

Giving people a better life is crucial

Governor looks forward to bright future, built on province's remarkable past

4.09

trillion yuan
Jiangsu province's GDP for 2010.

13.5

percent
Jiangsu's GDP growth last year.

\$7,700

Per capita GDP in the province last year.

1.3

trillion yuan

The retail sales income in 2010.

2.31

trillion yuan

Fixed asset investment last year.

465.8

billion yuan

Total import and export value for last year.

2

trillion yuan

Industrial output of major emerging industries: new energy, new materials, biological technology, new medicines, and software.

By XU XIAO

The last five years have been significant for Jiangsu province because it dealt well with the world financial crisis, moved ahead in social, economic and cultural development, and reached the goals it had set, the governor Li Xueyong recently remarked.

Li made the comment in a work report at the province's fourth plenary session of the 11th People's Congress, which was held in February.

Li was summarizing both the achievements and mistakes of the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010), and giving an outline for future development.

When the financial crisis hit, the province followed the Chinese government's idea of increasing domestic demand to maintain economic growth, he explained.

In doing so, it gave financial support to small and medium-sized companies and boosted international trade. Jiangsu's GDP reached 4.09 trillion yuan in 2010, or 13.5 percent more than the previous year.

And per capita GDP grew from \$3,046 in 2006 to \$7,700 in 2010. Retail sales amounted to 1.3 trillion yuan, an 18.6 percent increase over 2009, Li said, noting that consumer spending was the economy's biggest driving force.

Fixed assets investments amounted to 2.31 trillion yuan, up 21.5 percent from the previous year.

Imports and exports also saw growth, totaling 465.8 billion yuan, with exports contributing 270.6 billion of that.

Basic infrastructure like electric power stations, highways, ports, and airports contributed a lot to the development, the governor said.

So, this period was essential to improving the province's economic and industrial structures and to modernizing traditional industries and supporting emerging ones.

Emerging industries

Emerging industries are leading to another round of economic growth. Their output value, in 2010, accounted for 33 percent of that of pillar industries.

Six major emerging industries are new energy, new materials, biological technology, new medicines, and software. These generated sales revenues of more than 2 trillion yuan, or 23 percent of all industrial output.

Added value in the service sector accounted for more than 40 percent of the region's production value, and 5.1 percentage points higher than under the 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-2005).

The province also showed some progress in environment protection, with the water quality of its major lake — Taihu — improving markedly.

The forest-coverage rate grew 20.6 percent, and the amount of urban green areas, 42 percent.

Regional development

Over the past five years, Jiangsu also narrowed the gap between urban and rural levels of development.

Li said they had solved the drinking water safety problem for 12.75 million rural people. They also moved 2.27 million rural people to towns to provide more job opportunities for them.

This helped improve the local economy, adding 28 towns to China's top 100 rich towns list.

The northern part of the province, which is relatively behind, when compared to the southern and central parts, saw some improvement as well.

It had over 10,000 projects involving more than 5 million yuan each and the major economic indexes were above average for the province, over the past five-year period.

As the northern part improved, it meant that all of Jiangsu could enjoy the pros-



Jiangsu Governor Li Xueyong (center), inspects the Nanjing South Station, a key part of the Beijing-Shanghai High-speed Railway which is now under construction, on Dec 31, 2010.

perity of the Yangtze River Delta region. Even coastal areas of southern Jiangsu were able to join the national development strategy.

Standard of living

During the past five years, income levels in Jiangsu have gone up, Li said.

In 2010, the annual income of urbanites reached 22,944 yuan, a 10.2-percent rise from 2009, while the net income of rural people reached 9,118 yuan, an 8.2-percent rise.

In the same period, 5.87 million more people found jobs in urban areas, and the unemployment rate was held to within 3.5 percent.

The province also added more living space for low-income families and provided stipends as well. Meanwhile, 3.62 million rural people rose above the poverty line.

Education

Education also found itself on the forefront of development, with free compulsory education reaching both urban and rural areas, Li said. High-school education is now almost universal and vocational training is undergoing a sort of boom.

The province has seen good development in sports as well and, at the common level, it has provided more places for people to exercise.



Opening ceremony of the fourth plenary session of the 11th Provincial People's Congress of Jiangsu held on Feb 10, in Nanjing.

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In addition, the capital city, Nanjing, held the 17th provincial sports meeting last year and won the bid of hosting the second Youth Olympics in 2014.

In the area of popular culture, Jiangsu has done its best to build more harmonious communities. It also increased market controls to guarantee food and medicine safety.

The governor added that the rights of women, children, the elderly, and the disabled are being looked after. And char-

ity drives are one means of accomplishing that and making life better for the needy.

Looking to the future

Nonetheless, Li said, even with the major achievements of the past five years, they are not without their problems, which need to be addressed in the next period.

He said they need to maintain a "scientific developmental outlook", proposed by President Hu Jintao, a major guideline of the Communist Party.

The province also needs to push its reforms and opening up to create more development opportunities, said Li.

In this, improving the economic structure is essential. But, the government needs to concentrate on harmonious development between urban and rural areas, and between human beings and the environment.

In the end, Li said, allowing people to enjoy a better life is the most important task that lies ahead.

Helping Jiangsu prosper by relying on traditional strengths

By CHAI HUA

After having reached its goals set in the last five-year plan, China's Jiangsu province is now looking at a bolder plan for improving its economy, science sector, environment, and international competitiveness, in the next five years.

Meanwhile, it is expecting its GDP to grow 10 percent in 2011, with 2.2 percent of that growth going to scientific research.

Foreign trade is expected to grow by more than 8 percent, while its utilized foreign investment, having been on top in China over the past five years,

is expected to stay there.

Per capita disposable income among urbanites and the net per capita income of rural people are expected to be up about 10 percent by the end of 2011.

Li Xueyong, Jiangsu's governor, said in his work report at the province's fourth plenary

session of the 11th People's Congress that, under the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015), his province will focus on scientific development, building a better Jiangsu, and developing its economy better.

Jiangsu, in fact, has always been an economic powerhouse, so the central government has fairly high expectations for it.

President Hu Jintao has asked it to take the lead in improving Chinese society overall and in modernizing China. This is an indication of the province's record as an outstanding performer.

Its per capita GDP, above \$7,700, is better than the national average.

Key year

This year marks the beginning of the 12th Five-Year Plan and it holds a special place in relation to whatever is accomplished in the future.

"In general, we have many strong points," Governor Li commented, suggesting that the domestic and international situation is conducive to Jiangsu's further development in a globalized economy.

The economic integration of the Yangtze River Delta region and the Jiangsu Inshore Regional Development strategy mean ample opportunities



In the provincial capital, Nanjing, the subway system has taken the lead in Jiangsu, with 85 km of track in all.

and a new impetus for Jiangsu's development.

That does not mean, however, that provincial development is without its complications.

There are pressures to increase exports and new demands for energy saving and emissions reductions.

And, improving the lives of its people and ensuring their well being are still challenges for the province, so, economic development becomes all the more urgent, Li said.

"First, we need to develop our confidence and make good use of our opportunities; and at the same time remain level-headed, aware of the potential dangers, and prepared to face challenges."

Over the next five years,

Jiangsu will focus on structural adjustments in its economy, scientific and technological innovations, and environment protection, Li added.

Emerging industries have become a new growth area and the province has plans for new energy, new materials, pharmaceuticals, and software development.

In addition, service industries are expected to account for 48 percent of the province's economy by 2015, and high-tech industries for 40 percent.

Service industries have become a major part of its new economic structure, based on modern agriculture, with support from modern manufacturing techniques and new technology.

Last year, the province's patent filings were in first place in China. And, with the scientific developments of the past five years, it is expected to maintain its lead in scientific and technologic innovations, by putting 2.5 percent of its GDP into research and development in the near future.

Jiangsu wants to be an innovator, and has some big dreams for economic development. But that does not mean that it is not paying attention to environmental protection. Among all of China's provinces, it ranked third overall in environmental quality, in 2010.

Its forest coverage goal for 2015 is 22 percent.



One of Jiangsu's modern expressways. Under the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010), the province made transportation more convenient, with a total of 150,000 km of highways, compared to 83,000 km in 2005.