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Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, was speaking on Tuesday at a Beijing conference to award individuals and units that have made outstanding contributions to the public security governance sector in the past five years.

Since late 2012, people working in political and legal affairs have innovated social governance methods and dealt with large numbers of outstanding problems, making the general public feel safer, he said.

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However, Xi wants more effort to be taken to build a safer China. The authorities involved should be aware of the difficulties and challenges, carefully analyze the current situation of Chinese society, adopt technological innovation methods and improve the capacity to forecast and prevent risks, he said.

Xi also stressed that social governance officers should have a better sense of the rule of law.

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"I'm excited and inspired after listening to the president's remarks, which made a comprehensive summary of social governance in the past five years and outlined the new requirements and tasks in the future," said Huang Ming, vice-minister of public security.

Huang said the most valuable lesson he has learned is to go with the "innovative ideas and strategies to tackle the issues involving social security and win the support of the people".

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In recent weeks, Inner Mongolia has started to offer horse riding lessons to students, as part of efforts to offer a diverse curriculum for all-round development.

As the new semester began, Inner Mongolia Equestrian Association provided a series of horse riding lessons for local teenagers aged between 11 and 17.

The program involves more than 2,000 students from 41 classes at regional elementary and high schools and runs from Sept 11 until the end of October. The lessons will then restart in March to avoid the cold winter temperatures.

The association has highlighted the lengths it is going to in order to provide the lessons, including employing qualified jockeys, constructing equestrian camps, and caring for the horses.

It aims to improve the physical fitness of the participants and keep alive aspects of traditional Mongolian culture.

The region has excelled in equestrian sports over the past few years, including horse racing, polo, show jumping, and dressage. Jockeys from Inner Mongolia have won 298 medals and titles in over 200 competitions at home and abroad, including 62 gold medals in the past five years.

There has been a renewed interest in equestrianism, with horse clubs springing up in the autonomous region. The region’s clubs have entered 135 competitions, winning 197 medals and titles over the past five years.

Yet the region’s traditions are not enough. Equestrian sports in Inner Mongolia face new challenges from other areas of China and abroad.

Over a hundred professional horse competitions are organized in Inner Mongolia each year, with thousands of jockeys and racehorses taking part.

Around 40 percent of Chinese jockeys in national equestrian competitions are from Inner Mongolia. While this is clearly an indication of the region’s equestrian strengths, the slow exodus of equestrian talent is having an impact on equestrianism within its traditional heartland.

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