

# Opening up to a curious world

By WANG CHEN

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**WANG CHEN**  
was born in 1950 and joined the CPC in 1969. He graduated from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. In 1995 he became Editor-in-Chief of the *Guangming Daily*, subsequently holding the same position at *The People's Daily* where he later became President. He is a member of the 16th CPC Central Committee and is also Director of the Information Office of the State Council.

**A**t this historical moment, the people of China can take pride in the country's growing strength, the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and its plans for future development.

The birth of the PRC marked a fundamental transition in the fate of the Chinese people and provided the country with a vision of its future potential and the foundation stones for its development. It has been a path that has changed China's role in the world and had an impact on global history.

The New China has produced achievements that are recognised around the world. From 1949 to 2008 the per-capita GDP rose from US\$35 to US\$3,266. During the reform and opening up period that started in late 1978, China succeeded in achieving historic change from a planned economy to a socialist market system, moving from a closed and semi-closed society to one that is opening up and reforming at all levels.

The Chinese economy is growing at a rate that is three times faster than that of the world average, and the volume of international trade ranks it as the third largest country in the world. The number of people in poverty has decreased from 250 million in 1978 to 40.7 million in 2008.

Science and technology, education and culture develop apace and China has become a more prosperous society. Its people are now in a position to command their own destiny.

China has upheld a peaceful and independent foreign policy; firmly grounded in diplomacy and the respect of state sovereignty, territorial integrity and national integrity when it comes to international affairs. China has established diplomatic relations with the overwhelming majority of countries in the world, and conducts extensive economic and trade co-operation. It conducts scientific, technological and cultural exchanges with various countries and regions in the world. China's international standing has been greatly enhanced, and its investment in foreign countries has increased by a large margin through the role it plays in global economic and trade development.

The major reason China has been able to make this progress lies in the fact that it embarked on a road to development suiting its own conditions – following a socialist road with distinct Chinese characteristics.

An open China needs to know more about the world, and the world is more eager than ever to understand China. At the time when we are marking the 60th birthday of the PRC we will work to strengthen understanding and mutual trust between both peoples and to promote further development of the Sino-British relationship.

Our aim is to present a true image of China so that the world can gain a better understanding of Chinese history, culture, its achievements in the social and economic spheres and its plan for future development.

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Celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of The People's Republic of China