

## China Should Focus on Social Development, Education, Rule of Law and Sustainability

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### [Chinese version](#)

- After paying attention to economic development, China should also push forward social reforms
- Education reform is critical if China ' s schools are to produce creative people with high moral standards
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Dalian, People ' s Republic of China, 15 September 2011+ China should focus not just on developing its economy but also on social, legal and political reforms, senior Chinese business, government and civil society leaders said in a panel discussion on China ' s 12th Five-Year Plan at the [World Economic Forum ' s Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2011](#). " In the past, we paid a lot of attention to economic development, " Zhang Xiaoqiang, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People ' s Republic of China, noted. " But we have to keep up with the times. China ' s development should be people-centred and sustainable. Our social development has lagged behind. We need to satisfy people ' s demands – not just economic, but also in education, health, security and other areas. "

Zhang Weiyong, Professor of Economics at Peking University, agreed. " The important thing is reform, " he declared. He tied the need for reform to China ' s rise in the world. " The responsibility of China to the world is to change its system to give more freedom to its people and build its society in the rule of law. " Zhang warned of " big dangers " for China and the world if reforms are not implemented. Education is a critical priority, he argued. " In the past several decades, we have failed in our education. We looked on it as dissemination of knowledge but not as a way to produce people with creativity and high moral standards. "

Embedding the rule of law in China is crucial, added Wang Boming, Editor-in-Chief of Caijing Magazine. " How can we be sure that the rights of the vulnerable population are protected? We should establish supervision and monitoring systems so at last we can have a society under the rule of law and achieve a nation under the rule of law. " While the government ' s Five-Year Plan is now technically referred to as a programme or set of guidelines that is not legally binding, there is too much centralized control over the reform process, Wang reckoned. " If power is not restrained, the inevitable result would be corruption. "

The panellists also debated China ' s position in the global economy. " Many people underestimate the role of China, " said Guo Zhuqing, Chairman of China Construction Bank. " But China is right at the centre of the world market. " Yet China ' s economic power and influence at this stage of its development should not be exaggerated, Guo advised. " I don ' t think China alone can push the world out of the crisis. " Concluded the NDRC ' s Zhang: " China cannot develop without the world and the world cannot develop without China. "

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