Representatives shared their common sense that China has achieved remarkably in poverty reduction and social development in the last 30 years since reform and opening up. Meanwhile, it has made great contributions in promoting domestic economic development, social progress, global poverty reduction and MDGs.

Fan Xiaojian, Director (Minister) of China State Council Leading Group Office on Poverty Alleviation and Development, pointed in his keynote speech that the last 30 years since reform and opening-up marked the remarkable achievement that nearly a fourth of the world population have been lifted out of poverty and made a great leap in pursuing harmonious development and prosperity. That is evidenced by the considerable reduction in the number of the poor and the tremendous progress of economic growth, infrastructure construction and social development in rural areas. Dr. Nafis Sadik, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General and UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia-Pacific, expresses her appreciation of China’s extraordinary strides in all areas remaining priority of MDGs and continued efforts. She was impressed by China’s achievements in poverty reduction and ecological poverty in the last three decades. Dr. Han Jun, Director of Department for Rural Development under Development Research Center of State Council, provides valuable statistics on the sharp drop in the number of poor and poverty incidence; the conditions of education, public health and infrastructural facilities in rural China have greatly improved. Poverty trend has also changed from a widespread phenomenon to a spot phenomenon, and the type of poverty has changed from absolute poverty to relative poverty. A study presented by Ms. Anthea Webb, Director of United Nations World Food Programme China, indicates that the last 30 years has witnessed the tremendous success in poverty elimination such as the rapid growth in China’s agricultural production, rural income and nutritional status. Ardo Hansson, Chief Economist/Sector Coordinator of World Bank in China Office, marvels at China’s enviable performances over the last 25 years as all income and consumption-based measures of poverty have been dramatically reduced, and progress has also been made on other human development indicators.

All speeches and presentations of this forum come out to prove that China’s success in poverty reduction attributes to different reasons, including institutional reform, economic growth, structure optimization, rural development, social progress and specific interventions on poverty reduction. According to Fan Xiaojian, China’s performance in rural poverty reduction can be summarized in 7 aspects: First, mindset emancipation and institu-
tional innovation. Poverty reduction in rural China proceeds with mindset emancipation, economic growth, constant institutional innovation, improved policies and better means; second, promotion of economic growth and maintenance of stable development; third, adherence to government guidance and clarification of government accountability. The government has set up special organizations, worked out detailed plans and spent handsomely on poverty reduction; A holistic architecture of poverty reduction leadership has been put into place to make it possible for finance, commission, power and accountability; Fourth, extensive social involvement and international cooperation, which means stretching help hands out from rich regions in east China to poor counties in west China in the form of sistership, and exploring the role of private sector and encouraging international organizations to make joint efforts in eliminating poverty; fifth, development-oriented poverty reduction policy and the encouragement of self-reliance. In other words, deploying the role of the poor in poverty reduction and promoting the development of the poor areas with all respects including infrastructure, education, sanitation and ecological environment etc. sixth, effective response to special needs of special groups. Long-term funding and guarantee mechanism are always there to help specific groups of poor including the ethnic minorities, women, old people, children and disabled; seventh, pursuit of integrated development. Empowering the basic rights of subsistence and development to the poor has been considered as the government top agenda in the context of building a well-off and harmonious society. At the same time, balancing the development between regions including rural and urban areas and narrowing the income gap between different social classes are also very essential. Nafis Sadik, when referring to the issues with regard to women’s rights, attributes China’s huge success in women’s development to such two key factors including the strong supports from the government and the women’s empowerment in policy-making and programme implementation. According to Han Jun, the bunch of recent policies for sustainable economic growth, social equity and balanced development and the government’s special policies on poverty reduction can well explain China’s remarkable success in this regard. Wang Sangui, School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University of China, advises that China’s poverty reduction achievements are largely driven by economic growth, especially agricultural and rural growth. Generally speaking, China’s rural economic growth and poverty reduction achievements are attained in the context of a package of reform policies and social and political stability, such as family contact system and agro-product marketization. The development of township enterprises and advancement in agricultural technology can also help to understand the reason behind rural industrialization and urbanization which in turn enable constant poverty alleviation. In his presentation, Cai Fang, a researcher and the director of Institute of Labor Economics, CASS, experiments a discussion on what “made-in-China” means to the poor and labor-intensive industries that principally thrive on China’s unique advantages in human resource that have created many jobs for surplus labor force from rural areas and increased farmers’ income on non-agriculture business, which have laid a solid foundation for China’s poverty alleviation in a large scale. The research conducted by Anthea Webb indicated that China’s agricultural development has rooted in the advancement in agricultural technology, opening up, adjustment in land policies, economic growth of the Chinese and不断完善政策体系和创新体制机制密切相关；二是促进经济增长，保持稳定发展；三是坚持政府主导，强化政府责任。即，政府设立专门的扶贫组织体系，制定专门的减贫规划，投入巨大的减贫资金并建立强有力的责任体系和规划实施机制；四是动员社会参与，加强国际合作。即，实施定点帮扶和东西扶贫协作，引导民间机构参与减贫并有效利用国际援助；五是实施开发扶贫，倡导自力更生。即充分发挥贫困地区在扶贫开发中的主体地位，从基础设施建设、教育卫生发展、产业开发和生态环境改造等多个方面全面推进贫困地区的发展；六是采取有效措施，关注特殊群体。对少数民族、妇女、老人、儿童及残疾人予以长期持久的有资金和机制保障的扶持；七是坚持统筹兼顾，促进科学发展。即在全面建设小康社会和构建社会主义和谐社会的过程中，把保障贫困人口的基本生存权和人权权、促进区域和城乡统筹发展和缩小不同阶层、地区与部门的收入差距作为重要任务。邓菲斯·萨迪克在论述妇女发展问题时指出，中国在妇女发展领域取得巨大的成就源于国家强有力的支持和妇女参与政策制定与项目实施当中两个因素。韩俊认为，中国扶贫的成效来自经济的持续增长、促进社会均等发展的一系列政策以及政府专项扶贫计划。中国人民大学农业与农村发展学院汪三贵教授认为，中国的减贫主要源于农业增长和农村发展，其中，很大程度上得益于渐进式的农村经济体改革。如实施家庭承包经营制和农产品流通体制改革。同时，乡镇企业发展和农业技术进步也发挥了重要作用，由此带来的农村工业化、城市化进程为减贫提供了持续的动力。中国科学院人口与劳动经济研究所所长蔡昉研究员在发言中探讨了“中国制造”与减贫的关系。他认为，中国独特的资源优势促使劳动密集型产业蓬勃发展，吸收大量农村剩余劳动力就业，显著地提高了农村居民的非农收入，为大规模减贫成效的取得奠定了坚实的基础。韦安夏所介绍研究的结论是：中国农业发展的成效源于农业技术进步、市场开放、土地政策调整、农业增长和农村发展的政府扶持等因素的推动。

与会代表也明确指出，中国仍然是一个发展中
of agricultural sectors and the development of rural areas.

There is a close link between poverty and vulnerability, which is rooted in the fact that the poor is lack of property belongings, capacity for competition, indecent living and development environment, social exclusion and discrimination. In the face of economic, natural and social challenges, the poor has shown their insufficient capacities for protesting against risks, and also it has been seen that it is more difficult for them getting out of the damage.

Fan Xiaojian discusses difficulties and challenges from four aspects: First, sizable number of the poor. By the poverty standard now applied by Chinese government, there is still huge population in absolute poverty and the number of people living under the relative poverty line accounts for ever bigger percentage. Second, severe degree of poverty. A number of the poor are living in areas with harsh natural conditions and living environment, low quality of social infrastructure, lack of public service and peculiar social formation. Third, daunting vulnerability. Poor people are more exposed to multiple risks from market, social and natural sectors. Fourth, enlarged income gap. The income gaps between different regions of China, rural and urban, and different departments and industries keep widening. According to Han Jun, among all prominent problems concerning Chinese rural development, the income gap between urban and rural residents and the income gap inside the countryside tend to be increasingly widened; urban and rural residents differ greatly in enjoying public services; social security network in countryside fall in behind. Wang Sangui emphasizes that the weakening of poverty reduction caused by expanding inequality is a top challenge for China in eradicating poverty in the future.

The participants also discuss, in a constructive way, on promoting China's poverty reduction under the new context. According to Prof. Wang Sangui, China should attach more importance to change current trend of widening income inequality so that the poor can benefit more from economic growth. The relevance and effectiveness of poverty reduction investment should be improved through the implementation of a better-performing targeting mechanism. An indiscriminative social security system across rural and urban areas should be established to enable special groups geting rid of poverty by transferring income and other public welfare. Wang Pingping, Deputy Director of Rural Survey Department of National Bureau of Statistics, gives her suggestions that China needs to enlarge the coverage of mimimum subsistence security and poverty relief program in addition to other pro-agriculture policies, put rural development on the top priority and design anti-poverty policies based on overall considerations of balanced development between rural and urban areas and increase more input in social and environment development in urban China. As pointed out by Han Jun, China should make further efforts on sharpening competitive edges of agricultural sector, promoting labor force transfer and defending their basic rights, improving social security system and protecting vulnerable groups’ interests in rural areas from being deprived, bringing into practice and keeping improving development-oriented strategies with a particular emphasis on the distribution and structure of poverty population and their real demands in a new era.

国家，减贫的压力依然很大，任务依然很重，需要从优化社会经济发展模式和减贫战略体系入手，改善机制，提高效率，进一步按照建设小康社会和构建社会主义和谐社会的要求，稳步推进减贫事业向前发展。

关于中国减贫面临的挑战，范小建从四个方面进行了分析：一是贫困规模依然庞大。绝对贫困规模仍居高不下，相对贫困规模正在逐步扩大；二是贫困程度依然较深，自然条件差、生存环境恶劣、基础设施落后、公共服务欠缺仍然是贫困地区的主要特征，三是脆弱性明显，贫困人口抵御市场、社会和自然风险的能力依然很低；四是区域、城乡和部门收入差距仍在扩大。韩俊指出，中国农村发展中目前还存在着突出的问题，包括城乡以及农村内部收入差距正在扩大，城乡公共服务差距较大，农村社会保障体系落后等。汪三贵强调，目前不断加剧的不平等导致经济增长减贫效应的持续下降是中国减贫的一个重要挑战。

关于如何推动新时期的中国减贫，与会代表也给出了一些建设性意见。汪三贵教授认为，中国应在保持经济高速增长的同时切实扭转收入分配严重不平等的趋势，使贫困人口更多地从经济增长中受益；应在继续强化专项扶贫计划的同时，改进瞄准机制进而提高扶贫投资的针对性和效果；应建立城乡一体化的社会保障体系，使没有开发能力的农村特殊贫困人口通过收入转移和其他福利政策摆脱贫困。国家统计局农村司副司长王萍萍建议，中国应在继续推行惠农政策的基础上，扩大低保和扶贫的覆盖范围；继续把扶贫重点放在农村，从城乡统筹协调发展的角度来设计反贫困政策，加快农村经济发展，进一步加强对农村社会、环境发展的投入。韩俊认为，中国应继续努力提高农业竞争力，推动劳动力转移并保障其基本权利，改善社会保障体系维护农村弱势群体的利益，同时要根据新时期贫困人口的分布与构成特点及其脱贫的实际需要，不断调整和优化专项扶贫开发战略。