

China Politics Weekly

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Dear friends and colleagues,

Happy lianghai! I am at the airport on the way to Beijing, where I will be for the next week. I will then be in Wuhan the week following and Hong Kong and Singapore the week after that. If there are readers in any of those cities that would like to meet, please get in touch.

I've been running around in preparation for the trip, so have yet to look at the various work reports delivered yesterday, but impressions from the little bit that I have picked up are pretty underwhelming. The most basic contradiction at the heart of China's economic policymaking remains the continuing use of growth targets. Given the current accommodative monetary and fiscal policy stance, I think the 6.5% target for this year is possible (just barely), but trying to maintain that rate of growth over the next five years – as the five-year plan mandates – is impossible.

The government's stability bias will mean that structural reforms will proceed cautiously and haltingly, and that many of the underlying structural problems in the economy will remain unaddressed. This means the continued misallocation of capital in the economy and further buildup of (bad) debt. The day of reckoning is still probably years away, but it is disappointing to see the top leadership failing to adequately address the issue.

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PBSC Week in Review

Xi Jinping
Party General

Mar 5

Xi attended the opening meeting of the NPC annual full session.

*Secretary; PRC
President;
Chairman of
Central Military
Commission*

Mar 4

Xi met with the Shanghai delegation.

Xi joined a panel discussion of political advisors from the China Democratic National Construction Association and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

- Mar 3 Xi attended the opening meeting of the CPPCC annual session.
- Feb 29 Xi met with Communist Party of Vietnam international department chief Hoang Binh Quan, the special envoy of Vietnam's communist party chief Nguyen Phu Trong.
- [Xi sent a congratulatory message to the opening ceremony of the "China-U.S. Travel Year".](#)

Li Keqiang
Premier

- Mar 5 Li delivered the government work report during the opening meeting of the NPC full session.
[Full text of the report in English \(From the New York Times\).](#)
- Mar 4 [Li met with CPPCC delegates from economic and agricultural circles.](#)
- Mar 3 Li attended the opening meeting of the CPPCC annual session.
- Mar 1 [Li signed a decree amending 66 regulations to simplify administrative procedures.](#)
- Feb 29 Li met with United States Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew.

Zhang Dejiang
*Chair of the
National People's
Congress*

- Mar 5 Zhang chaired the opening meeting of the NPC annual full session.
- [Zhang joined a group deliberation of delegates from Zhejiang Province.](#)
- Mar 4 [Zhang chaired a preparatory meeting for the NPC annual session.](#)
At the meeting a presidium for the session was elected.
- [Zhang chaired the first presidium meeting of the NPC annual session.](#)
- [Zhang held a meeting with heads of committees of the NPC.](#)
- [Zhang met with CPPCC delegates from Hong Kong and Taiwan.](#)
- Mar 3 [Zhang attended meetings with delegations arriving for the NPC annual full session.](#)
- Zhang attended the opening meeting of the CPPCC annual session.

Yu Zhengsheng
Chair of the

- Mar 5 Yu attended the opening meeting of the NPC annual full session.

<i>Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference</i>		Yu joined a group deliberation of deputies from Hubei Province.
	Mar 4	Yu met with CPPCC delegates from medical and healthcare circles. Yu joined a panel discussion of political advisors from the China Democratic National Construction Association and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.
	Mar 3	Yu delivered the CPPCC Standing Committee work report at the CPPCC annual session. <i>Highlights (in Chinese).</i>
	Feb 29	Yu chaired the closing meeting of the bimonthly CPPCC National Committee Standing Committee session.
Liu Yunshan <i>Head of Party Secretariat; Head of Propaganda</i>	Mar 5	Liu attended the opening meeting of the NPC annual full session. Liu joined a group deliberation of delegates from Inner Mongolia.
	Mar 4	Liu met with CPPCC delegates from the China Democratic League and Agricultural Workers Party.
	Mar 3	Liu attended the opening meeting of the CPPCC annual session.
	Mar 1	Liu spoke at the Central Party School spring semester opening ceremony.
Wang Qishan <i>Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection</i>	Mar 5	Wang attended the opening meeting of the NPC annual full session.
	Mar 4	Wang met with CPPCC delegates from the Chinese Communist Party.
	Mar 3	Wang attended the opening meeting of the CPPCC annual session.
Zhang Gaoli <i>Executive Vice Premier</i>	Mar 5	Zhang attended the opening meeting of the NPC annual full session.
	Mar 4	Zhang met with CPPCC delegates from educational circles.
	Mar 3	Zhang attended the opening meeting of the CPPCC annual session.

About CPW

China Politics Weekly aims to keep business leaders, investors, diplomats, scholars and other China hands up to date on important trends in China. It is produced by Trey McArver, a London-based consultant providing advice and intelligence to firms and investors engaged in China and the region. You can find out more about Trey and CPW in [this interview](#).

Want to help? Please tell us how we can make this newsletter more useful to you. Feedback on both form and content are always welcome, as are suggestions for topics to be covered. Please contact us at info@chinapoliticsweekly.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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