Introduction of China's Social Security System

BY REN Xiuli, Diretor-level Official, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, China It's the common understanding that we should promote the social development in a more inclusive, caring and balanced way.

Three battles

In the report of President Xi Jinping at 19th CPC National Congress, he introduced the "three tough battles"

- Preventing and defusing major financial risks
- Targeted poverty alleviation
- Pollution control

Battle against poverty

- Battle at the department level: targeted village, build a relatively comprehensive library in 3 years funded by our voluntary contribution; help to apply international project fund for agricultural use
- Battle at the Ministry level
- Battle at the Central Government level
- Battle at the National Level

Poverty alleviation in our Ministry

- employment: support the poverty-relief workshops to absorb employment, develop the public welfare post as a bottom allocation for jobs, encourage entrepreneouship, support the development of medium and small enterprises, address the new employment form and create more quality jobs
- Skill development: implement the poverty alleviation program by skill development, establish the life-ling professional training system for workers, promulgate the national professional training system, conduct the high-quality apprenticeship training
- Social security: help people in poverty rejoin in the social security scheme with government contribution, expand the coverage of social security and improve the benefits of social security

International Standard for Social Security

- 1.3 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires all countries to "implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable".
- The 2012 Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), along with the existing Conventions and Recommendations, provides guidance to the member states in building comprehensive social security systems by prioritizing the establishment of social protection floors to guarantee access for all in need to at least a basic level of social security.
- The International Social Security Association (ISSA) has formulated a series of ISSA Guidelines based on internationally recognized standards in core areas of social security administration which play an important role in facilitating the implementation of various laws and policy measures for ensuring progress towards the realization of national and international objectives.

China's Social Security

 Chinese government pays much emphasis on social security by establishing the multi-level social security system, which is aimed to cover all, integrate urban and rural areas, definitely divide rights and responsibilities, provide adequate and sustainable social security. Having basically completed the establishment of social security system covering both rural and urban residents, we have undergone the social security system building over 30 years, which take about 100 years in many other countries. The social security net has been continuoustly consolidated. China has made a remarkable achievement in building a health care system for 1.35 billion people. The fast expansion of healthcare coverage is one of the reasons that China received the ISSA 2016 Award for outstanding achievement.

 Firstly, the social security system has been established, including the basic pension system covering both employees and residents in rural and urban areas, basic medical insurance system, work injury insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance system. We are also exploring to establish the long term caring insurance system.

 Secondly, the coverage of social security has been continuously expanded, e.g. number of participants in the pension system across China has exceeded 930 million, those covered by medical insurance number over 1.35 billion. The medical insurance covering all has been basically achieved.

 Thirdly, the social security fund has been continuously increased and the level of social security has been enhanced. Since 2015, Chinese government has raised the basic pension of retired enterprise employees for 14 consecutive years.

 Fourthly, the public service system for social security has been basically established.
Holders of social security cards number over 1.2 billion.

Challenges

- Slowing down of global economy
- Accelerating of aging society
- Urbanization
- Emerging of new forms of employment

Future Development

 Firstly, we will make active efforts in addressing the aging issue by improving pension and medical insurance system, exploring the long term caring system, promoting the overall planning of pension at the national level, promoting investment and operation of pension fund and enhancing the level of social security.

 Secondly, we will improve the multi-level social security system by adhering to the central role of government, bringing the role of market to full play, promoting the combination of social insurance and commercial insurance. Thirdly, we will improve the social security policy confronted with the new employment forms by continuously expanding the coverage of social security, including those engaged in new employment forms, mobile employees and flexible employees in the coverage thus to improve the equity of social security. Fourthly, we will improve the international cooperation regarding social security, thus to guarantee the social security benefits of those people who work across countries or regions.

International Cooperation

- Social Security Forum among ASEAN counties
- Social Security cooperation under the South-South cooperation framework
- Future cooperation under ASEAN +3

THANK YOU!