

China Politics Weekly

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The great communicator?

The Chinese authorities have come in for a lot of criticism over the past year for their failure to communicate amidst the turmoil in the equity and currency markets. But there are signs that things might be changing. At Davos a few weeks ago, top Xi advisor Fang Xinghai admitted that the Chinese system “is not structured in a way to communicate seamlessly with the markets...[but] we can learn.” Then, last weekend, PBOC Governor Zhou Xiaochuan broke his nearly six-month silence to explain clearly and in depth the authorities’ approach to the currency.

The push towards better communication continued this week. Xi hosted a symposium on propaganda and the media, saying, “officials should improve their ability to interact with the media and make good use of it to publicize their policies and ideas”.

Xi’s statement echoed similar comments by Li Keqiang at a State Council meeting earlier in the week. According to official media, Li “called on authorities to reveal information to the public and respond to public concerns in an active manner, so that people can have confidence in society and a clear expectation from the market.”

PBSC Week in Review

Xi Jinping

Party General
Secretary; PRC
President;
Chairman of
Central Military
Commission

Feb 19

Xi chaired and spoke at a symposium on propaganda and the media.

From Xinhua: “All news media run by the Party must work to speak for the Party’s will and its propositions and protect the Party’s authority and unity, Xi said.

“They should enhance their awareness to align their ideology, political thinking and deeds to those of the CPC Central Committee and help fashion the Party’s theories and policies into conscious action by the general public while providing spiritual enrichment to the people, he said.

“Marxist journalistic education must be promoted among journalists, Xi added, to make them ‘disseminators of the Party’s policies and propositions, recorders of the time, promoters of social advancement and watchers of equality and

justice.”

Xi went on an inspection tour of China Central Television headquarters.

Xi went on an inspection tour of *Xinhua News* headquarters.

Xi went on an inspection tour of *People's Daily* headquarters.

Xi sent Lantern Festival greetings on *People's Daily* social media platforms.

Xi spoke with villagers from Chixi village in Ningde, Fujian, through a live video chat from *People's Daily*.

Xi visited the editor of *People's Daily*.

Feb 13 Xi and Li signed orders to give an honorary title to a unit of the Chinese People's Armed Police in eastern Shandong Province.

Li Keqiang
Premier

Feb 17 Li chaired an executive meeting of the State Council.
The meeting focused on a work report on the implementation of the National People's Congress motions and CPPCC proposals in 2015 and policy measures for the commercialization of scientific and technological research.
From Xinhua: "98.5 percent of deputies to NPC and 97.3 percent of members of the national committee of CPPCC are "satisfied" or "basically satisfied" with the implementation results." Makes you wonder who the dissenters are....

Feb 16 Li replied to the letter of Ma Xiliang, a resident of Guyuan, Ningxia.

Feb 14 Li chaired an executive meeting of the State Council.
The State Council decided to advance the upgrade and innovation of the pharmaceutical industry, to promote the development of traditional Chinese medicine and to carry out pilot projects of the service trade.

Feb 13 Li and Xi signed orders to give an honorary title to a unit of the Chinese People's Armed Police in eastern Shandong Province.

Zhang Dejiang
Chair of the
National People's
Congress

Feb 15 Zhang chaired a meeting of the chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee.
Next standing committee meeting will be held Feb 24-26.

Yu Zhengsheng
Chair of the
Chinese People's
Political

*Consultative
Conference*

Liu Yunshan Feb 19 Accompanied Xi on his visits to CCTV, *People's Daily* and *Xinhua*.

*Head of Party
Secretariat; Head
of Propaganda*

Attended symposium on propaganda and the media

Wang Qishan

*Secretary of the
Central
Commission for
Discipline
Inspection*

Zhang Gaoli

*Executive Vice
Premier*

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](#).

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