

中國經濟穩而好 發展中問題可解

中英社評

昨日中國發布的上年經濟與社會發展報告，顯示中國經濟表現良好，展望前景亦不差，反映當前西方一些「唱衰」論調完全脫離客觀實情，乃別有用心別有圖謀的歪曲。當然，在國內外諸多問題疊交的複雜多變形勢下，必須居安思危力避錯失，以保持得來不易的穩定較高增長宏觀經濟格局。

去年中國經濟開局較弱，上半年面臨增長持續下滑的劣勢，幸而當局能適當處理，既能力保經濟活動安穩，又能不急不躁避免過分落重藥刺激，結果終能在下半年令經濟止住下滑重新站穩。全年GDP增長還達到百分之七點七，在年初預計的目標七點五之上。同時，居民消費物價指數上升百分之二點六比較溫和，在較佳動力下而能維持低通脹，反映了穩定較高增長的宏觀大局仍得以維持。

中國經濟發展正逐步由重量轉向重質，對GDP增長不再如過往般被視為硬目標，更值得注意者是結構及體制方面的優化，和總體效率的提高。事實上中國只要維持約百分之七點二以上的增幅，便可保障足夠就業和每十年GDP翻一番的要求，故增幅雖稍降卻其實仍不慢，在全球主要經濟體當中更屬成績突出的表表者。

同時更應重視各方面的進步。首先是效率的提升。去年全社會勞動生產率同比上升逾百分之七，從全球看亦屬較高水平。這不單可為提高生活水平打好基礎，還將有利於應對「民

►正當中國經濟穩中有進、穩中向好之際，西方評論卻多「唱衰」論調，每借用一些中國經濟面臨的困難無限誇大，把一些數據波動理解為轉勢跡象。圖為上海陸家嘴



Problems facing Chinese economy are resolvable

China yesterday released a report on its economic and social development in 2013, which shows the Chinese economy has performed well and its outlook is also good. This is evident that those Westerners bad-mouthing China's economy are divorced from reality and make a distortion out of ulterior motives. Surely, under the complicated and changing situation with problems turning up at home and abroad, China must be on its guard and avoid making mistakes and lapses, so as to safeguard the **hard-earned** macro-economic pattern of relatively high-speed growth.

Last year, China's economy started with a weak beginning and it was in a disadvantaged position of continuous slowdown in the first half of the year. Fortunately, Chinese authorities were able to handle it properly, managing to keep economic activities stable while not overdoing it by rushing to take **heavy-handed** stimulus measures. As a result, the economy stopped the slowdown and stabilised again in the second half. In the end, GDP (gross domestic product) growth for the whole year still reached 7.7%, higher than the 7.5% goal set at the beginning of last year. At the same time, Consumer Price Index (CPI) mildly rose 2.6%. With relatively good growth momentum, low inflation was still maintained, which indicated that the macro-economic pattern of relatively high-speed growth could still be maintained.

China's economic development is gradually shifting its focus from quantity to quality. GDP growth is no longer regarded as a hard goal, and more attention is paid to optimizing economic structure and system and improving overall efficiency. In fact, as long as China could maintain an annual growth of at least 7.2%, it can ensure sufficient employment and meet the requirement of doubling its GDP in a decade. Therefore, despite the lower growth rate, its economic growth in fact is still not slow, much faster than all other major economies in the world.

At the same time, attention should be given to progresses in many other aspects. The first is the improvement of efficiency. Last year overall labour productivity grew over 7% from a year before, which was comparatively a high level in the world. This has not only laid a foundation for improving people's living standards but also is favourable to deal with problems such as "shortage of migrant workers" and decrease in labour force due to population aging. The second is that Chinese people could fully benefit from economic growth as their living conditions improve quickly. Last year, average per capita disposable income in the country rose more than 8%, higher than the rate of GDP growth. At the same time, urban-rural differences narrowed with wealth distribution tending to be fairer. Finally, development indicators such as industrial structure and urbanisation have steadily improved: urbanisation rate rose over 1% and the tertiary industry accounted for 46% of the whole economy, surpassing the secondary industry for the first time. This suggests China starts to enter a new stage of service based economy.

As Chinese economy maintains stability and makes steady progress, many commentators in the West are rather **singing the blues**. They infinitely exaggerate some difficulties facing the Chinese economy and interpret some fluctuating data as signs of a downturn, using them to derive at all sorts of "hard-landing" and "collapsing" theories. Of course, there are a few more objective and pragmatic commentators who point out that, years of experience show the winning chance of betting on China meeting with a mishap is very tiny. Inevitably, behind "singing the blues" there are hidden conspiracies. First, by badmouthing emerging economies, they want to lure capital back to Europe and US to help reduce the shock brought up by US stimulus withdrawal. In fact, when the Federal

Reserve (Fed) announced to reduce bond buying, US treasury bonds went up instead of going down. This was exactly because risk-hedging "hot money" flew back to the rescue. However, eventually, owners of these funds will find out that they are not hedging but **heading into** risks. Secondly, they really feel the threat of China: with its growing economic muscle, China's international influence grows increasingly, which is bound to accelerate the comparative fall of the West and to end the era of Western dominance. Therefore, they want to "sing the blues" about China for self-consolation.

No doubt, China as a developing country still has many shortcomings at economic level, in its system and policy implementation, which have yet to be overcome as quickly as possible. Pressures accumulated in fast development in many years also need to be relieved. But China's economy is still vigorous and has the potential of making use of the advantages of a late comer. And many development dividends could be released through reform and structural optimization. What China is facing is problems in development which are resolvable, absolutely unlike the West especially the US where **sham** prosperity is created by drinking poison to quench a thirst. As time goes by, China's advantage and strength will manifest itself even more clearly.

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時，美國國債不跌反升，正是這些被鼓吹的「避險」熱錢「救駕」之功。可惜錢最終將發現這是投險而非避險。二是真的感受到中國威脅：中國經濟實力日強，國際影響日增，必將加快西方的相對衰落，和西方主導世界時代的結束，因此要以「唱衰」中國來起着自慰作用。

毫無疑問，中國作為發展中國家，在經濟水平、體制及政策運用等各方面仍多缺失，有待及早改進。在多年的迅速發展後也累積了一些壓力須予紓緩。但中國經濟仍很有活力，仍有很多利用後發優勢的潛力，而通過改革及結構優化還可釋出很多發展紅利。目前中國正朝這方面穩步前進，即使遇上一些波折仍不會偏離大道。中國面對的是發展中的問題，更是可以解決的問題，絕不如西方尤其美國飲鴆止渴地製造出來的虛假榮景。隨著時間過去，中國的優勢及實力，將會更明顯地表現出來。

時事背景

國家科技經費增 15.6%



▲國家教育科技文化事業持續發展，全年研究與發展經費支出11906億元，比上年增長15.6%，佔國內生產總值的2.09%

國務院早前發表上年經濟與社會發展報告，顯示國家經濟表現良好，展望前景也不差。全年GDP增長達到7.7%，在年初預計的目標7.5%之上。同時，居民消費物價指數上升2.6%比較溫和，在較佳動力下而能維持低通脹，反映了穩定較高增長的宏觀大局仍得以維持。

中聯辦主任張曉明早前在新春酒會上致辭表示，2013年開啓了中國改革事業的新征程。中共十八屆三中全會順應歷史潮流和人民期盼，作出全面深化改革的決定，提出一系列重大思路、政策和舉措。相信在新的一年裡，改革事業將取得新突破，祖國將會變得更加富強，社會將會變得更加公平，人民生活將會變得更加美好。

發展報告指出，去年中國「經濟社會發展穩中有進、穩中向好，實現了良好開局」。2013年，中國國民經濟平穩較快增長，全年國內生產總值比上年增長7.7%。全年房地產開發投資86013億元，比上年增長19.8%。進出口穩中有升。全年貨物進出口總額258267億元人民幣，以美元計價為41600億美元，比上年增長7.6%。

教育科技文化事業持續發展。全年研究與發展(R&D)經費支出11906億元，比上年增長15.6%，佔國內生產總值的2.09%，其中基礎研究經費569億元。

科學技術方面，去年全年成功發射衛星14次。神舟十號載人飛船與天宮一號目標飛行器成功實施首次繞飛交會試驗，嫦娥三號探測器順利實現首次在地外天體軟著陸和巡視勘察，「蛟龍號」載人潛水器實現從深潛海試到科學應用的跨越。

報告又指出，年末全國共有產品檢測實驗室30098個，其中國家檢測中心556個。全國現有產品品質、體系認證機構174個，已累計完成對110949個企業的產品認證。

文化方面，全年我國運動員在22個運動大項中獲得124個世界冠軍，共創13項世界紀錄。全年我國殘疾人運動員在28項國際賽事中獲得306個世界冠軍。

時事英語

氣候「暖化」與「冷化」之爭



▲美國國家太空總署用衛星監察北極洋冰層變化卻發現，去年8月北極洋冰層面積創10年來最大，比2012年同期多出150萬平方公里

近一、二十年，「全球暖化」(global warming)論十分流行，有相當研究指出，人為因素令地球的溫室效應(green-house effect)更加明顯，造成了全球氣候暖化。不過，也有一些科學家認為「全球暖化」是無實證支持的假命題(false proposition)，更有部分人斥之為「騙局」(hoax)。有科學研究更提出，全球的氣候正在「冷化」(cooling)。

「全球暖化」論者認為，北極圈(Arctic circle)內的冰層因氣候變暖而不斷融化，未來會露出陸地長出草木，同樣，南極洲(Antarctica)的冰層也會融化變薄。顯然，南北極冰層的變化是檢驗(verify)「全球暖化」論真偽的重要依據。前些年，北極的冰層的確有融化縮小的跡象。

可是，美國國家太空總署(The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA)用衛星(satellite)監察北極洋冰層變化卻發現，去年8月北極洋冰層(sea ice)面積創10年來最大，比2012年同期多出150萬平方公里；而南極海面冰層有1930多萬平方公里，而且還在擴大，有可能打破歷史紀錄(is heading toward the largest extent on record)。實際情況也似乎證實NASA的發現。去年底，一艘俄羅斯南極考察船被困，馳援的中國「雪龍號」破冰船(ice-breaker)也因冰層太厚被困多日。

這些最新研究結果似乎推翻「全球暖化」的說法，有科學家據此認為，人類現在應該擔心的是「全球冷化」(global cooling)時代的來臨。今年的冬天也顯得特別冷，北半球許多地方受特大暴風雪襲擊。在這種情況下，「全球暖化」論者仍堅持認為，這是北極暖化使寒流南下所致。孰是孰非，有待雙方各自拿出更多證據來爭辯。

有一點可以肯定的是，全球氣候變化(climate change)日趨極端(extreme)和反常(abnormal)，也因此，才會出現「暖化」和「冷化」的兩極爭論。

亦然

WORDS AND USAGE

Hard-earned (adj.) - Acquired or attained by great effort or work. (辛苦得來的，來之不易的)

Examples: 1. Trust is **hard-earned** but easily spent.
2. Gambling is a quick way to lose **hard-earned** money.

Heavy-handed (adj.) - Using too much force; not showing delicate, graceful, or skilful qualities. (重手的，笨手笨腳的)

Examples: 1. If you say that someone's behaviour is **heavy-handed**, you mean that they are too forceful or too rough.
2. The protesters accused the police of using **heavy-handed** tactics.

Sing the blues (idiom) - to complain; to cast down. (抱怨，說讓人沮喪的話，唱衰)

Examples: 1. Computer programmers are **singing the blues** because business is bad and no one is hiring.
2. Nobody leaves this place without **singing the blues**.

Head into (phrasal verb) - To move into something head or front end first. (迎頭走向……，陷入……)

Examples: 1. The boat was **heading into** the wind.
2. It dawned on me that we were **heading into** a war zone.

Sham (adj.) - pretended; counterfeit; feigned. (假的，偽造的)

Examples: 1. She's trapped in a **sham** marriage.
2. They made a fortune through some **sham** property deal.