Chinese leaders call for preparing for hardships and risks

BELING — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and other senior leaders on Monday urged the nation to prepare for hardships and risks in the future and push forward reform and opening up.

When joining panel discussions respectively with national legislators and political advisors at the Two Sessions, China's top annual political events, they said that officials should further study the economic situations and adopt scientific measures to overcome difficulties.

At the panel discussion with national legislators from coastal Zhejiang Province, Vice Premier Li Keqiang called for strengthened efforts to facilitate industrial restructuring and deepen reform and opening up. Li urged authorities in Zhejiang to seize the opportunity of developing its marine economy, explore new ways to propel its economy, cultivate new competitive edge and improve people's well-being.

In discussion with the NPC delegation from southwestern Chongqing Municipality, He Guoqiang, head of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee for Discipline Inspection, urged the city to accelerate the transformation of its economic development pattern, seek coordinated development between urban and rural areas and speed up reform and opening up. Officials should have a clean work style and become more knowledgeable, he said.

Wen also urged to closely cooperate with deputies to the National People's Congress. The major events during the week were the fourth session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) from March 5 to 14, which will be followed by the fourth session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which will be held from March 7 to 13.

The conference will focus on economic development and regional collaboration to provide support for the common development of coastal and inland regions, he said.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, joins a panel discussion with deputies to the Fourth Session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) from March 5 to 14, when the NPC and CPPCC, which will be held from March 7 to 13, will focus on economic development and regional collaboration to promote the common development of coastal and inland regions, he said.

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African leaders meet in Addis Ababa on Cote d'Ivoire crisis

ADDIS ABABA — A panel of five African presidents discussed the worsening crisis in Cote d'Ivoire here on Wednesday, after failing to persuade the country's sitting president Laurent Gbagbo to cede power to the internationally recognized president-elect, Alassane Ouattara.

Ouattara, who is recognized by the international community as the legitimate leader of the country, said on Monday that he was ready to resume the dialogue with Gbagbo, but that the president-elect, who has rejected its media can only be achieved through a peaceful solution to their differences.

The five-president panel, which was mandated by the AU to take over the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, is expected to continue talks in the coming days, without the participation of Gbagbo, who has rejected its media can only be achieved through a peaceful solution to their differences.

The military confrontation between Gbagbo's forces and the new Forces (FN) is escalating, with latest reports of three towns lost to the FN on moving south in its offensives. Fighting is also reported near the border between the two countries, with reports of heavy fighting in the town of Gagnoa.

Meanwhile, a humanitarian catastrophe is looming with tens of thousands of people displaced in the post-election violence, including 150,000 in the economic capital Abidjan alone. Many have fled into neighboring Liberia and Guinea, spreading the crisis elsewhere in the region.

The United Nations put the death toll from the crisis at nearly 400.

Oil has become the principal wealth in the hands of the great Yankee transnationals; through this energy source they had an instrument that considerably expanded their political power in the world. It was their main weapon when they decided to easily liquidate the Cuban Revolution as soon as the first just and sovereign laws were passed in our Homeland: depriving it of oil.

Upon this energy source today's civilization was developed. Venezuela was the nation in this hemisphere that paid the highest price. The United States became the lord and master of the huge oil fields that Mother Nature has bestowed upon that sister country. At the end of the last World War, the United States controlled approximately 90% of the world's oil. Since then, the amounts of oil from the oil fields of Iran, as well as those in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Arab countries located around them: These became the main suppliers. World consumption progressively increased to the fabulous figure of approximately 80 million barrels a day, including those being extracted on United States territory, to which later gas, hydro and nuclear energies were progressively added.

When our Revolution arose, Algeria, Libya and Egypt were not yet oil producers and a great part of the abundant reserves of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates were still to be discovered. In December of 1951, Libya became the first African country to attain its independence after WW II, during which its territory was the stage for important battles between the troops of Germany and the United Kingdom, conferring fame and glory on Generals Erwin Rommel and Bernard L. Montgomery. Ninety-five percent of its territory was subsequently taken over by desert.

Technology permitted the discovery of vast oilfields of excellent quality light oil that today reach one million 800 thousand barrels a day along with abundant deposits of natural gas. Such riches allowed it to reach life expectancy that is almost at 75 years of age and the highest per capita income in Africa. Its harsh deserts is located over an enormous lake of fossil waters, equivalent to more than three times the land area of Cuba; this has made it possible to construct a broad network of pipelines of fresh water that stretches from one end of the country to the other. Libya, which had a million inhabitants when it attained independence, today has somewhat more than 6 million.

The Libyan Revolution took place in the month of September of the year 1969. Its main leader was Mu'ammar Qaddafi, a soldier of Bedouin origin who, in his early years, was inspired by the ideas of the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. Without and about, many of his decisions are associated with the changes that were produced when, as in Egypt, a weak and corrupt monarchy was overturned in Libya. The inhabitants of that country's People's Congress (NPC) from Tinjani, Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that the development of the cultural sector was a pressing task. He urged that the industry should be well guided in order to produce goods, which can help the people, and not just for the military.

At a panel discussion with the Henan NPC delegation, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said the government would give top priority to the rising up of central China. He urged Henan province to take the opportunity to advance its industrialization and urbanization, and to make greater contribution to national food security and price control as the province is a major grain production base.

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Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, joins a panel discussion with deputies to the Fourth Session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) from the circles of economy and agriculture in Beijing, capital of China. March 7, 2011.