

Foreigners get a taste of China

A Beijing summer camp turns into a melting pot of different cultures

By CHINA DAILY

"Do not use much water, or else the panda you draw will become very fat," a Chinese painting teacher says in Chinese.

Immediately, the same words in English, Polish and Hungarian are delivered to students in the classroom.

Filled with the sounds and rhythms of different languages, the Chinese painting classroom is a melting pot of different cultures.

This classroom offers a glimpse of the experience at the "You and Me, In Beijing" summer camp organized by Beijing Foreign Studies University's Confucius Institute from July 15 to 25.

Students from Belgium, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Italy, the United Kingdom and South Korea gather to learn Chinese and experience Chinese culture.

"China is developing greatly, and it is important internationally," Hungarian student Fekete Marcell Zoltan says in fluent Chinese.

When the painting teacher gives instructions, he helps translate the words into Hungarian for his classmates.

After finishing the panda painting, Fekete writes his Chinese name, Ma Hongbo, on traditional rice paper.

Fekete is from Budapest and has learned Chinese for eight years at the Confucius Institute at Eotvos Lorand University.



Hungarian student Fekete Marcell Zoltan shows his ink painting at the summer camp. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

"Now a lot of people are learning Chinese," says the 15-year-old, who wants to be a diplomat in China.

During the course of the summer camp, students attend performances of Peking Opera and the dragon dance, visit the Great Wall, Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City, and spend time with Chinese families.

They also have lessons on language, Chinese painting, paper-cutting and kung fu.

Yet for students like Fekete, the summer camp is more than just experiencing Chinese culture. It is also about meeting people from different cultures and learning how cultural backgrounds shape their views of China.

Zhu Qi, the director of Beijing Foreign Studies

University Confucius Institute's Cultural Exchange Department and a manager of the summer camp, says: "Here, students not only learn about Chinese language and culture. They also learn how peers from other countries learn Chinese."

One of the students' favorite programs is the Meet-and-Greet.

It is an icebreaker, during which students from different countries form groups and compete in games and team building.

Mark van Couwenberghe from Belgium, the coordinator of Broedersschool Sint-Niklaas Chinese Language Courses and leader of the Belgian students at the camp, says: "It is like a mini Olympic Games or mini United Nations."

There are also activities such as Cultural Corner, which involves students introducing traditional food and cultural products from their countries, and flag-design, which requires students to draw a flag that integrates both elements from their own cultures and China.

Group Activities Without Borders is the biggest difference of this year's camp, according to Chang Bingyu of Beijing Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, also a manager of the summer camp.

"This is the 10th year of the program. We wanted to break boundaries," says Chang.

Zhou Yifan contributed to the story.

Palace Museum draws students with art show



The Palace Museum in Beijing is offering a special treat for students this summer. The exhibition, titled *We All Live in the Forbidden City*, is a collaborative effort of the museum and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's leisure and cultural services department, aimed at introducing traditional Chinese culture to the youth. The exhibits are models, pictures and multimedia channels that provide insights into the relics and architecture of the Forbidden City, China's royal palace from 1420 to 1911. The museum is now at the site of the former imperial seat. Shan Jixiang, director, Palace Museum, says the exhibition is a new attempt to attract the younger generations to traditional culture through interactive opportunities. The show runs through October. JIANG DONG / CHINA DAILY

Researchers claim new device will help gamers

CANBERRA — Australian researchers recently said they have designed a new device that could someday be used in gaming consoles to improve graphics and the speed of data transfer.

The device, created by a team at the Australian National University in collaboration with a team from the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena, Germany, is similar to a tiny antenna around 100 times thinner than human hair, and is used to speed up data exchange

between processors in a console. The invention was two years in the making.

According to senior researcher Dragomir Neshev from the ANU Research School of Physics and Engineering, it could be used to improve user experience in gaming consoles in the near future.

"One of the big problems that gamers encounter is sluggish game play, which our nano device could greatly improve by speeding up the

exchange of data between the multiple processors in the console," Neshev says in a statement.

"The speed of this data transfer is currently limited by the speed that electrons can flow along the copper wires connecting the processors in gaming consoles.

"Our invention can be used to connect these processors with optical wires that will transmit data between processors thousands of times faster than metal wires. This will enable smooth rendering and

large-scale parallel computation needed for a good gaming experience."

Neshev says the team had to create the device to be small enough to match the modern console's smaller electric parts and added that it is the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

"We are the first to make a tiny optical nano-antenna device with the ability to sort and route ultra-fast bit-rate telecommunication signals," he says.

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