



Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng held a press conference after the sixth session of the 15th Shanghai People's Congress, the city's legislature, closed last Sunday. He answered questions on various development and public service issues of the city. Shanghai Daily reporters Chen Huizhi and Huang Yixuan took notes on his answers and we present them here:

Mayor paints a rosy city picture

Expectations for city's economic development in 2022

THE city's economic growth target for this year has been set at 5.5 percent, taking into account both current and long-term situations, and the pressure on demand, supply and expectations.

Despite current difficulties and challenges, the economic fundamentals that will sustain the city's high-quality development remain unchanged, laying a solid foundation for stable and healthy economic

growth in 2022.

The key to this year's work is to prioritize "stability" and launch more supportive policies and measures.

The city will implement practical measures on ensuring stability on six fronts (namely employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations) and security in six areas (referring to job security, basic living needs, operation

of market entities, food and energy security, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments).

As for pursuing progress, authorities have pledged to firmly carry out national strategic tasks, further strengthen the "Four Major Functions," deepen construction of the "Five Centers," and continuously improve the city's capability and core competencies.

Secrets to successful COVID-19 pandemic control

FIRST, a strong sense of crisis and strictly and thoroughly implementing all routine preventive measures.

Second, precise, quick and early actions. Pandemic control teams arrive on the spot within two hours of COVID cases being identified, and within four hours, core epidemiological investigation is completed. Within 24 hours, testing, site control, transportation and quarantine can be completed. This way, pandemic control measures are contained to

the community level, quarantine period is reduced to the shortest time, and the cost is minimum.

Third, reliance on science in COVID prevention. Experts' opinions are referred to, and informed decisions are made based on scientific analyses. The e-portals of the government are used to carry out precise tracing of contacts of the patients.

Fourth, top priority given to defense against the virus. More than 94 percent of Shanghai's permanent

population has been vaccinated, and local residents are doing a good job in practicing personal precautions.



Construction of a sci-tech innovation hub



AFTER years of persistent efforts, a basic framework of the sci-tech innovation center has been formed and it is now at the key stage of function upgrading.

The city will build up strength in science and technology, enhance capability in breeding innovation, and focus more on institutions, facilities, and talent teams.

Shanghai will also speed up the gathering of first-class sci-tech research institutions and support them to seize the high ground of cutting-edge technologies; accelerate the construction of first-class sci-tech facilities and promote the open sharing of large facilities; while cultivating and attracting more talents from home and abroad.

