



The Buddha's skull bone is placed at Hong Kong Coliseum for public worship on Wednesday.

EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

Buddha's skull bone in Hong Kong

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A relic of the Buddha's skull bone was enshrined in Hong Kong for public worship on Wednesday.

The relic's 10-day display in Hong Kong and Macao marks the first time the only known part of the Buddha's skull has been taken out of the mainland.

The relic arrived in Hong Kong at 3 pm on Wednesday afternoon as monks chanted sutras on the apron at Hong Kong International Airport.

As the relic was taken out of the aircraft, escorted by Buddhist masters, a golden 1.38-meter-high replica of the Asoka Pagoda appeared, covered by a bullet-proof glass shield. Through a specially designed door on one side of the pagoda, the relic could be seen sitting on a lotus pattern,

enshrined in a transparent case to ensure stable temperature and humidity.

The relic was then transported to Hong Kong Coliseum on a decorated float under police escort. The coliseum was decorated with statues of Buddha and a lotus-shaped ceiling light, with monks chanting, singing and beating drums. When the relic arrived, thousands of devotees raised their clasped hands, holding candles and singing with monks.

Eminent monks who attended the ceremony included the 11th Panchen Lama, who left the mainland for the first time.

Kok Kwong, president of the Hong Kong Buddhist Association, and Chuan Yin, president of the Buddhist Association of China, conducted the purification ceremony.

"Seeing the relic is like seeing the Buddha. Buddhism offers



Worshipping the relic can promote people's inner mercy, purify people's minds, and is conducive to world peace."

KOK KWONG
PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG
BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

a wealth of wisdom, which brings true happiness to people," said Kok Kwong.

"Worshipping the relic can promote people's inner mercy, purify people's minds, and is conducive to world peace."

He told China Daily it's also the first time he saw the skull bone relic. The 93-year-old

led a group of 150 monks to Nanjing, Jiangsu province, a day ahead to welcome the relic. "It was truly joyful. I was filled with Dharma joy," he said, recalling the very first moment he saw the relic in Nanjing.

Kok Kwong noted that devotees and the public can see the holy relic very closely at "only one to two meters" away. He described the opportunity as "once in a thousand years."

The skull-bone relic of Buddha, will be on display for public worship for six days to celebrate the Buddha's birthday on April 28, as well as the 15th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

Hong Kong is the only city so far where all three holy relics — the Buddha's skull bone, tooth, and finger bone — have been enshrined for worship.

It is estimated that more than 300,000 people will worship

the relic in Hong Kong during the period. Some 20,000 tickets have been reserved for tourists from the mainland, Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States.

The event also coincides with the World Buddhist Forum in the city. After completing the Hong Kong leg on April 30, the relic will be taken to Macao for public worship and return to Nanjing on May 4. The skull bone was unearthed in Nanjing in 2010 after being buried for more than 1,000 years under the Song Dynasty Changgan Temple.

The precious relic was not insured and no security check has been arranged at Hong Kong Coliseum. But the organizer, the Hong Kong Buddhist Association, has hired two security companies and installed security cameras at the stadium.

'Coverage can affect judgment'

By ZHANG YAN
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A senior judge from the top court on Wednesday warned of possible interference in the independent court's judgment from public sentiment affected by misleading or biased media coverage.

"Media coverage can help the court system to hear better from the public and avoid injustice, but media hype and misleading reports may sometimes interfere with judicial credibility," said Shen Deyong, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court.

Shen said the courts should have the courage to eliminate all improper interference from the media, and always insist on principles to carry out independent judgments based on facts and in accordance with laws, to ensure that the cases are dealt with in a fair and objective way.

He made the remarks on Wednesday during a conference with his counterparts from Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

"Although facing a severe test and pressure under the influence of modern media, the courts will continue to deepen judicial openness and transparency, and try to improve trial quality," said Shen.

Shen suggested that to properly handle the relationship between justice and the media, "We must distinguish

between media coverage and interference, and we can't simply consider observation by the media to be disturbing the independence of a trial."

The Supreme People's Court on April 20 rejected the death sentence of millionaire Wu Ying amid wide exposure to media attention. Wu was convicted of illegally fundraising as much as 770 million yuan (\$122 million) for investment.

While upholding the conviction and legitimacy of previous judicial proceedings, the court declined to approve the sentence and referred the case back to the high court in Zhejiang province.

Wu was sentenced to death in 2009 by the local court in Jinhua, Zhejiang province, for illegally raising the funds, more than half of which she lost in failed investments.

Wu's case attracted attention from domestic and international media, which complained about the inadequacy of the nation's monopolistic financial system and difficulties facing private businesses in fundraising.

The top court made the final verdict to reject her death sentence at a time of wide media coverage and pressure. The court made a judicial attachment of nearly 1,000 words to explain reasons for its decision.

Shen said the media should try to grasp the need for balance between public expectation and the judicial trial.

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Biotech drives Chengdu's growth

By ZHUANTI
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Relying on its competitive strength in research and innovation, the biomedicine industry in Chengdu, capital city of Southwest China's Sichuan province, is pushing forward local economic development.

Chengdu is one of the State-level hubs for the development and manufacture of biomedicines.

Local statistics show that the industry's enterprises generated combined sales of 31.1 billion yuan, ranking first among all cities in China's western regions.

Last year, more than 90 medical enterprises each reported sales revenue in excess of 100 million yuan.

Medical equipment and materials manufacturing is the fastest-growing segment of this industry, with an average annual growth rate of more than 20 percent in recent years.

This is an emerging sector in Chengdu, and it contrib-

uted 4 billion yuan in total revenue in 2010. Local authorities predict the figure is expected to surpass 10 billion yuan in 2015.

And some enterprises in this field have already achieved leading positions in the nation over the past few years.

For example, Chengdu-made infusion equipment and blood products now hold one-third of the market share in China. And locally produced artificial bone made of nano materials and absorbable bone fixtures are also well-received in domestic and overseas markets.

Because of such star enterprises as Xinjin Shifeng, Shuanglu Medical, Nigale Biotechnology and Rich Science, Chengdu is now the nation's major manufacturing hub for polymer materials, which are used in the production of infusion equipment and antibacterial products.

Leading the medical reagent and analyzing instrument sector are companies such as Maker Biotechnology, BioSine,

Origissay Diagnostics and Genegle.

In the field of medical electronics, Jinjiang Electronic is leading the nation in cardiac diagnostics and treatment equipment, accounting for more than half the market.

Another heavyweight player in the sector is Chengdu AllTech Medical Systems. It is China's first manufacturer of world-class magnetic resonance imaging equipment.

In addition, renowned US company GE Healthcare also joined local enterprises in developing a number of medical technologies.

Chengdu's booming biotech industry owes its success mainly to the city's ample research infrastructure, which includes the National Natural Medicine Research Center, the National Medical Biomaterials Research Center, the Sichuan University School of High Molecules and the Sichuan Medical Materials Testing Center.

These research teams are

backed by more than 3,000 professionals, including some of the nation's top medical scientists, and scholars returning from the overseas.

The local government is introducing a number of preferential policies and taking steps to spur the development of the biomedicine industry.

One such measure is the development of industrial parks, including the Tianhe Innovation Zone and the Tianfu Life Science Park.

The local government's support and assistance can also be seen in industrial planning, financial services, intellectual property protection, human resources training and investment promotion.

To attract investment and promote international cooperation, the city has hosted several high-level international medical conferences and forums.

The ninth World Biomaterials Congress will be held in Chengdu this June. This will be the most important event for the medical industry in the city.



Pictured here is the headquarters of Puchuan Biomaterials Corp, one of the nation's leading companies in the development and production of medical implants.

Park's R&D strength draws investors

By ZHUANTI
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For domestic and overseas companies that want to cash in the booming biomedicine industry in Chengdu, the Tianfu Life Science Park is among the top locations to start a business.

The park is part of the Chengdu High-Tech Industrial Zone, and it has a focus on the research and development of biomedicines.

It is now a locale for both enterprises of all sizes as well as R&D facilities and production bases funded by investors from around the world.

It has also become a gathering point for many industry leaders at home as well as experts and scholars returning from foreign countries.

The park is developed and managed by the Chengdu High-Tech Investment Co Ltd. At present, it offers a total of

220,000 square meters of floor space for enterprises there, including two office buildings, seven R&D buildings and one innovation center.

It also has a host of auxiliary facilities that perform functions such as public services, catering, conference and exhibition hosting, shopping, healthcare and relaxation.

To date, more than 40 enterprises with more than 1,000 employees have settled in the park.

In addition to the medical research facilities owned by enterprises, the park also offers public R&D services to local businesses.

These include a 1,600-square-meter comprehensive laboratory that can meet demands for research on molecular biology, immunology, genetic engineering and cultivation of microorganisms.

There is also a 1,400 sq m public analyzing and testing

center equipped with precise instruments worth 30 million yuan. Local enterprises can use this facility to test and analyze their new medicines.

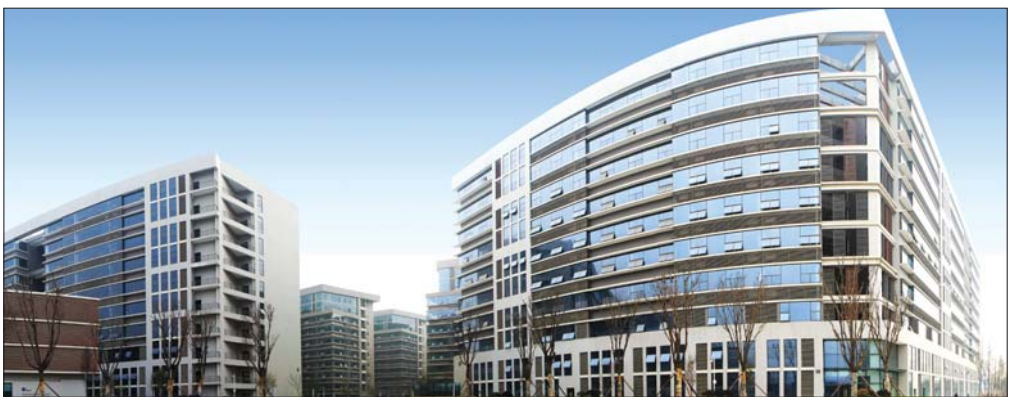
The park's management recently announced they are preparing to building a human resources training center to serve local companies.

And the management will also offer additional services to assist enterprises in new medicines registration.

Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, is a hub city in Southwest China. It is also one of the top investment locales due to its well-developed transportation network, good financial services, strong R&D capacity and excellent living environment.

Chengdu's economy has maintained double-digit growth in the past 20 years.

To date, 207 of the Fortune 500 companies have made investments in the city.



The Tianfu Life Science Park is Chengdu's top investment destination for biomedicine businesses.

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