Sea after the boat's engine caught fire and burned out of control about 165 kilometers southeast of Shanghai on Tuesday. All 10 on board the boat were saved.

LU WEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

SINO-JAPAN TIES

Liaison group's renaming criticized

By MO JINGXI
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China asked Japan on Wednesday not to send a wrong message to Taiwan authorities and the international community by changing the name of its liaison organization in Taiwan.

"China is strongly dissatisfied with Japan's negative move on the Taiwan question," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily news conference in Beijing, urging Japan to adhere to the one-China principle.

The Interchange Association in Taiwan said in a statement on Wednesday that it will change its name to the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association beginning on Jan 1, according to the Kyodo News Agency.

The organization was established in 1972 when Japan normalized diplomat-

“We are strongly opposed to any attempt to create ‘two Chinas’ or ‘one China, one Taiwan.’”

Hua Chunying, spokeswoman for Foreign Ministry

ic relations with the Chinese mainland and cut "diplomatic ties" with Taiwan.

"China urged Japan to abide by principles under the 1972 Sino-Japanese Joint Statement and the promises it has made so far," Hua said. "China's stance on the Taiwan question has always been consistent and clear. We are strongly opposed to any attempt to create 'two Chinas' or 'one China, one Taiwan'."

She added that Japan "should not create new disturbances in the China-Japan relationship."

In the 1972 joint state-

ment, Japan said it fully understood and respected the Chinese government's position that Taiwan is part of China.

In 2014, the two sides also reached a four-point consensus — which aimed to improve the ties soured by Japan's illegal purchase of China's Diaoyu Islands in 2012 — that reaffirmed the 1972 statement.

Lyu Yaodong, an expert on Japanese foreign policy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Tokyo's "petty move" in renaming the organization in Taiwan is a signal that it is trying to fur-

ther improve its relationship with Taipei at the possible expense of harming ties with Beijing.

"This will not happen if Japan honestly implements the four-point consensus. However, the move reflects a lack of sincerity in Japan's efforts to ease the bilateral relationship as it has boasted," he said.

Da Zhigang, a Japanese studies researcher at the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, said Japan is rousing the enthusiasm of Taiwan separatists by adding the names of Japan and Taiwan to the title.

"The move, which caters to Taiwan's pursuit of more international recognition, will deteriorate the current severe situation across the Taiwan Straits after US president-elect Donald Trump's call with Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen" on Dec 2, he said.

TECHNOLOGY

Satellites' images will open up market

By ZHAO LEI
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China launched two commercial remote-sensing satellites on Wednesday in an attempt to break foreign companies' dominance in high-resolution ground images.

The SuperView 1A and 1B were lifted atop a Long March 2D carrier rocket at 11:23 am from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, developer of the satellite series.

The two identical satellites will be part of the SuperView network of at least 24 Earth observation satellites, which the State-owned CASC expects to become one of the world's largest commercial providers of space imagery and geospatial data, said Yang Yike, director of high-resolution satellite projects at the company.

After the SuperView 1A and 1B are placed in their positions 500 km above Earth, they will start to take pictures of Earth with ground image resolution of 0.5 meter — the clearest yet produced by Chinese commercial satellites, he said.

China now operates the Gaofen network that has four satellites in service, but the system mainly serves government departments and the public sector rather than businesses, Yang said.



Teachers and students of Bayi School in Beijing display a small satellite made by students at the middle school in late November. The satellite, launched on Wednesday, includes technology for ground images and radio communication. YAN TONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

0.5 meter

Ground image resolution of SuperView 1A and 1B's photos of Earth, the clearest yet by China's commercial satellites

"We want to build a commercial network that will consist of 16 optical satellites like the SuperView 1A and 1B, four optical satellites that are more advanced, four radar satellites as well as several mini-satellites," he said. "We will arrange one to two launches for the network each year from 2017 to 2022. The whole system will be built by 2022."

Xu Liping, general manager of Beijing Space View

Technology Co, distributor of images and data generated by SuperView satellites, said government departments, public institutions and companies are expected to spend 500 million yuan (\$71.9 million) on the procurement of 2.5-m-resolution or clearer images, adding that foreign companies account for about 75 percent of this market. In addition, all of the highest-definition images, such as the 0.5-m-resolution ones now available on the Chinese market, are controlled by foreign providers.

"The SuperView network will enable us to end foreign companies' dominance in this market and will force them to lower their prices," she said.

Zhang Xiaomin, a senior researcher at the China Academy of Space Technology who took part in the SuperView satellites' development, said that compared with foreign satellites of its kind, SuperView satellites feature more functions, stronger capabilities and higher accuracy.

A small satellite designed by about 40 students at Beijing Bayi School under the guidance of space scientists was also part of Wednesday's launch. The satellite, Bayi Youngsters' Expedition, will take pictures of the ground and conduct radio communications and audio transmission experiments, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Pearl: Abe trip ignores Japan's other atrocities

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revise Japan's pacifist Constitution, drawn up by the US under postwar occupation, to allow the country to have a real army," he wrote.

On Tuesday, the Association for Inheriting and Propagating the Murayama Statement, a Japanese civic group, issued a statement urging Abe to visit Nanjing and other locations of Japanese atrocities before and during World War II.

"The Japanese Imperial Army killed far more civilians in the Nanjing Massacre, the germ warfare in Harbin and in some other places in Asia, and it is intolerable just to memorialize the US dead while ignoring the victims in Asian countries," said Takakage Fujita, director general of the association.

The group aims to uphold the 1995 statement issued by then Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama apologizing for damage and suffering caused by Japan.

Nell Calloway, director of the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum in Monroe, Louisiana, said, "I feel the visit by Japanese Prime Minister Abe to Pearl Harbor ... was meaningless and he was nothing more than a tourist." Calloway is the granddaughter of the famed Flying Tigers' Lieutenant General Claire Lee Chennault, who commanded US pilots who fought the Japanese in China.

Zhang Jingquan, a professor of Japanese studies at Jilin University, said that Abe's visit was a way to strengthen the Japan-US alliance and jointly curb the rise of China.

On Wednesday, more protesters than usual showed up for the weekly demonstration in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul. South Korean "comfort women" meet there to denounce being forced into sexual slavery during the war, Xinhua News Agency reported.

It marked the anniversary of what protesters called a "humiliating" agreement last year between South Korea and Japan meant to be a final settlement of the issue in exchange for \$8.3 million for a foundation for the victims, Xinhua reported. Protesters called for annulment of the agreement, and the group also held a remembrance for seven of the women who died this year.

The Japanese military coerced as many as 200,000 women from the Asian countries into sexual slavery during the war, historians say.

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Tao Feiran, a student at Yunnan Normal University, proposes to Xu Mengming on the high-speed train from Kunming, Yunnan province, to Guiyang, Guizhou province, on Wednesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Railway: System to nearly double by 2025

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bullet train departure from his hometown.

"In the early 1990s, I took a train from Kunming to Guiyang for the first time. It took about 20 hours. The travel time from Kunming to Guiyang has been reduced, to 17 hours and then to 10 hours, and now to only 2 1/2 hours. Guizhou is our neighbor and we can travel back and forth in the same day," he said.

In July, the National Development and Reform Commission issued an updated national railway development plan envisioning 38,000 km of high-speed railways by the

end of 2025, up from more than 20,000 km now.

The current system accounts for 60 percent of the world's high-speed railroads, according to China Railway Corp.

"We will accelerate the construction of railways in central and western parts of China. We will also boost the expansion of intercity and suburban rail links," Zhang Dawei, deputy head of the Transport Ministry's planning department, said in July.

By the end of 2020, plans call for more than 80 percent of mainland cities with a population of at least 1 million to be covered by high-speed railways.