

Economist is honoured for 60 years of service

Chinese and foreign social scientists held a tea party in Beijing on Saturday to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the day Dr Chen Hansheng began his career in social sciences.

In a speech, Hu Sheng, president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, described the 88-year-old scholar, now adviser to the academy, as a "leading Marxist economist and historian".

Dr Chen became a communist in 1925, a year after he returned to China from Germany. He then realized that at the core of China's democratic revolution lay its rural problems.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, he organized a series of rural surveys along the basins of the Yangtze, Yellow and Pearl rivers, which helped promote understanding of the social nature of China's countryside, and made theoretical contributions to the Party's policy for the Agrarian Revolution (1927-1937).

He fostered a large number of young researchers, many of whom later became leading Communist Party's theoretical workers and scholars. Some examples are economists Xue Muqiao, Sun Yefang and Qian Junrui.

Hu Sheng said Chen, who combines intellectual brilliance with revolutionary fervour, had set a good example for China's intellectuals to follow.

Sol Adler, special adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and Israel Epstein, editor-in-chief of China Reconstructs, both said they got a clear picture of China from their acquaintance with Chen. His intellectual activities, and his works published abroad helped many foreigners to understand China during the 1930s and 1940s.

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