

No one left out in province's improvements

By SONG WENWEI

Jiangsu's government has an ambitious goal: doubling the incomes of urban and rural people, in less than a decade, to keep pace with the economy and improve their livelihood.

"People's livelihood is a fundamental issue with us," Luo Zhijun, Party secretary of Jiangsu Committee, told the delegates to the 11th provincial people's congress in the province capital Nanjing on Feb 10.

"The government will adjust the distribution of income to make it more reasonable and lessen the income gap," Luo explained, promising to help rural folk earning less than 2,500 yuan, annually, shake off poverty this year.

To protect workers' interests, the authorities will establish a better minimum wage system, he added.

Employment and housing

To improve the job market, the provincial government has promised a more active employment policy, in spite of the uncertainties in the global economy.

In the move to provide more jobs, priority will be given to college graduates, rural migrant workers, and veterans.

The government plans to establish a unified human resources system that gives workers employment information and vocational training.

Luo said the government will help one million urbanites in general, and 360,000 laid-off workers, find jobs this year.

They will also look after the interests of households who have to be relocated because of demolished buildings and compensate them adequately.

Luo said they plan to raise the level of social security and provide people with better

insurance: "We need better legal assistance for disadvantaged people and improved education and medical care systems. We'll also support charity work."

The government's goal is to help 450,000 households in dealing with their housing problems this year and get funds to build housing for low-income urbanites.

Companies are being encouraged to take part in this, both in building housing and providing rentals.

"We'll increase the monitoring of the property market and are determined to stop housing prices from going up too quickly," Luo said.

"The real estate market needs to grow in a steady, healthy way."

Development in cultural sector

Since Jiangsu has plenty of cultural resources, Luo

continued, they want to be "strong culturally and have a better, wider cultural service system".

What this means, to give one example, is access to cable TV for more than 77 percent of the rural households this year.

It also means greater emphasis on related industries, for instance, publishing, the Internet, film, TV, and animation.

One specific example of this, according to Luo, is the provincial government's help in preparing for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games, which will be held in the provincial capital Nanjing.

Jiangsu badly needs to increase the pace of education modernization through mid- and long-range reform, Luo said.

"We'll put more money into education, promote educational fairness, and improve



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Jiangsu Party chief, Luo Zhijun (right), visiting the mother of Li Yunlong, a village Party head in Nanjing, who worked long and hard to help villagers rise out of poverty, but died of cancer in 2003. Li was praised for his devotion to duty and the development of the countryside.

its overall quality."

He said they will see to it that each student from a poor family gets the financial aid needed to complete their schooling.

The government plans to increase spending on medical services and encourage the use of private capital for hospital construction.

"We have to improve our management ability and be innovative to have a stable, harmonious society," Luo concluded.

Ambitious plans in spite of a gloomy global outlook

By ZHUAN TI

Jiangsu province has favorable conditions for economic and social development so it expects rapid economic and social progress, the province's Party chief recently remarked. But, that does not mean that it does not face some serious challenges.

The start of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) is crucial to the development goals, Party chief Luo Zhijun told the 11th provincial People's Congress in Nanjing on Feb 10.

But, Luo told the gathering, that they face a complicated situation: the more uncertain the global economic outlook becomes, the more unstable the province's economic development.

The challenges include worsening inflation, a less-than-optimistic outlook



Employees on the MG automobile assembly line in Nanjing. The Nanjing Automobile Corp purchased the MG Rover Group and its engine production line in 2005, the first Chinese company to acquire a foreign automobile company.

for exports, stricter energy conservation and emissions reduction standards, the difficulties in improving the standard of living, and the urgent need to change the economic model.

The government laid out

this year's ambitious economic and social goals: 10 percent growth of GDP, 10 percent growth in budget funds, 18 percent growth in fixed asset investments, 8 percent growth in imports and exports, 10 percent growth in incomes

of urbanites and rural people, and unemployment below 4 percent.

In this, the government will have a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy, he said. It will give more financial support to

innovations in agriculture, rural areas, standard of living, education, culture, and health.

"The government considers stable consumer prices to be very important and will increase its monitoring of consumer pricing," Luo said.

The government will watch the economy closely and guarantee adequate supplies of coal, electricity, refined oil products, and natural gas.

The government has its eyes set on a 17-percent increase in retail sales, so it plans to stimulate consumer demand, improve consumer conditions, and cultivate new areas of consumer demand.

It plans to lead private investments into some 200 major projects that are expected to have a profound, long-lasting effect.

Luo emphasized the importance of industrial restructuring as well as

developing a better, more innovative economy.

The government plans to support a number of giant competitive enterprises as well as small and mid-sized businesses to make them more innovative.

Spending on R&D is expected to amount to more than 100 billion yuan, this year, 80 billion of that coming from businesses, and account for 2.2 percent of Jiangsu's GDP.

The government will improve its IPR strategy to develop more local brands and explore new areas of economic growth.

The province plans to increase its modernized industry's part of the GDP by one percentage point this year. The emphasis will be on various services like logistics, finance, information, and improved technology, tourism, body-building, domestic work, and lifestyle.

Govt that responds to people's basic needs

Jiangsu government needs to build a service-oriented government through reforms and innovation to safeguard citizens' interests, Luo Zhijun, the province's Party secretary, said.

"Government needs to change and focus on public service and administration," Luo told the 11th Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress delegates.

Luo said they need to increase government efficiency in serving the people and making society just. It should be more transparent by getting out enough information to the public through various means, he added.

"Anything that affects people's interests directly should be open to society to improve the executive branches' ability to govern and its credibility, at all levels."

Luo also stressed the need for the administration to improve its ability to act in accordance with the law to protect the rights of the common folk, especially the disadvantaged and those living in poverty.

At the same time, there needs to be more oversight of government functions, Luo said. It should agree to People's Congress supervision, and that of the People's Political Consultative Conference, the judicial system, and public opinion as well.

Luo emphasized that changing the spirit of government officials and workers is vital to this, along with a job responsibility system.

"We really need to teach government employees to pursue the truth and implement major central and provincial Party committee decisions faithfully," he said.

"We also need to go back down to the grassroots level to listen to people's voices and do our best to solve the problems they worry most about."

Luo has asked government officials to spend more time researching these tasks, digging deeper, to handle them in a practical way.

Corruption is another area the Party chief touched on, vowing to increase the crack-down on corruption and corrupt officials.

The government plans to put a halt to the building of luxury offices, cut spending on official receptions, and control the use of government vehicles more tightly. Such activities as ceremonies, festivals, and forums will be kept to a minimum in the future.

And, the use of public funds for private travel abroad is strictly forbidden.

Luo urged government employees at all levels to be frugal in the use of public funds and to be economical in every way.

"We should use whatever funds and resources we have to improve people's lives and create the image of a clean government of the people," Luo said.

Delta region looks to integrated urban-rural development

By CONG RONG

Jiangsu province wants to find a method for integrating and balancing urban-rural development through greater reforms and opening-up, the Party chief has reported.

"We will push the integration of the Yangtze River Delta region, with the cities of Suzhou, Wuxi and Changzhou playing a leading role," Luo Zhijun, Jiangsu's Party secretary said.

Luo said that increasing the incomes of farmers has always been a major government task and that it regards agriculture and rural

issues as having the utmost importance.

Luo said they will have various policies that benefit farmers and modernize agriculture and new construction in rural areas.

The province wants to add 20,000 more hectares to the amount of land using more efficient agricultural methods.

"We'll also see some breakthroughs in coastal development," Luo said. One example of that is a deep-water navigation channel, which accommodates 300,000-ton vessels, near Lianyungang, a major port.

The province will have policies that are favorable to investment, and which attract professionals, according to Luo. It will encourage foreign capital to the high-tech sector, emerging industries and modern service industries.

Foreign companies will also be encouraged to set up headquarters, or R&D, marketing and logistics branches in Jiangsu.

"We're hoping that foreign investors will pay more attention to the northern and central parts of the province as well as coastal areas.

"And we'll create an open,

impartial and convenient investment environment."

In addition to bringing in foreign investment, the government hopes domestic businesses will go out and explore international markets.

In promoting this, Luo said, the government will improve its services for any companies that look abroad.

"We hope Chinese businesses will go overseas to acquire R&D branches, penetrate marketing networks, and acquire established brands, or get financing by being listed," Luo said.

Getting strict with older industries and environmental degradation

By SONG ZHANZHANG

Jiangsu plans to do everything it can to save energy and protect the environment, Luo Zhijun, Jiangsu's Party chief said recently.

Luo told the 11th provincial People's Congress that, "We need to eliminate outdated production capacity more speedily, and completely stop any new projects in backward industries."

Luo said the government will have new energy-saving and emissions-reduction projects in manufacturing, construction work, and transportation. And it will promote the use of energy-saving and water-saving technology and a recycling economy.



The local government is involved in promoting its 'clean water, blue sky' project to give locals a more pleasant place to live, work and play.

"We'll use our economic leverage — pricing, taxes, and loans — to get businesses and society in general to conserve energy and reduce emissions."

The government also plans to try harder on ecological improvements through a "clean water, blue sky" project. Other steps will be taken to

improve the quality of Jiangsu's Taihu Lake, China's third largest freshwater lake.

There will also be a move to reduce the amount of

dust at construction sites, on highways, and around factories to improve air quality.

Work on wastewater and garbage treatment plants also

needs to be sped up.

The government has a goal of 53,000 more hectares of forest area and 21,000 more hectares of urban grassy areas.