

1953

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

15-04-1953 -23-04-1953

Type of Meeting:

2nd All China Women's Congress

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

891 delegates Mao Zedong, Zhu De,, Zhou Enlai. 244 people attended the congress without voting rights. The representatives were from 25 ethnic groups, nine democratic parties and four religions.

Major Agenda Items:

Review achievement of the last 4 years

Speeches/Reports:

Deng Yingchao "Report to the second Women's Federation National Congress", 23 April 1953

"The central tasks the Central Committee has put to the people of the nation...are the reform of the old society in all its aspects and the construction of new democracy. These [provide] the economic and political basis necessary to fundamentally eradicate the feudal system which shackles women and to create the social conditions for the liberation of women".

"...years of practice has proven that mobilizing the masses of women to participate in production is the basic key in improving equality between men and women and to achieving the liberation of women"

By 1953 there were already over 40,000 officials of the Women's Federation system nationwide working above the township and street level

Zhang Yun: "Build up the country economically, manage the household thriftily, struggle for socialist construction," argued that the family was the microcosm of society.

Sun Hsiao-chu, 17 April 1953 China's first woman railway traffic controller, held the audience in great attention as she told how she started her work on the railways as a coupler and later became a model dispatcher. Ridicule by her male colleagues was not the only obstacle in her way even her mother was against her working as a coupler. This tall lively young woman told the audience, "To be a coupler, you must be able to catch up to and jump down from running engines which at their slowest run as fast as the cars on Peking streets. But I learned to do it." And she became a model coupler. . . . She also told the audience how the Communist Party backed her up whenever she met difficulties and that this help was indispensable in improving her work

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

The committee elected Soong Ching-ling (1893–1981) and He Xiangning as honorary presidents, Cai Chang as president, and Deng Yingchao, Li Dequan, Xu Guangping, Shi Liang (1900–1985) and Zhang Yun (1905-1995) as vice presidents.

Remarks: