

Mayor sets out policy priorities to achieve 2023 economic growth

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and Zhu Yuting

Shanghai will give priority to launching pioneering and integrated policies, issuing new bailout measures, and optimizing the business environment to stabilize economic growth this year, the mayor said last Sunday when the first session of the 16th Shanghai People's Congress (SPC), the city's legislature, concluded.

The city's new leadership was unveiled during the closing plenary.

Gong Zheng was elected the city mayor along with eight vice mayors.

Chen Jining, Party secretary of Shanghai, attended the closing plenary and delivered a speech.

Gong made the remarks while answering questions from the media.

"With active response to the impact of the coronavirus and other unexpected factors, Shanghai economy saw a V-shaped rebound in 2022, showing its economic resilience, potential, vitality, and long-term positive fundamentals have not changed."

The city's core functions have been further consolidated. For example, its financial market achieved a nearly 20 percent year-on-year surge in total transaction volume last year, while the container throughput of Shanghai Port maintained its first place globally for 13 consecutive years.

City's reform and opening-up continued to be yield positive, with actual utilization of foreign investment hitting a new high, and more regional headquarters and research and development centers of multinational firms set up.

Shanghai saw new emerging industries play a more



The first session of 16th Shanghai People's Congress, the city's legislature, concluded on January 15. — Dong Jun



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Shanghai Mayor

important role in driving economic growth, while new jobs were added and per capita disposable income rose.

To achieve this year's target for economic growth at more than 5.5 percent, the city will adhere to “stability” at the forefront while pursuing progress, highlighting the work of stabilizing growth, jobs and prices, Gong said.

“In particular, we need to make greater efforts in three aspects and seek greater

breakthroughs,” he said.

These are to give full play to the leading role of national key strategic tasks and launch more pioneering and integrated policies, issue a new round of bailout measures to shore up confidence and expand demand, and further optimize the business environment.

Gong also noted the achievements and future plans of the Lingang Special Area of the city's pilot free trade zone.

Also, about 2,000 parks will

be completed by the end of 2025, he said, adding that the city will continue to step up efforts to improve air quality.

“To make the sky bluer, the ground greener, the water cleaner and the environment more beautiful is our assiduous goal,” Gong pointed out.

The government will focus on reducing carbon emission. It will also facilitate construction of low-carbon factories, zones, products as well as supply chains.

The city will finish a total of 400,000 square meters of old neighborhood renovation this year. Gong said that in some old communities with poor conditions, residents need to share cooking facilities and toilets.

By the end of 2025, the city will finish all the old community renovation in downtown areas.

Shanghai is also striving to become the best choice for talented workers worldwide. It has made remarkable achievements in attracting professionals globally.

More than 11,000 overseas talented workers have so far obtained permanent residence permits in Shanghai. The city has also issued more than 370,000 work permits for foreigners. More than 270,000 overseas returnees have chosen Shanghai to settle and obtain *hukou*, household registration — all these three indicators are top in China.