

**JN**  
MAGAZINE

2012/09

今日天津



# Uncle Hanzi

汉字叔叔



封面人物: Richard Sears, independent Chinese etymology scholar  
叔字叔叔, 汉语词源学专家

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Photo by David



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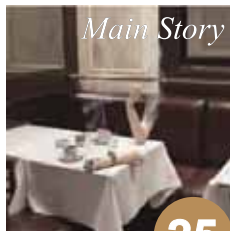
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# Letter from the Editor

This letter is going to be a subsequent report of the cover story. As I write the letter, Uncle Hanzi is deliberating which offer to take. If everything goes well, he will receive a Z Visa in October and his dream of running his Chinese etymology website in China will finally come true. Richard Sears, whose Weibo account name is Uncle Hanzi, benefited from the most powerful online social tool when he was most desperate for help. We do not doubt that he will have his current problems resolved as so many helping hands have reached out. In one of his recent posts, he publicized the amount of donation he received since the SOS post was widely spread on Weibo on August 1. It was some 66,000 RMB and 3,000 \$ in total, which was, in his words, "a very big number".

However, I also believe that Uncle Hanzi will have more complex problems than other celebrities face. Endless media interview calls, people reaching him for various purposes and controversies, may be obstacles. Richard wrote in his last Weibo post before he left to update his visa, "I'm already 62 years old but it seems that my life has just begun. Looking for a job, an apartment and gun xi is the most amazing experience in China... I have to leave now. Is it an end or a start? So interesting!"

Is your life interesting so far? Is it in a positive or negative way? Living in a foreign country must be frustrating sometimes. One of the things that annoy most people is smoking in inappropriate places. The Tianjin government updated the smoking control regulations three months ago and it's time now to check the effect. No matter whether there is a new version of a smoking ban, people's awareness of proper smoking behavior has largely improved in recent years. Chinese people tend to see the good side of a thing and be tolerant to the bad sides, believing that they will turn good as time goes by. So in the big story of this issue, you can see Chinese people's views in how effective the new regulations can be.

Tianjin is famous for its hospitality. As 2012 Summer Davos will take place this month, Jin Magazine produced special inserts to welcome the prestigious guests from all over the world. Although they may not have much time to explore the city, our special feature will show them the outline of the city and we hope they can come back for more.

我们的封面人物汉字叔叔目前正在为力争在中国的工作争取最后的努力。微博的力量真的很大，短短几个月的时间，汉字叔叔就吸引了各路人马捐出的两万多人民币和千多美元。有了众多援助之手，相信他能够真正实现在中国继续研究汉学的梦想。

在主题故事中，我们来说一说公共场所禁烟的话题。新的控烟管理条例已经实施了3个月了，你觉得效果如何？无论是新规出台是非规范都支持这样的政策出台，但是人们更关心实际执行的成果。不管有没有这样的政策出台，人们对文明吸烟的意识都在不断增强。但是要改变一些顽固的习惯问题，还需要漫长的时间。

Monica W

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02 Sun

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Japanese NHK Symphony  
Orchestra: Tianjin Concert  
演出: 日本NHK交响乐团  
指挥: 斋藤  
19:30

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07 Fri

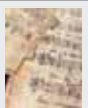
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String quintet theme concert  
20:00



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08 Sat

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The world classic music concert  
20:00



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08 Sat

第七届中国国际钢琴大赛暨国际钢琴音乐会  
The 7th China International Piano Competition  
Development International Grand Stage  
19:30



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Tianjin Binhai New Area Dongjiang Tax Free Port Zone

14 Fri

民乐经典音乐会  
Classic folk music concert  
20:00



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14 Fri

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作曲音乐会  
Masterpiece of Tchaikovsky  
music concert  
演出: 天津交响乐团  
19:30

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14 Fri

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Orchestra Sinfonista Symphony Concert  
演出: 伊尔茨爱乐交响乐团  
指挥: 艾沃·博尔顿  
19:30

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Piano Trio Concert  
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19:30

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15-16 Sat-Sun

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Stage Drama "Ivanoff"  
主演: 濮存昕、黄亚威  
导演: 林兆华、濮存昕  
19:30

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15-16 Sat-Sun

英国新舞台剧《消失的地平线》  
British stage drama "Lost Horizon"  
演出: 英国空动剧团  
19:30

天津大剧院小剧场  
Tianjin Grand Theatre Studio  
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21 Fri

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Piano Solo Concert  
20:00



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Price: 100

22 Sat

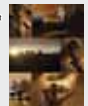
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West Shore Museum  
Price: 100

29 Sat

弦乐五重奏音乐会  
String quintet concert  
20:00



天津大剧院 | 滨西区友谊北路3号 |  
West Shore Museum  
Price: 100

Don't Miss

TICC  
Sept. 01  
Beijing Bus Trip

Sept. 20  
Monthly lunch

Ticc\_09@hotmail.com  
Tianjin.weeely.com

Don't Miss

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>  
9月1日、2日、4日、5日、6日、7日、8日、9日

百老汇音乐剧《妈妈咪呀!》中文版  
Broadway Musical  
"Mamma mia!"  
Chinese edition

演出: 沈小岑、汪金耀、邱婷、  
张方瑞等  
19:30

天津大剧院歌剧院  
Tianjin Grand Theatre opera hall  
Price: 880/680/580/380/280/128RMB  
Tel: 83882000

Don't Miss

Tianjin Expat Community  
Expo 2012

Host: National Tourism  
Administration of China, Tianjin  
People's Municipal Government  
Organizer: JIN Magazine  
Co-organizer: Tianjin Fenghua  
Advertising Co., Ltd.,  
Time: Sept, 20th to 22nd  
Venue: Tianjin Meijiang Convention  
Center

Don't Miss

Biz Socializer

#1 Event for Business  
Networking in Tianjin since 2009

@ QING WANG FU, no 55 chongqing road, heping district, tianjin  
Date: 18. Sep 2012 // Time: 19:00 to 22:00

If you have any questions, please contact us at marketing@regroup.net  
We need first names, last names, job title, company names, email address  
and mobile number of each guest.  
Chambers Member registration fee is 80 RMB.  
Non-Chambers Member is 150 RMB.  
The entrance fee includes:  
- A complimentary drink (beer, red/white wine, soft drinks)  
- Canapés

Date: 18. Sep 2012 Time: 19:00 to 22:00 Venue: Qing Wang Fu,  
55 Chongqing Road, Heping District, Tianjin 300050, China  
Contact: +86 (22) 8713 5555

Don't Miss



## What's hot on Weibo...

► Liu Xiang, the gold medalist of men's 110m hurdle in Athens Olympic Games fell off in the finale in London Olympic Game again because of a littor leg injury, following his quit right before the finale. He had a surgery in Wellington Hospital and the doctor believed that it was totally possible for Liu Xiang to compete in the next Olympic Games in Rio. However, many Chinese netizens thought Liu Xiang should retire right away to avoid more injury or disgrace.

► On August 14, Jing Dong, one of the major B2C website, waged a price war with Suning and Gome, two tycoons of electric home appliances.

According to Liu Qiangdong, CEO of Jing Dong, the gross profit of Suning's big home appliances could be as high as 25%. Soon, Suning fought back by claiming that everything Suning sold on its B2C website is definitely cheaper than those on Jing Dong. Gome also announced that all products on its website would be 5% lower than that on Jing Dong. However, consumers found many problems in ordering commodities and it was easy to fall into a price trap. @ 郑海东

► A new high school graduate who will go to college this autumn had a quarrel with her mom in an IT mall in Beijing. She asked her mom to buy her a complete set of Apple products including an iPhone4S, an iPad3 and a mac book, which will cost about 30,000 RMB in total. The girl shouted to her mom: "Just watch me lose my face in university if you don't buy me those!" and then left by herself. The mother who obviously could not afford it, burst into tears.

► After the London Olympic Games, a new generation of sports idols was born. Sun Yang, who created a breakthrough record for China's men's swimming by winning two swimming gold medals, became the most talked-about hero on Weibo. Feng Zhe, a Chinese gymnastic athlete also became popular on Weibo because of his humorous posts that made fun of his coach. Netizens said he was also qualified to become a crossstalk performer.

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## Smoking Control Regulations Further Enhanced by Local Authority

## 天津各医院控烟纳入等级考核 不达标医院要降级

记者13日从市卫生厅获悉,为更好推进禁烟工作,天津市控制吸烟办公室,市卫生局控烟办、天津市疾病预防控制中心等联合起草了《天津市公共场所控烟管理办法》,从9月1日起正式实施。

According to a source from the Tianjin Bureau of Public Health, the bureau has initiated a supervision and inspection on the implementation of the Tianjin Smoking Control Regulations taking effect on May 31st. The inspection will ensure all spaces in health care institutions for children and women, children's hospitals, the indoor space of other medical institutions are completely non-smoking. Hospitals of primary level are encouraged to set up smoking cessation outpatient service and consultation hotline. This year, the Bureau will record the smoking control effect into the medical institution evaluation system. If a hospital fails in this index, it will be punished with degradation immediately.

Hospitals are required to post no-smoking signs in visible places in building entrances, waiting areas, meeting rooms, bathrooms, hallways, elevators, and staircases. The outdoor smoking area should be far away from halls and crowds with obvious direction signs.

## 180 Sets of PM2.5 Monitor Equipment in Position

## 天津首批180套PM2.5监测设备将到位 将陆续安装

记者从市环保局获悉,本市首批180套PM2.5监测设备将于两个半月内安装到位,标志着本市PM2.5监测网络建设进入全面实施阶段。同时,从今年开始,本市将加大污染源治理力度,开展多种污染物协同控制,推动环境空气质量持续改善,并分三个阶段逐步实现PM2.5日均浓度改善目标。

According to a source from the local Environmental Protection Administration, 180 sets of PM2.5 monitor equipment will be installed in two and half months. From this year on, Tianjin will strengthen its control on pollutant emission and further promote the improvement of air quality. The goal of PM2.5 density improvement will be gradually achieved in three stages.

Targeting automobile exhaust emission, which is the main source of PM2.5 pollutants, the authority has strengthened the management of environmental protection signs for automobiles and established the traffic restrictions for yellow-sign vehicles. The government will emphasize the development of new-energy automobiles. By 2020-2015, there will be 2000 full electric powered buses in operation.

## Tianjin Metro Line 2 to adopt Direction Signs in Blue

## 地铁2号线站外500米范围内将设导向标识

记者从天津地铁了解到,地铁2号线站外500米范围内的导向标识系统正在审批当中。未来,地铁2号线站外500米范围内的导向标识系统,既可以指路也可以快速识别列车进站和出站的方位。

Line 2 of the Tianjin Metro is considering setting up blue direction signs within a 500-meter radius of its stations to help passengers easily find the nearest station. Opening on 1 July 2012, the line is 22.75 kilometers long and has 19 stations. It operates in two separate sections with open hours 9 am to 4 pm. Line 2 is disabled-friendly with subway exits connected to sidewalks for the blind and lifts for wheelchair-bound people at its entrances. The eastern section runs from Tianjin Railway Station to Tianjin Airport Economic Area, and the western section services between Cao Zhang and Dongnanjiao. The two sections were not connected because a section of tunnel west of Tianjin Railway Station was flooded with water from the Hai River and collapsed during construction in May, 2011. The affected section won't finish reconstruction until the beginning of 2013.

## Shell Breaks Ground on a \$100 million Lubricant Plant in Tianjin

## 壳牌投资1亿美元在天津建设润滑油调和工厂

壳牌天津润滑油大型润滑油调配厂16日在天津滨海新区开工建设。该工厂总投资约1亿美元,预计2015年建成投产,年产能润滑油产品10万吨,最大产能20万吨。

According to Xinhua News Agency, Royal Dutch Shell started its largest lubricant plant in China on August 16th. The plant, worth \$100 million, is located in Tianjin Binhai New Area, the industrial hub of Tianjin city. Up to 3,600,000 tons lubricant can be produced after the plant starts regular function in the year 2015. Mark Gainsborough, executive vice president of Shell's global commercial business, said that China is one of Shell's most valued markets, and has been the fastest growing markets in recent years. The vice president expected that Asian lubricant market will account for more than half of the world's lubricant demand. In 10 years, China may replace U.S. to be the largest lubricant market in the world. The new plant in Tianjin is Shell's seventh lubricant plant in China. The company has set up plants in places including Zhejiang province, Guangdong province, and total production capacity has reached 1.5 million tons.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegation Conference of Tianjin Marketing Association Successfully Concluded

## 天津市市场营销协会第二届会员代表大会

天津市市场营销协会第二届会员代表大会暨第四届“三群星”表彰大会于2012年7月28日召开。来自天津各企业的“营销之星”企业共10家,个人12名,获奖企业全部在今晚榜上公布。

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegation Conference of Tianjin Marketing Association was held on July 28th. The conference reviewed and passed the charter revision report and audit report about the association. A new board panel was confirmed for the association. The first marketing reward Marketing Star was presented to 10 enterprises and 12 individuals.

## Hang Seng Bank opens sub-branch in Binhai district of Tianjin

## 恒生银行滨海支行开业

8月13日,恒生银行(中国)有限公司天津滨海支行举行开业盛典。恒生(中国)副董事长兼执行行长高伟祥,设立滨海支行是恒生中国深入内陆高增长地区,拓展金融服务网络的重要举措。恒生中国同时宣布已获准机构向在津筹建天津滨海支行,这是恒生2012年上半年北京增设第一家支行,年内将在环渤海地区再增加三个恒生金融服务网点。

Hang Seng Bank Limited (sehk:0011) opened a sub-branch in the Binhai district of Tianjin on Monday, said Hang Seng Bank (China) Limited, the mainland China unit of the Hong Kong-based bank. The sub-branch is part of Hang Seng Bank's efforts to enlarge its foothold in the Bohai Ring Area for an extensive financial service network, said the lender, noting that it plans to set up three service outlets in the Bohai Ring Area within the year. Hang Seng Bank, which opened a new sub-branch in Beijing in the first half of this year, has gained regulatory approval to launch another sub-branch in Tianjin. Set up in May 2007, Hang Seng Bank (China) has had 43 outlets in the mainland by far, of which 12 are branches and 31 are sub-branches. Hang Seng Bank has made its cross-border renminbi settlement service available in 15 cities so far.



# Uncle Hanzi

By Monica Wang, proofread by Jim Gibney, Photo by David

## 汉字叔叔

没有人能够否认微博是当今最强大的信息传播工具。对于这一点，美国人 Richard Sears 的体会最深刻不过了。9月初的一天，一名美国网友在新浪微博上发了一条微博，讲一个名叫“汉字叔叔”的美国人对他的精心钻研中国汉字的深深热情。自他的微博发布后，就吸引了大量网友的关注，甚至出现了微博页面崩溃的工作。很多中国网友称“汉字叔叔”为汉字研究的执着行动。直到一个美国人都曾因此而流于中国文化，并倾其一生保护和传承中国的汉字。很多中国网友都表示惋惜。

“汉字叔叔”在一段时间内红遍网络并受到许多人的关注。在刚发布的第二天，他就收到许多来自天津本地媒体和一些外地媒体的采访电话。面对这种关注，“汉字叔叔”显得十分淡定。因为这不是他第一次受到媒体的关注：早在一年之前，天津电视台的“泊爱中国”节目就曾对他做过纪录片，他还被授予过该节目的荣誉大奖。

“汉字叔叔”没有像有些其他大理想家来做这项研究。他只是把它当做一种爱好，并且是终生爱好。他认为大多数中国人之所以能够感动，是因为他们很少有人能够再一切专注于自己的爱好。“中国人要娶及家庭、事业、学业。很少能像我那么洒脱和自由。是我们希望实现的某种自由。”

“汉字叔叔”还有很多计划来丰富自己的网站。但是仅靠他一个人的力量无法实现，而且他曾经做过心脏搭桥手术，健康状况也不大稳定。如果果有人长期资助他，他就可以慢慢实现这些计划。让世界上更多的人，包括中国人自己，领略中国文字的魅力和精深。

Wei bo is the Chinese word for microblog. In the last few years it has become one of the most influential information sources in the world. There are few people in the world who know this better than Richard Sears, whose Weibo name is Hanzi Shushu — which translates into English as Uncle Hanzi. Richard is now using the latest technology of the web to help research one of the world's oldest languages — Chinese.

In one of his Weibo posts, Richard has said: "Weibo is the guanxi (connection) for people who have no guanxi." Richard has become an overnight sensation in China. It all began with a Weibo post that said Richard Sears, who is currently living in Tianjin and has spent 20 years studying Chinese etymology, had established an etymology website. This was enough to set the number of visitors to his site soaring into the millions.

He has invested all his savings and time into his study of Chinese but now Richard's visa is going to expire. The message on Weibo

called on people to help him continue his work and be able to stay in China. He needs someone to provide him with a job offer so he could get an expert visa to continue his studies. The post was retweeted almost 40,000 times.

When I heard about Richard's story I was quick to act and visit him. However, I was not the only one or the first. On the day I arrived at Richard's small apartment, in an old-fashioned *xiao qiu* near Tianjin University, I found he was already meeting with other journalists from a local publication. Richard told me that he now receives 500 emails a day since the post calling for help was sent out on the internet.

Obviously, he is a busy man. During our conversation, he received at least four phone calls, all from mass media asking for appointments to interview him. One of these was from a journalist who was prepared to fly from Shanghai for the interview. While we chatted, Richard took the phone calls and questions in the manner of a man who is used

to getting things done. It seems that he is used to all the attention.

Richard found himself famous for the first time at the beginning of 2011. After the now famous tweet, his website's page hits increased from 15,000 to 600,000 a day. It was only then that he first became aware of Weibo, the Chinese microblogging site. Since then his popularity and life has been like a rollercoaster: "I was famous for a few days and then I went to zero...then Tianjin TV made me famous for a few more days."

It was "China Right Here", a serial documentary produced by Tianjin TV, which found him and made an episode about his life and work. The documentary was shot in Tennessee in the USA. This led to him receiving the "China Right Here" award in Tianjin in 2011. This distinguished award is given to 12 foreigners who have made outstanding contributions to China and Chinese culture. He is a worthy winner.

At the award's ceremony, Richard was introduced by two prestigious Chinese scholars. The first was Xu Yuanchong, a 90-year-old noted translator who was nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature. The other was Xu Jiulu, a 74-year-old leader in Chinese character information processing development. That two such illustrious Chinese men of letters introduced him shows the high regard in which he is held.

Since the call for help Richard has received donations that have helped sustain his website for a few months. However, what he needs is some long-term sponsorship. His website is at [www.Chineseetymology.org](http://www.Chineseetymology.org). It has a simple interface with a place to donate at the top and dictionary on the side. The main page has information and links to the variations of characters in ancient Chinese languages.

The information contained in the website is encyclopedic. It gave some idea of the scope here are some facts and figures. There are 31,876 oracle bone characters Xu Ja Gu Wen Bian, 24,223 bronze characters Jin Wen Bian and the full text Chinese sources from the Shuo Wen Jie Zi, Mandarin, Taiwanese and Cantonese languages. There is also a speech and phonetic database and English translation tools.



Richard's study material



Richard is always happy in the world of Chinese characters

There are other tools which show Richard's expertise and background in information technology. There are traditional character to simplified character tools, a traditional character to super curvive character tool and a complete etymological analysis of the 6552 most common modern Chinese characters. He has had no helper to assist him and has entered, the more than one million pieces of information, by himself.

In anyone's language it is a significant study that makes him deserving of a job or funding from a university. However, he has been turned down by professional academia. He says, "Although my website is the most popular one in etymology, I don't have a PhD, and I never studied Chinese in college...academia doesn't like this kind of people. You don't know anybody who can offer [me] a job in a university." Sadly, I don't.

Richard went to Taiwan when he was 26 where he started learning speaking, reading and writing Chinese. At the age of 40, he decided that he would computerize Chinese etymology but it was just an idea. Four years later, he had a serious heart attack and almost died. It was this accident that spurred him to action. Since then, he has ardently studied Chinese and collected information from everywhere he could.

Many Chinese people have expressed

their respect and support for Uncle Hanzi. Many also think that it should be the Chinese people's job to protect Chinese culture. They feel that because it is now being done by a foreigner the Chinese people should be ashamed. However, for Richard this is not a problem and he has strong feelings about what has become his life work. He uses an interesting analogy to explain his feelings.

"Half the world's expert chefs are men because women are supposed to cook. If a man cooks, it's special. Similarly, Chinese are supposed to write Chinese...but as a foreigner, it's very interesting. So half of the world's experts in English, are foreigners. It's actually common in the world for other subjects [as well] because people are likely to study things that are uncommon. They like to be special." Richard is certainly special.

He continues: "I'm free and I represent something that Chinese people want to be." Many Chinese, he thinks, are attached to education, parents, family and a job. "They don't have a hobby...and say, oh, I'd like to do that." Richard thinks he can't understand Chinese in their language. "Among [the] young Chinese there are more independent thinkers than there used to be, but not enough."

His love of Chinese has led to him being misunderstood by his friends and his two ex

wives. Richard lives a strange life in the opinion of many. He puts all his energy into his hobby partly because of his health that has made him uncertain about how much time he has left. Richard told me that he is ok at the moment and now has plans to further enrich the website. But to do this he must have substantial sponsorship.

"If I have a sponsor and one or two helpers, I would first go through and fix all the mistakes on the website. It is 98% correct but because I put in about a million pieces of information, there are mistakes. And then I would put the pictures in and the English explanations. But if I have the helpers, I think I could put in super curvive Chinese messages, not only English explanation but also Chinese." A big job is ahead of him.

Originally, Richard worked as a programmer so he has been able to make use of his knowledge of the latest IT technology to promote his Chinese etymology website. He can see where the future of the internet is going. "Everybody [now] gets information from cell phones. I'll make the study more [user friendly] for cell phones." Of course, more helpers and funds are desperately needed to fulfill all these plans.

If you think you can help Richard please don't hesitate to contact him at his website.

# SMOKE FREE TIANJIN, REALLY?

By Paula Taylor

## 无烟天津——真的能实现吗？

今年的5月31日，天津市发布了新的《控制吸烟条例》，不仅扩大了严禁吸烟的区域，而且加强了监督和处罚力度。那么，为什么非要颁布新的条例呢？目的到底是什么呢？

在新条例颁布之前，我们都能看到公共场所公共交通工具上是禁烟的。但是，很多出租车司机手夹香烟开车；地铁车的非吸烟区，仍然有人将车让座。不过，几乎没有人上前制止。如果出租车司机不上车吸烟，乘客有权拒绝付费，但有几个人真正会这么做呢？

关于公共场所禁烟的问题，我访问了两周的中期朋友。无论禁烟区还是非吸烟区，他们都知道在公共场所吸烟是不对的，但同样，没有人会去制止，因为中国人的文化里，主动去指责别人并不是大多数人的做法，甚至会被认为是多管闲事。但如果是自己的朋友或家人这么做了，他们一定会马上制止。

被访问的烟民们承认从自己曾经在非吸烟区吸烟。不过是在“尽量不影响周围人的情况下”才吸的。也有人虽然遵守手部的限制，但还以为自己一定吸烟就没有什么不妥了。

在多数发达国家，公共场所已控制到完全禁烟，对吸烟者的处罚也非常严厉。但是对于中国能不能也实现百分之百禁烟，几乎所有人都表示怀疑。虽然大家都认为只有严厉的惩罚才能遏制这一现象，但是目前实施起来非常困难。

Since 1996 there has been a smoking ban in some public places in Tianjin, such as on the bus, although you wouldn't know it as many people seem to ignore it.

### Is Anyone Listening?

Just recently I endured a horrific journey on the bus from Beijing Airport to Tianjin. We landed at 1:00 a.m. and I had no choice but to wait for the 6:30 a.m bus back home. When the bus started to drive down the motorway I quickly realised there was a problem with the suspension, and if I thought I could catch up on my sleep I was sadly mistaken. I was bounced up and down in my seat for 2½ hours and several times was actually thrown off the seat. If this wasn't bad enough, the driver and his companion, despite there being a no

smoking sign, lit up cigarettes. "What a good idea", a fellow passenger thought, and also lit up. I endured it the first time they did it, but when shortly after putting their first cigarette out they lit up again and I discovered I could not open the windows, I could stand it no longer. I marched down the bus theatrically fanning the noxious fumes away and said in a loud voice "Can you open the windows please". They looked at me sheepishly, told me the windows could not open and then put out their cigarettes.

Is there anyone in Tianjin that obeys the no smoking law? Taxi drivers frequently pull over to pick me up with a cigarette in their hand. If I don't challenge them, they carry on smoking. You may or may not know that if they are smoking you can refuse to pay the

fare and report them, if you can be bothered. Bus drivers frequently smoke on the bus and so they have no freedom of speech, they cannot stop passengers from smoking. I have sat next to people in a non-smoking part of a restaurant, and you guessed it, they smoke and nobody stops them.

### England's Smoking Law History

When the no smoking law was introduced in England many people opposed it. In November 2004 a public health report suggested that smoking should be banned in public places and it was gradually phased in, with the first restrictions imposed on hospital and government buildings. It was widely debated in parliament, who initially had suggested a partial ban, but on 1st July 2007, it

was a done deal and a total smoking ban was introduced and vigorously enforced. One of the first pub landlords to be prosecuted for allowing people to smoke had his licence taken away, and his pub was closed. Another pub landlord allowed his customers to smoke and was punished with a large fine. He refused to pay, allowed customers to smoke again and was summoned to court. Retribution was swift, he was sentenced to six months jail. Judging by the comments in the newspaper most people were happy that he had gone to prison. You may think this is harsh but the law is the law and a line has to be drawn somewhere. It was something of a test case and the eyes of smokers and non-smokers alike were all watching to see what would happen.





### Different Rules Apply Here

How I am in China of course I have to endure it, but what drives me crazy is the fact that if there is a smoking ban in place, not only do some people ignore it, but nobody else criticises them for doing so. I have previously mentioned the time I went to Hong Kong with my trusy Chinese friend. It was the first time she had ever left the mainland and loved Hong Kong, but there was one thing that annoyed her. In public places smoking is banned and there is a \$5000 (HKD) fine if anybody breaks the law (incidentally I didn't see anyone do so).

My friend was aghast and said "5,000 is too much, they shouldn't be so harsh".

"What do you care, you don't even smoke!" I said to her.

"I think \$200 is enough of a punishment."

"If it is only \$200 people will break the law as they can afford to pay that".

A taxi driver in Tianjin told me that if he gets caught breaking a traffic law, a fine of 200 yuan is easy for him to pay. I couldn't understand why my friend was annoyed on behalf of smokers who break the law. This in fact reveals something interesting about Chinese people and is a major difference between Westerners and Chinese. If others are breaking the law, queue jumping or engaging in uncivilised behaviour, Chinese people will not criticise them. My Chinese friends are all decent, law-abiding people, I know they do not approve of these bad habits but they will not openly condemn others. Usually when I am out with my friends and I see someone do something uncivilised, and I ask outraged "Did you see that guy stop his car and empty all his rubbish on the floor?"

"Really? I didn't see" is the stock answer. Or I get told "We don't look at what

others are doing". Or more frequently, "We don't want to embarrass someone by criticising them, maybe in time they will change". Well I believe in miracles but I won't be excited any time soon about selfish people suddenly seeing the light and deciding that what they are doing is wrong. My friends do not even like it if I call such people selfish. "Maybe they don't know they can't smoke here" they say nicely when I point out that in the metro it is really dangerous when people ignore the smoking ban. I saw a man standing underneath the "No Smoking" sign – you guessed it, smoking. The Chinese characters actually translate as "Strongly forbidden to smoke here". "You think he can't see that sign?" I ask. The reply is usually "This is China, no point you getting upset".

### Why I Care

I will get upset if people smoke in the Metro, because in London in November 1987 there was a disaster on the tube (metro) when somebody carelessly dropped a lit match on the escalator. It set alight rubbish that had accumulated, and the smoke and flames fanned by the wind in the tunnels quickly spread. 31 people died and 60 people were injured, some very severely and they received life changing injuries. As a result of a fire at another tube station, smoking had been banned on the tube trains since July 1984. In February 1985 a complete ban on smoking in all sub-surface stations was put into effect. However this did not include the escalators and this is why the tragic incident at King's Cross Station occurred. Most of the tube stations in London are extremely old and the escalators at King's Cross had been built in 1940 and were made of wood. That one person's carelessness that day cost many lives. There is a plaque at this station

commemorating the passengers that died, and quite often the badly injured survivors appear on TV to give their stories. Therefore this tragedy is still fresh in Londoners' minds, even if they were not born when it happened. Can you imagine if a similar disaster occurred in China? Because of the sheer number of people travelling on the metro, it would be a catastrophe of enormous proportions, so I really get scared when I see someone violating this law.

### Chinese People Do Care

Earlier on in this article I gave my opinion as to how Chinese people react when they see someone breaking the no smoking rule. I was interested to see whether or not my view was correct so I asked a selection of Chinese friends for their opinion. Have a look at the following questions and answers-

Q. Have you ever seen anyone smoke in a no smoking place?

A. Yes, sure. Some people just don't care. Q. Did you say anything to them?

A. No, not at all. Perhaps maybe think that I am too busy. Friends are too busy knowing each other.

Chinese people are very concerned as to how other people view them, so even if they disapprove of bad behaviour they will not say anything to see they themselves become the target of criticism.

Q. How do you feel about it?  
A. Sometimes they just don't realize that they are smoking in the no smoking area, or think they will be lucky enough to escape the penalty.

Here we see another difference between Chinese and Westerners. Chinese people are always willing to give others the benefit of the doubt and are seldom hot quick to them. This is actually a very nice quality that we could do well to emulate. We may think of it as naive but maybe not so too cynical.

Q. If your husband/friend smoked in a no smoking place how would you deal with them?

A. I think I would ask them to leave the no smoking zone or otherwise kick them out myself.

For a Chinese person to feel this strongly about something that they would actually challenge friends and family - this is progress indeed. The problem has always been not that Chinese people do not care about these things, but that they are unwilling to confront difficult situations and make others uncomfortable. It is this fear of embarrassing someone that is preventing solutions to problems being implemented. This is one of the reasons they think we are rude, because we speak



Smoking isn't just suicide. It's murder

out regardless of the other person's feelings. I say if they are breaking those rules they do not care about the feelings of others and so have forfeited their right to have their feelings taken into consideration.

Q. In Europe and America it is legal to smoke in all public areas including the public spaces in the hallways of apartments. Do you think that China will ever pass a similar law?

A. I do. I think it is definitely a positive law and there are some strong arguments and I am on the right track to becoming an international city. At least in the short-term, there are some things to look at in the city.

Personally I think it would be impossible to implement this in the majority of Chinese people's current habits to give up education.

Q. What do you think should happen if someone breaks these rules?

A. So far in Tianjin, I don't think they will be punished for breaking the rule. It is a barrier for people to realize their behaviour to smoke in certain areas. Moreover, the municipal officials need there are many other measures to be taken. Therefore you need to remind them to continue reminding those people around, such as friends, families, and students.

This is absolutely true. There are many other problems that need to be dealt with, and so this is way down the scale of serious misdemeanours. Again Chinese people hope that others will realise themselves that they are doing something wrong without the need to be told by someone else.

Candy has seen people smoking in a no smoking place but she felt she could not say

anything to them. She feels that there are no benefits to smoking or people would be better off not using it at all, therefore the rules. She said she would pre-empt any friend or relative of her trying to break the rules by telling them in advance they were in a no smoking zone. We definitely think that some form of punishment should be implemented for the situation, although she admitted it would be very difficult to put into practice.

WuShuai has been officers every-where but has not felt brave enough to confront them. She feels that smoking is acceptable but smokers should not inconvenience non-smokers. She feels very strongly that if anyone she knows tries to break the rules she should "top him immediately!" She also said that "Our government should announce some positive measures to promote such uncivilized behavior, as at present the punishments are not effective and that it why there are so many 'no-smokers'". She doesn't think it feasible that in the future China will completely ban smoking in all public places.

I like the most realistic opinion came from Monica, who has also seen people smoking where they shouldn't, mostly in a taxi or bus. Remember, she stated previously, if a taxi driver is smoking you can refuse to get into the taxi and report him. Most of them will get their cigarettes out if you ask them as they are afraid of the consequences. When she has seen someone smoking legally she will never say anything unless he blows the smoke into her face. Again her feelings are "These people are not aware that they are smoking in a no smoking area if they don't respect any law or regulations at all, it is what Chinese people always say - 知法犯法 (knowing the law but breaking it). I have often heard this said. It basically means that a person's inner qualifications are low. I think they use this phrase to comfort

themselves when someone's bad behaviour upsets them. If anyone she knew tried to smoke in a place they shouldn't she is quite definite that she would stop them. Regarding the banning of smoking in all public places she had this to say "That will take at least two generations to realize. Now the rules are just something written on paper". Regarding who will be there to enforce rules, her opinion was very decided "Who will be there to watch the smokers? Policemen? There used to be old ladies (authorized by the government) to stand on the street to catch those who spit on the road, but quarrels always occurred. Then they disappeared! People don't think it's a big deal and the ladies are just there to make money out of it". From all these opinions it is obvious that many Chinese do not like the fact that the rules are broken but feel unable to deal with the situation.

### Why Break the Rule?

The previous viewpoints belong to non-smokers. The smokers of course had different opinions one particularly was quite interesting, and I think sums of what the majority of people here think. I asked the same questions. This smoker felt that they just did not get used to the fact that in some places it is forbidden to smoke. So far so good. However, he has broken this rule before, for instance when he has accompanied someone to hospital and early in the morning in the corridor had a cigarette. He stresses that he did not influence anyone else, so felt that it was okay. He also felt that although smoking is already banned in some places, it would not be possible to stop people in the corridors of public places.





You're burning your self, rather than a cigarette

Another smoker felt that it was good there were non-smoking places and expressed his support, although he admitted he had smoked in these places as he felt the law was not so strong. A few articles back I wrote about the time I asked a friend why Chinese people did not follow the rules and she said "We feel although it is a rule, maybe it is not too important, maybe we can break it". Again Chinese people seem to have collective feelings about this, that it won't matter too much if they break a rule. Interestingly enough this smoker felt it would be a good thing if smoking was banned in all public places and cited Singapore as a good example to follow.

**Going Forward**

As there are already bans in place, why are new regulations needed? The local Government have pledged to reduce the effects of smoking on others and so the new smoking ban, or as they refer to it, "controlling smoking" is extremely comprehensive. They have also set up the Tianjin Health Promotion Board to promote and co-ordinate an anti-smoking campaign. They have released a report as follows:

In the past two months, they received 41 complaints and carried out routine checks 9,055 times, 103 rectification notices along with 2,477 verbal warnings were issued.

According to a nationwide survey, the proportion of Tianjin residents who were aware of the links between second hand smoking and heart diseases, lung diseases among children and lung cancers stood at a leading 70.2%, 85.9% and 78.8%.

The report said the rate of smoking in public places in Tianjin has fallen significantly, especially at schools, child care

centres, banks, post offices, telecommunication offices, libraries and museums.

It also admitted more efforts should be made at restaurants, internet cafes and ballrooms.

Tianjin hopes to make the 2012 Summer Davos conference and the 9th National Sports Meeting of College Students, which the city will host in September 11 to 13 and September 9 to 15 respectively, smoking-free.

The list of places where smoking is banned has grown and here are some of them-

Any institution or activity where there are children, for instance schools, kindergartens children's hospitals etc. Any health institutions, including those for adults, Libraries, museums, art galleries, science institutions, exhibition halls, cinemas, music halls, any place of entertainment, internet bars, shops inside markets, supermarkets, gyms, sports competitions, places of historical interest, any rooms or halls inside public parks, bookshops, any shopping place that is inside. Public areas in hotels, and if addition they are to offer no smoking rooms, conference rooms, restaurants, banks, post offices, any place offering a public service, any form of public transport including the waiting rooms and ticket halls. Establishments are to provide a place for smokers and they are to install a good extraction system. Also the Health Board are to actively educate people as to the ban and have eye catching signs warning people, along with a telephone number, presumably to report violations.

**What will happen?**

Now for the important part of the legislation - consequences! If someone flouts

the law and refuses to put their cigarette out they can be asked to leave or the staff can refuse to serve them. There is to be a widespread advertising campaign and the TV companies etc. will not be able to charge for this. Schools, hospitals etc. are also to take part in an educational campaign warning people of the dangers. Workplaces are to appoint a person to enforce the rule and companies are encouraged to have their own punishment system.

Every May 31st is World No Smoking Day and this is to be widely publicised. Tobacco vendors are to be encouraged to stop selling tobacco for this one day. Each company is to have someone responsible for preventing smoking inside, and if they fail in this duty the company is to be fined 5,000 yuan and the supervisor is to be held personally responsible and to be fined 500 yuan. If they fail to set up a supervisor, the same fine applies. If eating and entertainment places fail to set up a designated smoking area, they also get the same fine. Individuals that smoke are to be fined from 50 to 200 yuan. Anyone that threatens the smoking supervisor or berates them is to be taken to court. Any supervisor that receives a bribe to ignore someone smoking is to be re-educated. These new laws replace the original 1996 anti-smoking laws.

Quite what we are supposed to do when someone flouts the law is a little tricky, as Chinese people will not take too kindly to foreigners trying to tell them what to do in their country. If we are in a restaurant and someone smokes, better to let the staff deal with the problem. China is already a Super Power but only time will tell if they are ready now to follow the lead of other countries in this health campaign. It will be interesting to see what happens.



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# Floods in Tianjin – not a new experience!

天津历史上的两次大水灾

By Andrea Klopper

今年的7月23日，天津地区经历了60年来最严重的暴雨侵袭。天津的街道大面积积水，很多地方的积水超过了膝盖。这让很多老人想起了天津曾经经历过的两次大水。

天津沿海平原，境内有多条河流经过。南运河、渭河、子牙河、塘子河、永定河以及潮白河最终汇入于海河。因此，天津历史上经常受到洪涝灾害。规模最大的两次分别发生在1917年和1937年。当时在天津的外国租界则避免了很多惨痛的经历，记录了津灾发端的始末。

July and August have seen large amounts of rain falling in the Beijing-Tianjin area with Beijing flooding more heavily than in the past 60 years. Floods are not new. Flooding used to be a regular occurrence especially with Tianjin being located on a coastal plain with the Hai He formed from the confluence of five rivers: the Southern part of the Grand Canal (Nan Yun) joined by the Wei River at Linziang, Ziya River, Daqing River, Yongding River, the Northern Canal joining the Bai River.

In September 1917, there was a particularly serious flood when heavy rains and run-off from the mountains led to the dyke of the Grand Canal being breached in about 13 places. The south-west part of the city was completely

submerged: water in the Hai Guang Si area was 1.78 metres high, in the French concession to the northern part of Hebei Road it was up to 1.45 metres high; in the Japanese concession it was about 1 metre high, while in the British concession it reached about 0.7 metres. Standing on the rooftops looking west, all that could be seen was a vast expanse of water with numerous islands – villages on mounds – between which junks sailed (abstract for article in Norwegian Journal of Geography Vol. 15 issues 3-4, 1956).

The British Municipal Council made a number of improvements to the drainage as a result. The Qiang Zi River was canalised to feed water into the Hai He by way of sluice gates. The Japanese, French and British municipal governments negotiated

with the Germans to install pumping equipment in their concession where the Qiang Zi River fed into the Hai He River so that water could be more rapidly diverted.

In 1937 however, there was another threat of flooding. The Peking and Tientsin Times showed ~~photos of~~ tents built along the French Road.

Two years later, there were more heavy rains with three huge storms causing the Yong Ding, Qi Qing, Zi Ya and Nan Yun Rivers to flood and merge. The Japanese army dynamited the dyke near Yang Lia Qing hoping to divert the rising waters into agricultural land but to no avail. The waters

flooded through Hai Guang Si and the Qiang Zi river overflowed. Water was as high as 1.8 to 2.4 metres in some places while most streets were about 1.5 metres under water so that boats became the means of travel. All public transportation was disrupted, most factories had to stop production and businesses were closed with huge economic losses incurred.

Matters in the city were exacerbated by an influx of people from the surrounding countryside. Villages mostly consisted of houses built of mud brick so when their foundations were soaked by the rising water, the mud softened and caused the houses to collapse. Entire villages were submerged. People grabbed whatever could float to carry them into the city which they could locate by the tall buildings. In the city, people were marooned on their roofs. The Salvation Army organised a "house-top relief". With hired boats, they distributed clean drinking water and Chinese steamed buns to some 3000 people each day.

Every available place that could provide shelter was opened for the refugees – the Race Club grandstand, the Tientsin Grammar School hall (some 1600 people), public meeting places and empty warehouses.



Picture in Peking and Tientsin Times, Tuesday October 10, 1917 showing the 1917 flooding. Top: the Centre of Madison and Race Course Roads (Yue Tai An Dao and Hai Shi Lu). Bottom: The Race Course.



1937 flood. In the water levels were so high that people were making it by using rafts and tin canoes. (Times October 10, 1937) (Reprinted of his report)



Refugees in the Tientsin Grammar School (photos of Dr Hoyte courtesy of Elizabeth Goldsmith)



1937 flooding in the Chinese city. Tientsin (courtesy of Dr Hoyte)

The Salvation Army and others were also responsible for erecting shelters for the refugees as it became apparent they would not be able to re-establish themselves before the onset of winter. The city authorities provided waste land where the south-facing huts could be built with the labour of the refugees. Bamboo reeds formed the frame over which reed mats were draped and then the whole was plastered with mud to form a 9 by 5 foot hut. Over 4000 such huts housed over 20 000 refugees (personal notes of Dr Hoyte).

An appeal went out for medical help as it was feared disease would spread among refugees already weakened by the preceding three years of near famine in the district. One of the

Father had to stoop low to get through the cover and could not stand upright inside. The Chinese family were pathetically grateful for his help. A little child said my eye stared at me, but we were both too shy to speak". (Goldsmith, Elizabeth 2000: 104)

Doctors held daily clinic and did home visits to those too ill to move. Surgery was done in the city hospitals while there were hospitals for maternity needs and an impromptu hospital with improvised beds. Dr Hoyte was placed in charge. Those with infectious diseases were housed in a special camp.



Medical staff at the impromptu hospital with Dr Hoyte on the right (Dr Hoyte's personal photo courtesy of Elizabeth Goldsmith)

The August 1939 Big Flood ranks high (18th) in terms of worldwide records for deaths which were estimated at 20,000 people. The Buddhist Red Cross was involved, helping to bury those that died.

A number died when electrified. Private Robert Grimsdell of the 1st Durham Light Infantry stationed in Tianjin at the time, was on telephone exchange duty at the Barracks. He waded across the room which was clearly full of water and apparently stood on a live wire either while trying to reconnect the electricity supply (official version) or trying to turn on a fan. Being in the water right by a plugged in appliance (as the photo shows) suggests a rather casual attitude to the potential dangers! The unfortunate private was duly given a military funeral in the Hai He.

His fellow soldiers were evacuated from their barracks and housed in a large Jardine Matheson warehouse on the Bund. Patrols were carried out in sampans and the officers played check tennis on the mess roof. The US Marine Barracks were also flooded with the compound under

doctors who responded was as far as I could see.

"The long low lines of huts stretched as far as I could see.

44 inches of water. Prior to his death, Private Grimsdell had written to his mother and noted:

"I'll have to go now. The smell is terrible. I'm surprised you cannot smell it in England: it's that bad!" (all above from <http://durhamlightinfantry.webs.com/jaill1937china.htm>)

Clearly it was an extremely hard time and its protracted nature added to the general discomfort.

The extent of the flooding was such that it took a couple of months for the waters to recede despite the city engineers erecting huge pumps to help drain the city. A British silent news clip at the time shows people being organised with buckets and hand

pumps too (cf. [www.Britishpathe.com/video/combine/gcienst-floods/](http://www.Britishpathe.com/video/combine/gcienst-floods/)). By spring, it had dried out sufficiently for the displaced farmers to return to their land with barges helping to carry people. Some 13 000 tons of wadded clothing were distributed and families were each given \$10 and a bag of seed. Dr Hoyte commented:

"The whole enterprise was an amazing achievement".

Evidence of the event remains today on the occasional markers on various buildings (see below) and when the rains fall as they recently did, older Tianjiners do not doubt remember.



Soldiers of the 1st Durham Light Infantry during the 1939 flood. Top: Soldiers on the mess roof. Bottom: Private Grimsdell and Paterson make a swim in the mess roof to re-energise the electricity cord for the fan behind front 11 photograph (<http://durhamlightinfantry.webs.com/jaill1937china.htm>)



Robert Grimsdell (1898) Barrack and Wings. (Image: 1939) report and photo of Tientsin. Barrington, D.D. (1924) The Growth of Tientsin. (Photo taken in the French concession in 1949) (1949) (1949) 1949. 天津租界科学出版社 <http://china.archive.com/viewpage.php?id=1949> <http://china.archive.com/viewpage.php?id=1949> <http://china.archive.com/viewpage.php?id=1949>



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# China's Business School Boom

## 商业学院在中国蓬勃发展

中国商务专业的大学数量是否可以满足中国商业发展的人才需求？是否可以和其他海外学院竞争？随着中国经济的快速发展，国内的高等学院为市场输送专业人才的数量呈逐年递增的趋势。但是，这些专业高等学院是否同样快速消费，进而满足外资企业对中国商务专业人才的大规模需求？这对于商业高层次人才的热切需求不仅出现在跨国外资企业，在一些初创，甚至私营企业也同样迫切。

As China's business schools keeping pace with demands from the business world and their international competition?

As China's economy continues to grow, domestic business schools supplying talent for the market are increasing in international status and number. However, can domestic business school programs expand fast enough to keep up with rising student demand and the appetite of China-based companies for their graduates?

Education providers in China are recognizing and responding to the domestic need for business talent. The increasing demand for higher-quality MBA is being driven by the needs of multinational companies, as well as state-owned and private enterprises.

Every few years the Ministry of Education approves schools in batches of 10,20 or 30. With seven batches approved so far this year, China now has a total of 127 business schools that educate about 30,000

students a year. But although the number of schools has risen exponentially, it still lags behind the number of business schools in the US.

Over the past decade, the number of business schools in the US has increased annually by roughly 6%. So that today about 1,000 MBA degree programs serve an estimated 130,000 students. Roughly one



quarter of all graduate students in the US will earn an MBA degree. But only one in every 20 of the roughly 420,000 graduate students in China will graduate with a business degree.

### OPTING TO STUDY ABROAD

Despite the increase in quality and quantity of China-based programs, many Chinese students still opt to study outside of China. "They are committed to a different learning experience," says Cambridge University Judge Business School MBA Executive Director Karen Siegfried, nothing that applications from Chinese students to Judge's MBA program have increased over the past two years, even with little direct advertising in China by the school.

"Many top applicants in China are looking to programs outside of China to provide them with the broad international exposure and training that they feel will better prepare them to be business leaders upon their return to their home country," she says.

Business programs in China are keeping up with the international competition for students by diversifying, offering more specialized degrees in areas like marketing, and adding value and academic quality, says Rutgers Business School Senior Executive MBA China Program Representative Kelly Brannner. Rutgers is

ranked 20th in The Wall Street Journal's top Executive MBA(EMBA) programs worldwide.

Chinese business schools also have the "latecomer" advantage of being able to learn from the earlier efforts of the world's best schools. The Chinese programs are also trying to identify their positions in the worldwide marketplace, in terms of ranking and international accreditations.

### NEW WAYS OF THINKING

Many potential Chinese students with aspirations for employment in multinational corporations believe a business school education will help them develop the required leadership and critical thinking skills that are not encouraged in traditional Chinese classrooms, where there is more emphasis on rote memorization and respect for authority.

This focus on self-improvement and the desire to get ahead in the business world has been helping drive the local business school boom. So much has been written and talked about regarding the need for individuals to have improved critical thinking, leadership and team building skills—the softer skill side of business. However, there is still a gap that needs to be addressed and business schools and addressing that gap.

A recent survey of part-time and full-time MBA and EMBA graduates by the Graduate Management Admissions Council (owners and administrators of the GMAT exam) found that 91% of graduates saw an improvement in their critical and strategic

thinking skills, while 84% said their leadership and team building skills improved a good or great deal.

### STAYING HOME TO STUDY

Many China-based programs are seeing a noticeable rise in the number of Chinese MBA applicants. This may be due to a variety of factors. "The gap of economic development, living conditions, opportunities and many other things have narrowed between China and developed countries, so more and more students simply consider an MBA as a purely academic choice rather than ranking advantage of going abroad and staying there.

The sluggish overseas job market and

the often prohibitive costs of obtaining and MBA overseas are also giving prospective students reason to consider options closer to home. Many Chinese MBA students plan to work in China after graduating because the job market is better here than in many developed nations. If they leave China to study, they lose contact with their business networks and fall out of touch with business trends.

### ATTRACTING FOREIGN STUDENTS

Chinese students are not the only ones who are increasingly choosing Chinese MBA programs. The numbers of foreign students applying and being admitted to Chinese business schools is also on the rise.



## New Face in Tianjin Hotel Industry

By Parker Barribal

天津康莱德酒店近期任命高炳先生为新任酒店总经理。高先生在全球酒店业工作超过30年，工作经验非常丰富，对于中西方客户的不同需求也十分了解。同时，对天津酒店业也有自己独到的见解。

The Westin has recently seen the appointment of a new General Manager, Terry Ko, who has years of experience both on the Mainland and abroad in the hotel industry. Terry who was born in Hong Kong was kind enough to give us his unique perspective on the hotel industry in Tianjin and the differences between Chinese and Western guests.

Q. You have over 30 years of experience in this industry. What do you find to be the biggest difference between Chinese and Western hotel guests?

A. They all have different needs. In General, because of cultural differences, Western people coming from more courteous societies hence they are more approachable and generous with saying please and thank you. Chinese society is more conservative and people are sometimes less liberal with saying please and thank you to service associates. Chinese people are humorous and like to joke with their friends but with servers or strangers they are much more reserved than their Western counterparts, there is less joking around with a Chinese guest. However, the younger Chinese generations are becoming more and more approachable.

Q. Could you tell us about the strength's you feel the Westin has as competition in the city's hotel market heats up?

A. For one our location is great, it is central. Our building itself is still very new and attractive. Our amenities and rooms are all excellent. Of course I believe our service is great. One thing I enjoy about Starwood Preferred Guest program is our strong brand culture. We provide an environment where people can fulfill their purpose. If they need a formal conference room, or a lounge to relax with clients, we really facilitate their mission in town. They come here with a goal and leave having accomplished it.

Q. What are some of the promotions in the works at the Westin that we can expect in the future?

A. Right now we have a series of food promotions. We do short term, ten days to two weeks, of a new flavor. Sometimes we have southern Chinese food served in our restaurants, soon we will have a Turkish offering. Other times we will do a chef exchange with other hotels to bring in broader flavor samples. No matter how good a chef you are, if you did not grow up eating a certain kind of food, you will never truly be able to recreate it. That is why chef exchanges are so great. We want to give guests as broad a sampling of cuisine as possible.

Q. What advice would you give to young people interested in a career in the hospitality industry?

A. First I would say you have to make up your mind to do it because you won't be GM in two years. You know, there is no such thing as an instant manager. You really do need the experience; you have to know how all the little aspects work so that when you do lead people in the future you can apply your skills with your staff. You can't tell others to smile as a GM with a frown on your face; you need a bounce in your step. Leading people in this business is not about barking orders; it is about leading by example. It's always show time. Many people are surprised when they are not free for holidays. I look at it like this, if everything went well at my hotel on a given day, it is just as good as Christmas or Chinese New Year.

Jin would like to thank Terry and the Westin for taking time to speak with us and wish them all the best of luck in the upcoming holiday season.



AmCham China  
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## AmCham China, Tianjin 2012 Fall Classic Golf Tournament

Time: 10:00AM - 8:00PM, Saturday, October 13  
 Venue: Tianjin Warner Golf Club

Summer will soon be over and that means that AmCham China's Tianjin 2012 Fall Classic Golf Tournament is right around the corner.

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Contact person: Amanda He

# New Places, Familiar Faces

The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin is living up to the name.

By Parker Barrilall

酒店管理圈的人事变动是为了给企业带来新鲜血液和观念。最近，天津利顺德酒店迎来一位新总经理程君先生。负责全新管理酒店运营工作。程君先生在天津酒店业工作多年，经验丰富。相信不久后的将来一定会把利顺德酒店带上新的台阶。

Hotel managers are transient by nature. New blood brings new ideas and every few years 5-star luxury hotels like Tianjin's famous The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel bring in new talent. Such was the case recently when Christian Metzner came to the Astor. The difference in this case however, was that Christian has been a fixture in Tianjin's hotel industry for years. We caught up with Christian recently, no small feat for us as Christian was recently managing both the Westin Hotel and the Astor simultaneously.

Q. You have been in China and Tianjin for a long time, you know the lay of the land in the luxury hotel industry. With that in mind, were you happy with the state of affairs at the Astor when you arrived as the new GM?

A. The Astor is different level of hotel from the start. We have a history here, and we grew along with the city. So coming here I knew the uniqueness would pose challenges but also offer great opportunities to preserve the essence of the hotel as well as bring in new directions. The Astor is a Starwood Hotel and as such we have guidelines and core values, but GMs come in and bring their ideas with them. This is a part I was happy to accept and have enjoyed, really enjoyed it so far.

Q. What is the hardest part of balancing your personal and professional life?

A. Well to start, I live in the hotel. So there's always the presence of work. I am available twenty-four hours a day in case there is an issue. Which is nice in that it helps us bring a good experience to our guests, but the temptation is to never separate, to always be in the work mindset. I start work early because I want to greet our guests as the leave, to really check in with them, and many times work runs late. I have to make it a point to get outside of the hotel and see the city, especially in the cold days of winter. Even if it is just a walk, you have to keep from getting static. Since the Astor has high profile guests, for example James Cameron, it keeps things interesting as I always want to spend at least some time with our guests, be they famous directors or

government dignitaries. Still, this is the lifestyle I have chosen and I really like it, I like the city as well.

Q. How would you compare and contrast working here at the Astor to your previous post at the Westin?

A. At my last job I started in marketing and moved up. Here I started as GM so there is that difference. But as the hotel goes, everything here is about the details. Our guests expect an incredible experience and we work to make that happen. Whether it's food, guest relations, or the services we provide, we want to make staying here a different experience. The details allow our guests to truly experience Tianjin itself.

The attention to detail is always evident. Anytime I have visited the Astor the Victorian lobby is a welcomed retreat for tea and a chance to relive some of the history of Tianjin in its oldest hotel. They even offer Historic Menus, so guests can sample the same dishes that the likes of the Empress Puyi and US President Herbert Hoover enjoyed during their long ago stays. Christian was clear in explaining that at the Astor, "We want to deliver and indigenous experience". And they certainly do. The core values of the hotel are Indigenous, Exceptional, and Experience and I can attest that each of my own visits have shown that these values go from ethereal to material inside of the Astor.




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- ◆ Analysis of the visit, going-gift decision (in Turku)
- ◆ Assistance in drafting a business plan (with Finpro or other consultant)



### Person in Charge

**Main skills of the role:**  
 Conduct good market research and activities; the report of the research  
 Active networking with local clients, public authorities, key business sectors and universities  
 Planning trips of Chinese business leaders and their representation  
 Being organizing visiting programs  
 Being analyzing the contents of the visit and giving recommendations  
 Learn relevant technical management

### Qualifications of the role

Four to five years' work experience in a business environment, especially European-Chinese business. Knowledge of Finnish business is desirable. It is a plus to speak English and Chinese.  
 Good knowledge of the economic development and socioeconomic, with strong marketing skills, namely able to develop insights into marketing strategies and special strategy. Internationalization, understanding of central local and regional Government, effectiveness in communication with Chinese authorities and enterprises, multicultural understanding.  
 Excellent network: know a few local contacts in Tianjin for longer than 10 years

### Assistant

**Main skills of the Assistant:**  
 Being conducting good market research and organizing program  
 Being organizing visiting programs, arranging meetings and their representation  
 Being analyzing the contents of the visit, going-gift decision and arrangement  
 Drafting annual activity report in Turku

### Professional profile of the assistant

Three to four years' work experience. Good in English and Chinese, and a recommended degree in business courses in China and Finland.  
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|--|--|--|--|
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| Aug 19th 2012<br>Commission Study of Tianjin   | Aug 22nd 2012<br>Octoberfest<br>The Astor Hotel Barbecue                       | Oct 12th 2012<br>2012 European Business Gala Dinner - A Night of Stars<br>Venue: W. Regis, Tianjin Hotel |  |

# Jobless, Ignorant and Expat!

## 无知的外国失业者

前不久之前，中国开始大力发展经济与基础设施，大多数外国人并没有真正关注中国的发展，那些心中发展观的人对在中国的市场拓展感兴趣，并且希望能在当地生活和工作。那么谁就成为了一个势必要考虑的问题。在中国工作将会给你带来丰富的经验，而在那之前，社会可能和风险并存，如同当年的美国那样。你必须仔细浏览每一个成功的案例，首先你需要的是降低你的目标薪酬，那么决定你薪酬，但是最重要的知识领域，你也可以用几年时间来充实自己，以适应中国的市场环境。那么应该如何有效地选择薪酬呢？这将是我们的主题。届时我们会深入探讨薪酬的构成和因素。改变中产阶级。

Not too long ago, China was still taking the very first steps in economic development, infrastructure expansion and industrial advancement. Before and during this time, most westerners never thought about China or what's happening there and they didn't have their eyes—even through news—on the fast developments taking place in China.

There were some however who did keep an eye on China's very ambitious plan and how it came together and translated to real development on the nation's vast lands. Those few spectators were interested in the expanding Chinese market and were working on developing economic and technological co-operatives with Chinese businesses, government and private owned alike.

Even fewer of those spectators had a bigger plan; to actually live and work in China one day! Some had a special interest in Chinese (or Asian) history, some wanted to start a new life on the other side of the world and some just simply wanted to get a job there.

Fast forward to the 21st century and the picture becomes clear. The Chinese economy is now on of the world's largest and is here to

stay. This naturally set a business and employment scene very different from what China had a mere twenty years ago. Today, many expats have moved to China for doing business or working in the local market while some have moved in to teach English to the demanding population.

While many expats made the decision to live in China permanently and now have wives (Chinese or foreigners) and maybe children and families, most expats remain undecided on this issue and treat it as a short term situation without any future planning. However, since we're in China, we might as well use their famous concept on the "five-year-plan".

You can start by asking yourself, what do you want of a career or a business? Is it the expansion and advancement available in a growing market? Is it a higher salary or bigger profit? Is it a lifestyle that you can't find anywhere else? Is it a personal relationship that you think you will find here? Different people each have a different reason for coming to China and you need to pinpoint yours. Of course you came for business or career but what do you want after that?

Working in China has distinct positives and negatives. On one hand, China's economy is strong at the moment (at least stronger than most highly developed economies). The opportunities here are also much faster paced than what you would usually find there. A deal can be struck in China within a week while the same one can take a month to complete in the US.

The Chinese customer and client is also becoming less price-sensitive and will therefore be on the radar of every major company, so working in China will give you valuable experience of navigating the Chinese market and deem you more valuable to companies back home if you decide to return one day.

Think about it as a new frontier where opportunities are available but also dangers. It's very comparable to the old US west where many made fortunes in gold rushes because they gambled and went there in dire conditions and dealt with dangerous security issues on a daily basis.

Drawbacks in China might not be primarily security and heat related, but have to be navigated carefully for a successful career or business here nonetheless. For one, you should lower your target salary/profit to a realistic level. Remember that there is a 50% difference in the purchasing power compared with the US for example. In other words, if you live comfortably in the New York with \$50,000 annually, you can expect to live an equivalent lifestyle in Shanghai, Beijing or Tianjin with \$25,000 annually.

Keep in mind that the salary of a top Chinese graduate of a leading university (e.g. Peking) is around \$12500 annually and he/she would have an advantage over you when it comes to working in China. One reason is the language but more importantly, the area knowledge, business information, market connections and cultural sensitivity that you can spend years to develop to a suitable level.

So what's the situation for expats in China now? How to compete efficiently for a job and how to choose which job to compete for? These are our topics for next month. Until then, I will gladly receive your comments & questions and will try to discuss them in the next article. Happy Mid-Autumn Festival.



Send comments & question to Moe ELGHAREEB via email [moghareeb@gmail.com](mailto:moghareeb@gmail.com)

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Located in the center of Tianjin Binhai Hi-Tech Development Area, Bolong Lakeview Resort presents its unique five star services as a luxury resort hotel to guests from around globe. The hotel is near several Highway Entrances, and is only a 15-minute drive to Tianjin Binhai International Airport and 30km away from the center of Tianjin. The total area of the hotel is 36000m<sup>2</sup>, the lake is 500,000m<sup>2</sup>.

There are 88 guest rooms in the hotel. Equipped and ready to video phone conference and simultaneous interpretation systems, nearly 1000m<sup>2</sup> conference room will satisfy any demands by national and international meetings; there are also small conference meeting room for business discussion and signing ceremonies. The Jasmine Cafe inside the hotel provides both Chinese and Western buffet, with 8 VIP rooms with scenery lake view. The banquet hall is nearly 300 m<sup>2</sup> and is spacious enough for 160 guests to dine together, while our lobby lounge is the ideal place for business talks.

Moreover, there are luxurious indoor swimming pools, a fitness center, standard indoor tennis court, badminton field, Pingpong room, chess and card room, and billiard saloon. The 30-seat mini cinema provides guests an extraordinary cinematic experience. The 15-hole golf course is about 4000m<sup>2</sup> and can help businessmen relax their body and mind.

Bolong Lakeview Resort, an ideal and most convenient place for government and business travelers.

# Young, Energetic and Creative Executive Chef

by Monica Wang



Pele Tian  
Executive Chef  
Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin

现任天津天诚丽笙世嘉酒店的行政总厨。擅长西餐的烹饪和摆盘。已经有10年从业经历的他十分注重客人的需求与口味。不断推出新的菜式。永远让客人有新惊喜。

### When did you start your career as a chef?

Although I studied Chinese Cuisine in school, I started as a western chef at Hyatt Hotel Tianjin 18 years ago. I learned from many chefs from all over the world, such as Hong Kong, New Zealand, Germany and Korea.

### What are your responsibilities in the hotel?

I'm in charge in both Chinese and Western kitchens in the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin as well as banquet kitchen.

### Can you brief us on the specialties of the restaurants in Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel

### Tianjin?

The restaurants in Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin are very accessible compared to other luxury restaurants in five-star hotels. The breakfast buffet in Cafe@ 66 complies with Carlson Rezidor Group's super breakfast standard, which has an emphasis on nutrition and health. Since we have Chinese, Western and other Asian customers, we have a menu that fuses international cuisines to meet the demands of different culinary preferences.

Our Chinese restaurant China Station has an open kitchen and guests can see cooking process in the kitchen. It's different from ordinary Chinese kitchens that are always filled with smoke. We have Cantonese food, spicy Sichuan and Hunan food, as well as delicate Shanghai food. Wherever the guests are from, they can find something friendly to their appetite.

### Summer Davos is coming back to Tianjin in September. Will you join in catering service?

Yes, I've provided service to Summer Davos three times. For the first time in 2008, I worked for a five-star hotel in TEDA and I was in charge of breakfast, lunch, dinners, tea break, cocktails and banquet. Last time in Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin, we received an delegation from India and we invited two native chefs from the Carlson Rezidor sisiter hotel in India to prepare their local delicacies. We also learned some Indian cooking.

### Do they ever cook for any celebrities? Do they have special requirements?

There are a lot of them, such as Premier Wen Jiabao and Bill Clinton. We didn't know who the VIP guest was when we prepared the food and we only knew it afterwards. But for us, we treat every guest equally well so it's not important who she/he is. They are not picky and would rather be left alone. So they just ordered something and then we delivered the food to their room.

### In your opinion, what makes a good chef?

Cooking has been evolving all the time, just like the fashion industry. As modern logistics develops, you can get any fresh material that you need. What can distinguish you from other restaurants lies in how you make use of the materials and whether you as a chef take it seriously because the customers can tell from the first bite. As a chef, one must know the art of combining ingredients to create wonderful tastes and sound nutrition. You should never stop creating. It's important for a chef to have his signature dishes, but he can't live on them forever, otherwise, people would feel tired.



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# Adventure on Two Wheels

By Jim Gibney

## 两只轮子上的冒险

中国骑自行车能遇到许多意想不到的事。比如错过无盖井里，被突然打开的车门割伤，被突然变道的机动车撞入人行道上，或者因为吸入过多尾气而影响健康。如果你错过了这些灾难，那你就会受到天罚的乐趣。

从买自行车，到地方有双到脚踏自行车，这里真的有好多故事和门道。这些我敢一一经历，所以能给你提供一点有用的信息。但是最令我难忘的还是一次修车的经历。修车的人是一个退伍老兵，已经77岁了。他给我讲他的人生，说得津津有味。他花两个小时只收我3块钱，但我要带给他5块。因为聊到这么精彩的故事，值了！

Once you get over your initial fears of dying, riding a bike in China can be quite interesting and, I dare to say this, even fun. Of course, you have to be careful that you don't drop down one of the open manholes in the road or get cleaned up by someone who opens their car door directly in your path without looking. It is distinctly possible you will be forced onto the footpath by a car driver changing lanes or a bus turning without indicating. After surviving these trials, you can then gamble on your chances of developing cancer by inhaling the choking fumes of a passing bus. However, despite all these negatives, cycling in the city is always an adventure.

I have done a bit of cycling in China, both in the city, and in the country. It's fun. To get into it, first you must get a bike. There are plenty of bike shops around. Prices start at about 300 kuai for a basic "clunker" and skyrocket up to whatever you are prepared to pay. If you want to buy a "brand" bike like Dahon or Giant it is best to buy them from a

proper bicycle shop rather than from a market as you may not always get what you think you are getting. Many of the markets sell brand bikes that are a hotch potch of mixed components and some of them are blatant fakes. They might be cheaper but they are generally not the real deal. Let the buyer beware.

OK, let's say you have your bike. What do you do next? You need to consider where you are going to keep it. I live on the sixth floor of a building without a lift and I quickly tired of dragging the bike up and down the stairs. I got more exercise going up and down the stairs than I did actually riding. Luckily, most residential areas have a bike garage where for a small monthly fee you can lock up your bike without having to worry about it disappearing. An added bonus of keeping your bike here is that they usually have a pump and other bits and pieces that can come in handy. They open early and close late and your bike is safe from the elements and thieves.

You will still need to have a secure lock

and be careful where you lock up your bike. Pick your lock with care and make sure it is adequate. I have already lost one bike to thieves and now I carry around a chain and padlock and a D lock. I realized that cable locks are not up to the job as I watched a video at the police station. The video showed three men slicing through my cable lock with a pair of bolt cutters and then running away with my bicycle. The whole operation took about 10 seconds. The best alternative is to put your bike in one of the many bicycle parks around the city and pay them to lock after it. However, this is not always an option.

What I like most about cycling in China is that you don't have to take any tools along with you. If you have a problem with your bike, such as a broken spoke or a puncture, you just have to head to the nearest intersection and the chances are that there will be an old, toothless, jovial man with all the gear needed to fix your bike. For a couple of kuai he will be able to do any of the required repairs on the spot while you wait. To be one of these army of bicycle repairers, who are found in every urban area, it seems that the only qualifications required are that you have to be retired, thin as a rake, have bad teeth, a big smile and smoke. It is a wonderful service.

Last month I had a puncture and I had to wheel the bike only about 50 metres to find someone who could fix it. It was a hot day and the bike man had set up his cart full of gear in the shadow of a bridge. Though the guy was old he energetically jumped off his stool and motioned me to sit while he thoroughly examined my bike. The guy looked amazing: thin as a stick with grey hair but fit and seemingly fit as a fiddle. Through my friend, who acted as an interpreter, he told us that he was a retired soldier and 77 years old. Of course, he had a cigarette dangling out of mouth. He squatted on the ground next to the bike while he checked the tube in his trough of water.

He told us he had been a soldier but because there are no pensions he still has to work after he retired. His face was as brown as a nut from being outdoors all the time and his half broken teeth were the same colour, stained by the cigarettes of a lifetime. He was very friendly and he was eager to tell us about himself. He lifted up his trouser leg to show us the scars of the bullet wounds that he got in the Korean War. They were still noticeably visible after almost sixty years. A tear came to his eye as he told us how his best friend was killed and the tribulations and trials of being a soldier. He said the worst thing about the fighting in Korea was the biting cold.



Bike repair booths are always run by old men.

We talked about the futility of war. His eyes moistened as he remembered. To lighten the mood, I decided to change the subject. I asked about his family. He eyes quickly brightened as he told me his wife, son and grandchild. He truly seemed a happy man. It made me think of how easy my own life was compared to his. I certainly don't intend to be working when I am 77 and if I was, there is no way I will be fixing bicycles. I looked at my bike. It probably cost more than he would earn in two months of working seven days a week. I offered to buy him a beer. He refused and kept on working, checking the tube. My friend and I watched the deft movement of his hands.

He found the puncture. We sipped our beer while we listened to his story and watched him skillfully patch the tube. He did the job much better than I could ever have done. When he was done I asked how much. He held up three bony fingers. It seemed unfair that for his skill and time he would be getting about 50 cents. I know that in Australia it would not be done for less than \$10 and I would probably have to wait a day for it to be ready. I gave him five kuai. He was happy with it and so was I. He lit a smoke, squatted down next to us while still talking avidly as we finished off our beers. It was worth the five kuai just to watch him and hear about his life.

Riding in China can be scary. I have ridden in quite a few countries in the world and there is no doubt that China is the one where I have had the most near death experiences. You have to be always on the alert as on the road the most unexpected things can and, often, do, happen. However, the unexpected can also be a delight. If it was not for riding a bike and getting a puncture, I would not have met an old man who touched me with his story. Since then, I have often had thought about that man and his life. If



Bike renting has emerged in some cities.

# Black and White

By Parker Barnhill

## 黑和白

世界上有许多不同种族的人群共同生活在同一个城市。肤色和性别一样，是识别一个人身份的重要标志。当你在天津的街道遇到一位亚洲面孔的路人，你是否在心里默默假设他可以讲中文或英文，而不是法语或德语？由此可见，从外貌判断一个人的语言使用范围并不准确。但是在中国的一些英语培训中心，却更加倾向雇佣白人教师。其实，这种想法非常狭隘，而且不现实。

Race is a funny thing. Along with other differences between people, like gender, nationality, or even sexual orientation, racial identity is one thing that is sometimes identified and postulated about too quickly. When you see an Asian face in Tianjin do you assume they speak Mandarin, maybe English, but why not French or Afrikaans? The point is that simply looking at a face does not necessarily correlate to the person's linguistic abilities. This may seem quite obvious but nowhere is this racially based language assignment more apparent in

the professional world than in English language instruction in China. Check any ESL forum online, well do not do that because you will be bored to tears, just know that within the first few posts you will find a foreign national, usually of Asian descent complaining about workplace discrimination. Check out this report from the Los Angeles Times.

*"I've had to deal with Chinese parents who have the mentality of 'White is right.'"*  
Benjamin Newby, associate director of the Princeton Review test-preparation company



in Shanghai, told reporters. "It's just the idea that somehow if you're white, it qualifies you, and skills don't really matter. Being white becomes a plus on your job application." "Chinese parents aren't shy about complaining." Newby said these parents often "wear up in my face" and could get "pretty aggressive when it comes to their kid's learning environment."

It is common practice for English institutes and Chinese schools to advertise for their teachers with "preference" given to American, or English, or Australian. Outside of this holy trinity of accents, interest starts to fall through the floor. Preference here can be read as an absolute requirement for employment. Your English may be formal, non-regional, and even native, but if you are of Asian descent or even ABC (American Born Chinese) you may find yourself out of the English teaching game in China.

While some employers will not put a racial preference right into an advertisement, when it comes to the hiring and interview process, Asian applicants get the shaft more than their fair share. Reports from NBC news.com tell of a pair of friends from Canada and the US that relocated to mainland China. Both were well qualified and had the credentials and previous experience to make them great candidates for English teachers. On friend got the job, the other, Mike Lee was not hired. The recruiter's explanation was essentially that the parents of their school do not like Asians teaching their Children English. While blatant discrimination like this is a major legal offense in the West, it happens here more often than you might think.

We could talk about the historic examples of the evils of racial discrimination and even persecution. And in comparison, the discrimination faced by Asian or non-white English teachers face may seem like a small issue. No one is dying, so what's the big deal, should this be an issue that expats or mainlanders care about? The problem in reality is not that someone did not get hired. Rather the more interesting, and telling aspect is the motivation behind the actions of both the schools and parents that give hiring preference to round eyes only.

Why is it that administrators kow-tow to the backward notion that Asian teachers equate to poor English teachers? The simple answer lies in their ultimate employers, the parents. We all know how much time, effort, and money is put into the Little Emperors of China. Any Chinese parent who can afford to be discerning in their child's education options will choose what they deem to be the finest in education, whether their perception is based in reality or in racial bias. In this light it is understandable that recruiters will give the customer what they want. So what is the hang up on the parents' side? Is it really so unbelievable that someone who looks Asian could be a good English teacher? If the measure of language proficiency is someone's ethnic background, why is there an HSK, or TOFL, or any other standardized language test? Put simply, in China the vast majority of

parents cannot look past a teacher's appearance.

While beauty may be skin deep, language ability is not. The idea that Asians or even non-Western European teachers are somehow by nature sultry to their blonde hair and blue eyed counterparts is ridiculous. However, we still see that this is the prevalent attitude. How do I know if the Asian person next to me grew up in Beijing or Los Angeles? I don't know, and therefore it is my responsibility, as a decent person, to find out how to best communicate before I judge them. This should apply not only with casual encounters, but especially in the workplace. Not that one's country of origin is a perfect indicator of language either, but it is a better measuring stick than their appearance.

The situation is neither secret, nor improving. So what is the solution, and is it even a problem that needs to be addressed?

For the time being I don't see Chinese attitudes changing. China is not a place known for embracing new ideas quickly. We simply are not going to see things like blatant discrimination replaced with affirmative action programs, or "equal opportunity workplace" signs any time soon. So what to do in the meantime? Well if you find yourself here in Tianjin as a teacher, but on the wrong end of racial preferences for teachers, you can consider a jump in careers. There are plenty of opportunities to work in China besides



teaching, especially if teaching is not a passion of yours. Still, it is not impossible to continue teaching even with a deck stacked against you. Plenty of teachers do not fit the blonde hair and blue eyed stereotype and still make a living. So in a practical sense, you can still make it as a teacher. Again, I would argue the larger problem is the underlying attitudes and misunderstandings inherent to the culture here.

Certainly not every Chinese parent would write off an Asian faced, Western raised teacher. The key is getting them to be open minded enough to give it a try. This is unlikely however because there is often a barrier between parents and teachers, that of HR managers with discriminatory practices. Until this layer is either removed, which is essentially impossible for practical reasons; or legislative action is taken to stop workplace discrimination, which is also unlikely as the 'plight' of well-paid foreign teachers is very, very low on most government leaders' lists, we can expect little to no change via legal or administrative avenues.

So we are left with cultural perception. As we have already established, the Chinese mind is one not friendly to rapid or drastic change. We are living in the oldest culture on the planet, for millennia China kept its uniqueness not by overtly changing other nations by force, but rather through absorption, through patience, a gradual wearing a way of outside forces, and in some cases even feigning subjugation to maintain the overall culture. The thing to take away from this is that Chinese leaders and citizens alike are not likely to change their view of most things at the snap of a finger. Racial perceptions may never see a major overhaul in China.





# Welcome to Tianjin

The name "Tianjin" first appeared in history in the year 1403, also the first year of Yongle of Ming Dynasty. It bears the meaning of a place where the emperor ferried. In the year of 1404, the second year of Yongle, the emperor then started building city walls and a military base in Tianjin, which is called "Tianjinwei". That

is how Tianjin got its name.

Since ancient times, Tianjin has been a vital hub for river and sea transportation, which has played a big part for the economic communication and development for North and South China.

Tianjin was among the first cities in China that had

communications and connections with modern western cultures. After Tianjin opened as a trading port in 1860, it became the gateway to the north of China and a base for modern China's Westernization Movement. Since then, Tianjin has set out to modernize its railway, telegraph, telephone, postal service, mining, modern education, legislation and military systems. At that time, Tianjin was the second largest industrial and commercial city and the biggest financial and trading center in North China.

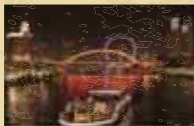
After the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, as a municipality directly under the Central Government, Tianjin achieved rapid and comprehensive development in both economic construction

and social undertakings. Since the reform and opening up policy was adopted in 1978, Tianjin has made tremendous achievements in all aspects as one of the first coastal port cities opening to the rest of the world. In 2006, the development of Binhai New Area was included as part of China's overall development strategy. Tianjin has become a regional emerging economic engine following Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and Shanghai Pudong New Area. In the future, Tianjin will be an international port and sustainable city with a prosperous economy, civilized society, high-level education and scientific development, complete infrastructure and beautiful environment, functioning as the economic center of the North of China.



## Tianjin's Progress in Numbers

In the first half of 2011 the city received **61,660,000** tourists at home and abroad, tourism income broke **90,000,000,000** yuan. From January to June, the city received a total of **11.63** million overseas passengers, an increase of **17.2%**. Foreign exchange income amounts to **1.03** billion USD, increased **21.5%** compared to the same period. Domestic tourists amount to **60.5** million individuals, a **14.2%** increase. Domestic tourism income amounts to **83.8** billion yuan, increased **21.4%** compared to the same period last year. T



Industry plays a supporting role to the economy. Total production value has reached **210,000,000,000** yuan, stimulating economic growth by nearly **10** percentage points. Industrial accumulation effect is shown further by the top **8** supporting industries whose growth rate reached **90%**. New energy, and new materials are rapidly being developed as well. Aerospace, manufacturing, oil and chemical industry are increasing in scale, the number of national level new and high technology industrialization base has reached **19**. Through active promotion of the innovation and industrialized confluence of deepness, the whole society innovation level has risen together. The key energy-saving projects will attract investment, by strictly controlling the amount of pollution, energy saving and emission reduction achieved remarkable results.

In 2011, the city's GDP reached **111,909,900,000** yuan, becoming the nation's top city by GDP. The speed of development in the service sector has increased, increasing the proportion of added value in city's economy reached **46%**. The healthy development of the financial industry has made a great contribution to economic growth. Consumer markets are now prosperous and active. Retail sales totaled more than **20** thousand yuan. Joy city, Shui You City, Florence Town, Red Star International Plaza opened. Tourism developed rapidly. Tai'an Road comprehensive development project of No.1, 2, 3 yard has been completed. The Haihe River scenery tour and other tourist routes are also popular. The cruise industry received over **72000** tourists. Exhibition economy development momentum is powerful. Meijiang Exhibition Center's second phase project has been completed, and successfully held several large conferences.



In 2011, the city's actual utilized foreign investment is about **13,000,000,000** US dollars, the introduction of 10-million-dollar projects numbers at about **170**, 150 of which are invested by fortune **500** companies. Utilization of domestic capital is now more than **200,000,000,000** yuan, while there were **347** billion-yuan projects. The city's total import and export volume has exceeded **100,000,000,000** billion. The proportion of SMEs, independent businesses, and brand exports' has also increased. Overseas investment are about **1.8** billion. International exchanges continue to expand, and strengthen cooperation with fraternal provinces.

Tianjin's top **8** supporting industries, including aerospace, petrochemical, equipment manufacturing, electronic information, biological medicine, new energy and new materials, textile, national defense science and technology, total production value reached **3.3** trillion yuan, the proportion of whole city-wide industry will be maintained at **92%** or above, creating a major attraction for the high-end hotel business industry.



By the end of 2012, the number of five star hotels will reach **30**. By 2015, this number will reach **40**. However, Tianjin hotel catering industry talent is obviously insufficient, expected to notch up to only **100** thousand people.

Through the vigorous development of high-tech SMEs, Tianjin has created an atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship in society and by increasing financial support, added high-tech **8,500** SMEs, the total reaching **21,000**. Small and large enterprise clocked in with more than **1000**, and was a new economic growth point



Positive developments in building economy, put in place to promote development in the downtown building economic policies, have identified **128** focus points on supporting projects. Number of buildings that pay a tax exceeding a hundred million has increased from **27** to **67**, which sped up the development of the modern service industry.

In 2010, Tianjin port cargo capacity expanded to **4,000,000,000** tons, container handling capacity broke through to **10,000,000** standard boxes, and became the first four hundred million tons' port in Northern China. Tianjin port has become the world's top-ranking big harbor, and has set a milestone in Tianjin port development history.



In 2010, the passenger volume of the subway was about **4,200,000** million, an increase of **17.6%**; light rail passenger volume was **2.25** million, up from the previous year by **30.1%**. Metro Line 2 began test operation on July 1st, Line 9 will be operational by September 1st. Line 3 will run on October 1st. When all lines have opened, daily passenger flow can be large as **1,000,000** per day.



## To Meet the New Challenges

KLAUS SCHWAB

Never, in history, has there been such vibrant economic growth, most notably in China, a rapid improvement in our standards of living and such a drastic reduction in global poverty, and yet, never have we been engulfed by such a pervasive sense of anxiety. The words one hears most these days are: uncertainty, fragility, turbulence, volatility, unpredictability, and so on; not only in the continent I come from – Europe -, but from the rest of the world as well. These words have perhaps something of a prophetic nature, mirroring what tomorrow's world will be like. We indeed find ourselves at a critical juncture. In my private conversations with global leaders from all walks of life, a thread emerges and it is this: across every sector of society, decision-makers are struggling with the

complexity and the velocity of change taking place in an increasingly interdependent and transparent world.

Our world is in a state of flux. It is changing radically, very fast and everywhere. All risks, be they of an economic, geopolitical, environmental, societal or technological nature, intersect with each other through an extremely complex web of causal links. In such conditions, it is no longer possible to claim, for example, that an economic risk will be confined to the economic sphere, or that an environmental risk won't have repercussions reverberating across risks of a different nature (economic, geopolitical and so on). The key concept here is systemic connectivity. Systemic risks are often caused by the system's weakest link.

In many respects, the world we live in is on the verge of constant instability, with "random" occurrences happening all the time. It has become, if I may put it this way, a conveyor belt for constant surprises, which is why we often have the impression of driving at a very high speed into fog unable to find the brakes, of lurching from one crisis to the next. Over the past few years, we have experienced a permanent succession of major crises, which contrary to the past, have all been felt globally: the sub-prime, the sovereign debt, the Arab Spring, - all originated in a particular country or region, but all had, or have, the potential to propagate globally. Even a seemingly local catastrophe (the Fukushima nuclear meltdown), reverberated across the world, affecting global trade through supply chain effects and triggering global public anxiety about nuclear energy (it even prompted German and Swiss politicians to shut down several nuclear reactors).

It therefore presents them with new - and often daunting - challenges. How can leaders best respond?

- To confront increasing interdependence, leaders have to be highly connected, or well "networked". They have to master "contextual intelligence" (an expression coined by Nihit Nohria, dean of Harvard

Business School), because the ability to connect the dots, to anticipate, and to exploit emerging trends is today a prerequisite for successful leadership. Good leaders don't try to predict the future but work hard to anticipate it and be prepared for a multiplicity of possible outcomes.

- To confront increasing complexity, leaders have to be agile and flexible. Effective leaders are not afraid of exploring new ideas, new terrains, of engaging into unknown territories and of crossing boundaries between different fields or groups. Practically, this means that no modern leader can afford to think in "silo" terms and engage only with a group of peers: her or his approach to problems, issues and challenges has to be "holistic", criss-crossing many different interests and disciplines, and elaborate solutions with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
- To confront increasing velocity, leaders must act with celerity, which in turn requires self-confidence, a strong vision and the ability to instil trust. Indeed, a high-trust environment favours engagement and teamwork, hence enables celerity. Trust, vision and confidence are the

functional equivalent of oiling the wheels!

- To confront increasing transparency, leaders must cultivate the virtues of honesty, modesty and humility. The importance of self-confidence that I just mentioned does not equate to arrogance, far from it! Humility and modesty are some of the most useful psychological traits in a context of uncertainty, not only in terms of tackling issues, but also in relations with others, as any perception of unfairness tends to clog-up the mechanism of social interaction.

I should like to conclude by very briefly highlighting how the World Economic Forum has risen to some of the new challenges thrown at us by this acceleration and densification of history.

The World Economic Forum reflects the need for a global cooperative institution in the 21st century. When the Forum was founded in 1971, it was already built on the "multi-stakeholder" principle. At that time, the concept of "multi-stakeholder" was practically unknown. Today it has become evident that global, regional and industry challenges cannot be met by governments, nor by business, nor by civil society alone. Solutions for the manifold problems require a collaborative effort stimulated also by the best

**// It is no longer possible to claim, for example, that an economic risk will be confined to the economic sphere, or that an environmental risk won't have repercussions reverberating across risks of a different nature (economic, geopolitical and so on). //**

expertise and by the best academic minds.

Over the last 42 years, the World Economic Forum has become the world's foremost multistakeholder organization engaged in many initiatives, events and public/private partnerships which always follow our mission. "Committed to improving the state of the world".

The World Economic Forum recognized 33 years ago the importance of China when we first became active in this great country. One of our three offices is in Beijing and we are proud to have established a global meeting point – our Annual Meeting of the New Champions – in China, with the objective being to bring together the best entrepreneurial minds in shaping the next phase of industrialization, or in other words, a greener and more resource-efficient economy responding also to, until now, unmet human needs.

\* Extract from the speech by Prof. Klaus Schwab, delivered at Tsinghua University on May 28, 2012



TO SHARE THE JOY OF HEALTH WITH ALL  
创造健康 人人共享



Tasly modern traditional Chinese medicine industrial park  
天士力现代中药产业园



With independent intellectual property rights of the fully automatic digital production line of dropping pill  
具有自主知识产权的全自动数字化滴丸生产线



The Chinese medicine diagram  
中华医药图



One of Tasly landscape-light of Medicine  
天士力景观之一 医药之光



Tasly International exchange exhibition center  
天士力国际交流展示中心

天士力自1994年成立以来，坚持打造现代中药第一品牌，不断推进大健康产业的发展。在做专做精现代中药的基础上，向生物药、化学药、特色专科医疗行业扩展，形成以医药为主要领域的生命安全产业板块，并逐步进入保健品、健康食品、化妆品、安全饮用水、生物普洱茶等生命健康产业领域。天士力集团以全面国际化为目标，全力推进“一个核心带两翼”大健康产业高端化，已经形成了以生物医药产业为核心，以健康产业产业和健康管理与服务产业为两翼的大健康产业新格局。

Tasly group adhere to create the first brand of modern Chinese medicine and push forward the healthy development of the industry continuously since its establishment in 1994. It has been expanded to biological medicine, chemical medicine, characteristic specialized medical industry on the basis of modern Chinese medicine essence of specialization and has been entered gradually into the health care products, health food, cosmetics, safe drinking water, biological puer tea lives, such as health industry field. Tasly group have put forward the concept of "one with two wings" with all effort by its globalization goals to form a biological pharmaceutical industry as its core, the health product industry and the health managing service industry as its two wings of a brand new pattern of health industry.



BOHAI LEASING  
渤海租赁

Incorporated in Tianjin in December 2007 with a registered capital of 6.26085 billion yuan, Tianjin Bohai Leasing Co., Ltd. is one of the fifth batch of pilot domestic financial leasing companies approved jointly by the Ministry of Commerce and the State Administration of Taxation jointly companies. As a professional financial leasing company jointly established by HNA Group and the Tianjin Municipal Government, Bohai Leasing provides a full range of leasing solutions for Chinese and foreign clients. With an excellent financial innovation environment in Tianjin, and strong support from the government, the HNA Group and other shareholders, the company is committed to the exploration of innovative pattern of development of China's leasing industry. May 12th China Securities Regulatory Commission approved the back door listing of Bohai Leasing, making it China's first financial leasing company to seek financing on the stock market.

天津渤海租赁有限公司是国内首家由多家央企共同出资组建的融资租赁企业。公司于2007年12月在中国注册成立，注册资本为人民币62.6085亿元。渤海租赁作为首批经国务院及天津市政府批准组建的金融租赁试点公司，依托天津滨海新区金融创新环境，积极发挥中国融资租赁产业创新发展模式，为国内外客户提供融资租赁解决方案。2013年5月12日，渤海租赁在上海获得中国证监会批复，成为首家跨境上市融资的中国融资租赁公司。

渤海租赁是海陆资本业务之一，立足通过优质业务领域的金融租赁服务，结合多元金融工具的组合与创新为客户提供融资租赁服务解决方案，致力于打造一个专业化、国际化的世界级融资租赁和租赁品牌。



### Company Advantages

Bohai Leasing has a wealth of business experience in leasing in such fields as municipal infrastructure, power facilities, etc. It has a registered capital of 6.26 billion yuan, second largest of all companies in the industry.

渤海租赁在市政基础设施租赁、电力设施等领域具有丰富实践，公司注册资本达62.6亿元，居同行业第二位。

Incorporated and invested jointly by HNA GROUP and Tianjin Municipal Government, Bohai Leasing could make maximum use of Tianjin and national favorable policies.

渤海租赁由海陆集团与天津市政府共同出资组建，可以最大限度利用天津金融创新“先行先试”制度吸引政策支持。

As China's first leasing company to go public, the financing platform of a listed company could enhance its financing abilities and reduce clients' capital costs.

作为国内第一家通过上市融资的中国租赁公司，上市公司融资平台可提升自身融资能力，最大限度为客户降低融资成本。

The business scale could be expanded to ten times of the capital, without being limited by the concentration of a particular group of clients.

业务规模可以放大到资本总额的十倍，不受单一客户集中的限制。

### Successful Cases

1. The lease project of the office building of the Service Center of Tianjin Port Free Trade Zone  
2009年4月起，开始了中国政府公共基础设施融资的新模式。

2. The lease project of Airbus plants in Tianjin  
The lease term starts in February 2011. It is the first financial lease project of industrial plants under construction in Tianjin, and also the largest financial lease project in infrastructure in recent years. It created new business model in infrastructure lease and expanded the business of the leasing industry in China.

3. The sale and lease back project of Bihai Creations Center  
The lease term starts in February 2011. It is the first "100 million yuan building" sale and lease back financial lease project in Tianjin, which provided financial support for the construction of high-tech enterprises incubators in Tianjin. It blazed a new path of supporting technology-based SMEs through financial lease.

1. 天津保税物流服务中心大楼融资租赁项目  
2009年4月起，开始了中国政府公共基础设施融资的新模式。

2. 天津空客工厂融资租赁项目  
2011年2月启动，是天津首例工业厂房在建工程融资租赁项目。也是天津迄今为止规模最大一笔基础设施融资租赁业务。创新了融资租赁基础设施租赁的新模式，开创了国内及国际的新经营领域。

3. 滨海商务区中心楼回租项目  
2011年2月启动，渤海租赁成为天津第一个“亿元楼”售后回租融资租赁业务。为天津滨海新区高科技企业孵化器提供了融资支持，探索出了一条通过融资租赁模式支持科技型中小企业发展的新路径。

MOST PROFESSIONAL MOST INNOVATIVE INTEGRATED LEASE SERVICE PROVIDER  
最为专业 最具创新力 综合租赁服务提供商

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## What Happened in Tianjin in the Past Two Years?

距天津上一次举办夏季达沃斯峰会已经过去两年。今年，各国的政府首脑和企业家代表将再次重聚天津，共同探讨全球经济问题，并且重新认识天津这所快速发展的城市。虽然中国为了追求更加稳定和可持续的发展而放慢了脚步，但对于各国的来宾而言，这里仍然有很多新的机遇和令人惊喜的惊喜等待着人们的发现。

即使对于那些刚来天津工作生活的海外人士来说，每天的生活在津中实现不同，让他们在天津的事业蒸蒸日上。他们还在积极地为建设更多符合企业家们来津寻找商机。《今日天津》采访了在天津长期生活的跨国公司高管，他们对天津这个新时代的领军城市表达了百分之百的信心！

It has been two years since the distinguished guests from all over the world to come to Tianjin for the Summer Davos event in 2010. This year, you'll gather here again to meet old friends, your great counterparts and see what happened in the fast-growing city. Although China has slowed down its pace for a more stable and sustainable development, there are still a lot of new progresses to discover and amazing changes wow the travelers.

Even long-term expats residents in Tianjin have found the city where they live is being a little different every day, making their business in Tianjin getting stronger and better. They have tons of reasons to continue their career in the city with a huge potential and recommend other fellow entrepreneurs back home to look for opportunity here.

Jin Magazine interviewed five expatriate entrepreneurs working in multinational companies in Tianjin and they showed their confidence in the new champion in 21st century.



George Thompson  
Plant Manager

### 1.How long have you lived in Tianjin?

I have lived in Tianjin a total of four years

### 2.Do you already feel comfortable living here?Do you feel fully involved in local community?

Yes it feels like home and the people are usually very friendly and helpful. Getting involved in local community has been more difficult because I do not speak Chinese. But I do live in a local apartment complex.

### 3.Tianjin Spirit is concluded as patriotic, honest, practical, innovative, open and generous, in an official way. In your opinion, what characteristics can distinguish the city from others?

In addition the ones mentioned above in the question I think the people are friendlier toward foreigners than some of the other big cities and they try to be helpful. I also believe Tianjin has more of a family atmosphere. Personally I would rather live in Tianjin than some of the larger cities that claim to be more advanced and open to western culture because the personal friendliness of the people.

### 4.Will you recommend your fellow entrepreneurs to invest or work in Tianjin? If so, how will you persuade them?

Yes,In addition to being a good place to live I have found that the Government officials try their best to work with foreign businesses. The officials I have worked actually back up their promises with appropriate action to help foreign investors to navigate through all the rules and regulations.

### 5.Have you felt any big changes in the city during the past two years? If so, what are they?

Yes,I have seen the expansion of the freeway system. At the same time I have seen a significant increase in the number of cars on the street during peak traffic. This has caused a lot of congestion on the streets during the peak time period. In the future I look forward to the Tianjin subway expansion put into operation and the positive impact it will have on improving the traffic situation and general transportation around the city. I also have really been impressed with the improvements in the city center river front area. I have had many of my foreign friend visitor's remark how impressed they are with the City of Tianjin.



The expansion of freeway system has made travel faster and easier.



Tianjin Culture Center attracted more world-class artists to Tianjin

### 1. How long have you lived in Tianjin?

Five and a half years

### 2. Do you already feel comfortable living here? Or do you feel fully involved in local community?

Tianjin is a great place to be if one likes to see and participate in the growth of a city and a business environment. I have enjoyed very much seeing the size of the business community and the various chambers of commerce grow and prosper. The city has also added and improved its school and health care facilities, increased the range of hotels as well as seen an improvement in the restaurant and entertainment scene.

### 3. Tianjin Spirit is concluded as patriotic, honest, practical, innovative, open and generous, in an official way. In your opinion, what characteristics can distinguish the city from others?

Great cities usually have a strong local character, but are also open to newcomers and the vibrancy they bring. Tianjin has a distinct local population with local art forms (cross talk and others) and its own food culture. The city also has architecture which reflects its international legacy as well as universities and companies that continue to draw in both domestic and international newcomers. If the city can continue to leverage these varied aspects, its character will continue to evolve and thrive.



Michael Hart

Chairman of the Tianjin Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce

### 4. Will you recommend your fellow entrepreneurs to invest or work in Tianjin? If so, how will you persuade them?

I do believe Tianjin is a great place to build a business. In some cases getting started is harder because Tianjin has been slower to build out its business environment, but once established, if entrepreneurs are willing to roll up their sleeves and be creative, they can be very successful here. After less than six years here, our business has added several hundred dedicated and loyal employees. The result has been a growing business, low employee turnover and a positive outlook for years of additional revenue growth.

### 5. Have you felt any big changes in the city during the past two years? If so, what are they?

The city has seen some phenomenal growth in physical terms. New infrastructure is making the city more convenient and modern and new property developments are creating new places to work, shop, live and eat. The city government has also been spending on events that are bringing more visitors to the city and is trying to build up resources to accommodate increased tourism. Finally, it is clear culturally the city is growing. While there is still plenty of room for improvement, the increase in musical and artistic shows and events in Tianjin has started to build some lasting cultural institutions.



Gabriele Castaldi

Chair of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (European Chamber), Tianjin Chapter

### 1. How long have you lived in Tianjin?

I have been living in Tianjin since 2004, that is more 8 years

### 2. Do you already feel comfortable living here? Or do you feel fully involved in local community?

After having got used with the local circumstances I can say that I feel very comfortable living in Tianjin. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to learn the Chinese language after arriving in Tianjin and this has helped me a lot to ensure my comfort while living here. I cannot say to be fully involved in the local community, but I feel to be connected with a few group of people I share interests with, and this makes up for other misses.

### 3. Tianjin Spirit is concluded as patriotic, honest, practical, innovative, open and generous, in an official way. In your opinion, what characteristics can distinguish the city from others?

The official characteristics reflect the actual situation partially. Regardless whether in a positive or negative meaning, the spirit is changing and becoming more aligned with other metropolises. As an example I look back at the time a few years ago when it was a common scene in the early evening to see people of every age sitting on the road outside of a street restaurant, especially after the Spring start, but not only. Small temporary seats where set in an apparently random way, sometimes hindering the traffic circulation of mostly bicycles and less of cars. This kind of scene can be still seen today, but only few spot offer this rendering.

To my opinion it means that the past living style is being replaced through a metropolitan life style, forged by the impressive development of the city during the last decade, especially during the last five years and this, in turn, is reflected into the new spirit you can breathe in the new Tianjin.

### 4. Will you recommend your fellow entrepreneurs to invest or work in Tianjin? If so, how will you persuade them?

I would strongly recommend entrepreneurs to invest in Tianjin, because I see many opportunities, and this is the reason why I did it,

after having worked in the city for six years. However the recommendation is not for all entrepreneurs, because in fact there are a few issues which need to be dealt with appropriately to set a necessary condition for success. In this respect a knowledge of the local environment circumstances is mandatory, regardless of company's size. As a result working in Tianjin can be very pleasant, satisfactory if the environment situation is properly understood, but can become a nightmare for those who fail in this acknowledgement.

### 5. Have you felt any big changes in the city during the past two years? If so, what are they?

Because of daily routine sometimes one can miss major changes that happen in the surrounding environment. However in case of Tianjin the extent is such that cannot pass unnoticed. At first I mention the building landscape in the city and surrounding suburbs has radically changed through the new construction; the newly developed area in front of East Station becomes prominent during the night lighting. Air quality has improved though further major room is available. The amount of car on the road has dramatically increased and the infrastructure development, though impressive, seems unable to keep pace. Finally a few places have emerged for leisure purposes and tourist attractions.



Florentia Village, a new tourist attraction in Tianjin

Mireille Wan  
Managing Director,  
CB Richard Ellis Tianjin



**1.How long have you lived in Tianjin?**

I have been living in Tianjin for almost two years.

**2.Do you already feel comfortable living here? Or do you feel fully involved in local community?**

Tianjin is comfortable at the moment but with better accessibility, infrastructure and amenities, the comfort level will increase with time. This is understandable as the city is undergoing a lot of transformation for the better. As a foreigner, I do my best to get to know more local friends as time goes by.

**3.Tianjin Spirit is concluded as patriotic, honest, practical, innovative, open and generous, in an official way. In your opinion, what characteristics can distinguish the city from others?**

Apart from the characteristics cited, willingness to learn international best practices would be another feature that makes Tianjin different from the other cities.

**4.Will you recommend your fellow entrepreneurs to invest or work in Tianjin? If so, how will you persuade them?**

I would recommend such investors to Tianjin as the fundamentals of Tianjin prepare the city for further growth in the economic and social arenas. The economic indicators are one of the more persuasive factors whilst other aspects would be the willingness of Tianjin Government in co-operating with investors, competitive operating costs and the availability of high quality labour pool.

**5.Have you felt any big changes in the city during the past two years? If so, what are they?**

On the infrastructure side, more subway lines are opening and these will increase the accessibility of the city. More development projects of international standards are coming into the market over the next few years and these should improve the overall built-up landscape in Tianjin. These are the more tangible benefits that one can see. On the non-tangible side, the service level is improving so as to catch up with the hardware.



Newly opened subway line 2

**1.How long have you lived in Tianjin?**

I came to China ten years ago as a consultant, was only supposed to be here a few months. I saw many opportunities here and decided to give it a couple of years; I am still here and have no plans to leave soon.

**2.Do you already feel comfortable living here? Or do you feel fully involved in local community?**

I am very comfortable in Tianjin; this is now my home, in all aspects of my life. I have remarried, have a beautiful three year old daughter, own my home and my restaurant, Hank's Sports Bar & Grill, has been running strong here for eight years.

I do feel involved in the local community, at least the expatriate community. My business gives me the opportunity to meet most expatriates that come to Tianjin. If they are new to China or Tianjin they are always full of questions and looking for advice, for example, where is the best place to live, where should we send our children to school, what activities are there, where to eat and shop, are there any golf courses, just to mention a few of the enquiries.

**3.Tianjin Spirit is concluded as patriotic, honest, practical, innovative, open and generous, in an official way. In your opinion, what characteristics can distinguish the city from others?**

Tianjin, although the third largest city in China, has a much different feel than Beijing or Shanghai, people are very friendly and helpful, not always in a big hurry. Compared to other cities, the expatriate community here is relatively small, so sometimes you do feel like you are a minority here, but that's okay, we are in China.

Over the years I have lived here I have seen huge changes in the city, from infrastructure and cleanliness to entertainment and opportunity. Many times expatriates will stay in a small neighborhood, usually their own. If you get out and tour this city, it will not be long before you realize what a beautiful city it is and how big it is, it is, in all aspects, a world class city.

**4.Will you recommend your fellow entrepreneurs to invest or work in Tianjin? If so, how will you persuade them?**



Hank Martin  
Owner of Hank's  
Sports Bar & Grill

For the most part, yes I would. I guess it depends on the business model, what they want to accomplish, how long they would be here and why they would consider Tianjin. For me it was and is a win win experience, my business does very well here. It did take me a while to get used to the way of doing things here, things we take for granted in America may take weeks, even months to get accomplished, but with a little patience, you can get it done.

I would encourage entrepreneurs to talk to other like companies, what were their experience's, what would they do different. They should also talk to the Tianjin government; find out what incentives the government might be willing to offer. Take a good look at the city; see what it has to offer, not only to their business, but their families as well.

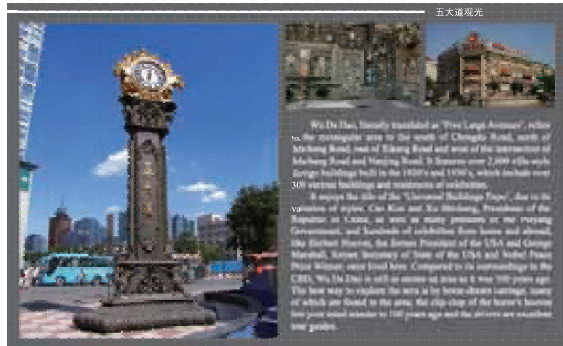
**5.Have you felt any big changes in the city during the past two years? If so, what are they?**

I can't really say I have seen a lot of changes over the past two years. What I can say is that I have seen a dynamic revitalization of Tianjin over the past ten years. Tianjin has made remarkable progress of its infrastructure and cleanliness. Often when I drive around this city I am in awe of the improvements that have been made since my first experience here, to me, Tianjin is truly a great city.

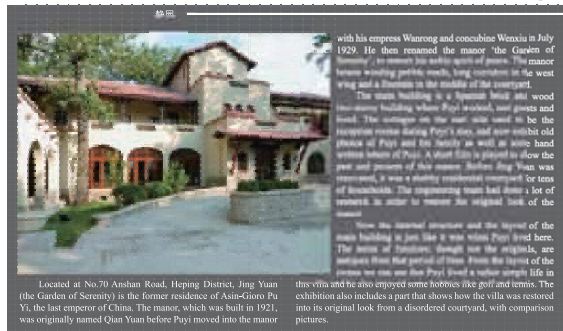


Tianjin is getting greener.

## ■ Stories in Western Villas



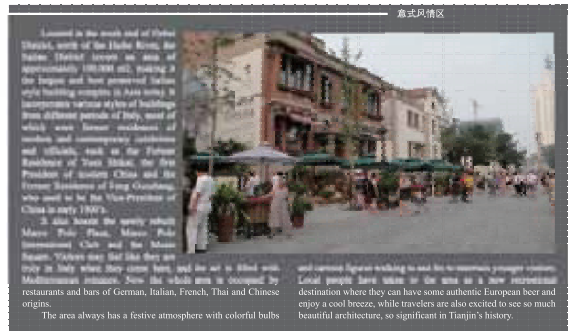
## The Garden of Serenity



## Explore the Life of a Royal Family



## ■ Italian Concession



## Old Tianjin in New Tianjin

天津古文化街

Tianjin has some dazzling old Chinese style architecture scattered throughout the city. Ancient Culture Street, located on the west bank of the Haihe River, was formally opened in 1986. A giant archway inscribed with the words "an Old Neighborhood of Tianjin" stands at the entrance to the street. Although it serves primarily as a shopping area or business street, Tianjin Ancient Culture Street attracts hordes of tourists, who come to see its unique architecture styles, admire its classical cultural features, buy various traditional folk crafts, and sample the delicious local Tianjin snacks. Most importantly, as these visitors meander down the bustling cobblestone streets, they will be particularly impressed by the outstanding replica classical architecture in the folk style of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Looking closely, visitors can see that most of the buildings along the street are built with "blue bricks". There are boards inscribed with the names of shops, which were written by famous calligraphers. There are the traditional curved rooflines, with intricate, brightly colored paintings drawn in accompaniment.

Some of these paintings range from stories of legendary and historical figures in Ancient China to flowers and birds. Some paintings even retell stories contained in Chinese classical novels, such as *The Dream of a Red Mansion* (one of four classical Chinese novels) and *Song of Eternal Sorrow*, which is a story about the

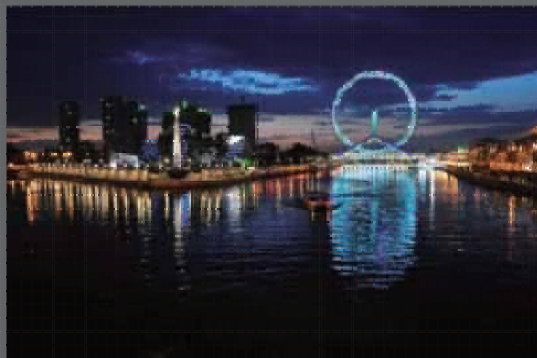


Empress Yang Kwei Fei in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Tianjin Ancient Culture Street is designed as a place for non-locals to experience Chinese Folk customs, and as such, contains examples of nearly all the Tianjin local culture in one place. For an added experience, when visiting the street on the 23rd day of the third lunar month, visitors will be fortunate enough to find the truly spectacular "Imperial Festival", or Huanghui Fair, which is held annually on this date. During the fair you can see performances of stilt walking, dragon lantern, land boat, and lion dances.

## A Beautiful Scenic Spot Where Three Rivers Meet

三岔河口



## Blessings from Confucius

文庙

The Confucian Shrine was built in 1436 (during the Ming Dynasty) and was originally a school supported by the local government. Since Confucianism has dominated the education of China since ancient times, a Confucian Shrine was built on the site of the school. After three years of renovation, the shrine was re-opened on August the 1st of this year.

The Confucian Shrine in Tianjin has both a provincial level and county level that are the same in layout but different in scale. Walking into the entrance, you'll pass the "Ling Xing Men" first, which is a wooden gateway that symbolizes that intellectuals from all over the country gather in this place. Then you can see a pool with a stone bridge called "Pan Qiao" above it. Walking over the bridge shows that you are admitted by the school and formally become a student of Confucius. With the stone tablet on the moon rather than a full moon, the pool implies a philosopher's road of pursuing knowledge and truth, there is no complete success.

Da Cheng Hall is the main building of the shrine, containing a statue of Confucius, dressed in an emperor's clothing, indicating his principal status in China. Along with Confucius, the hall also worships other phenomenal Confucian philosophers who are called



This is the Pan Qiao bridge, which is a wooden gateway that symbolizes that intellectuals from all over the country gather in this place.

People who come to worship Confucius are mostly elderly people who were educated with Confucian philosophy when they were at school and parents who bring their children and wish for the Saint's blessings for their children in their exams. They also write their wishes on red wood pads and hang them outside the hall.

There is a certain spot in Tianjin called "San Cha He Kou". It is the point where the Hai, Nan Yun and Zi Ya Rivers meet. This is the place to come if you are looking for a slow walk by the riverside in the evening with bright lights and/or enjoy a ride on the Tianjin eye. You can also catch the Haihe Pleasure Boat from Yongle bridge dock to tour around the area. Perhaps you just want to walk by the river banks to soak in the scenery. Either way San Cha He Kou would leave you with some great memories to remember your time in Tianjin.

Historically, the Hai River was used for shipping goods and is considered the "mother" river of Tianjin. For generations, the river was utilized as a trade route, however, these days the river is mostly famous for its beautiful scenic spots and attractions not to mention the odd fisherman. You can either take pictures with the stone sculptures or just make full use of the evening light by the river, the choice is yours. There are also street games and other such entertainment such as target shooting, throwing baseballs at the cans or throwing cane rings around souvenirs and all only at 10RMB a game. There is also a couple of river side restaurants and cafes where you can enjoy delicious food and relax.

During 1400's Emperor Yongle of the Ming dynasty crossed the Hai River to conquer the south and he named the area "Tianjin"



meaning "The place where the son of Heaven crossed the river". Nowadays, the Yongle Bridge is famous for its giant Ferris wheel, the Tianjin eye. One of China's tallest Ferris wheels it is 110 meters in diameter and 120 meters high and was completed in 2008. There are 48 capsules and each can accommodate 8 people with a full cycle taking about 30 mins. Take a ride when the sky is clear to see a panoramic view of the city and the view will be breathtaking.

Getting there you can easily take a bus to the Jin Gang Qiao (金钢桥) stop or grab a taxi. The nearest accommodation is the "Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside" and you can even book a room facing the water front if you prefer. There is a Western style cafe on Hai side of the river as well as a few oriental cuisine styled restaurants on the Nan Yun River side. Summer is on the way so this is a place worth putting on your "where to go" list in Tianjin.



## ■ Harvest Season for Turnips

When thinking of the specialties of Tianjin, how many can you name? Baozi, Jian Bing Guo Zi, chestnuts... I bet the last thing that comes to mind is radish, or you may even never have heard that Tianjin produces turnips.

In winter, local people like to buy green turnips as snacks or for cooking. Green turnips can lead to a healthily functioning digestive system and help you expel the toxins in your body. In tea houses, green turnips are also popular while people listen to cross-talk or Peking Opera.

In the market, the taste of green turnips varies a lot. Some varieties are crispy and juicy, while some are dry and spicy. It is always a challenge for buyers to pick out the good from the bad and sometimes, it is all just luck.

I was not a big fan of green turnips when I was younger because my parents always picked the bad turnips, but after I tasted good Tianjin turnips, I changed my mind.

Sha Wo Green Turnips from Xin Kou Town of Xiqing District is a well-known brand for green turnips. When the turnip season comes in early January, buyers from Tianjin and surrounding cities drive along to the little village to buy the freshest turnips of the year. We went to find Guo Zhizhen, the first villager in Xin Kou Town to sell green turnips on the internet. Mr. Guo said that the harvest of green turnips had begun and we were welcomed into his house.

According to Mr. Guo, the great taste of his green turnips is due to the soil and water of his village. Even in nearby villages, the turnips are not as good as theirs; this is why Sha Wo Green Turnips are so famous for local people.

By Monica Wong



## ■ Gui Fa Xiang

18th Street Ma Hut (fried dough twist) is one of Tianjin's most famous delicacies and travelers always take the Ma Hua as a gift for families and friends back home.

Guifaxiang Shibaijie Fried Dough Snacks, which is China's Famous Snack, has a hundred years' history. It is made of flour, sugar, vegetable oil, sesame, sweet-scented osmanthus, ginger and peanut, etc. As to its production procedure, there are more than 20 operation processes such as mix of materials, hand making and frying. It is popular among customers for its flavor and lasting crisp.

As to its origin, it can be traced back to the initial period of 20th century. There was a craftsman named Liu Laoba in Tianjin at that time who lived on selling fried dough twist. In order to make his business popular, he made a great effort to improve the craft, ingredient, taste and shape of the fried dough twist. After several years of development, he fried dough twist made by him became very delicious and developed into a kind of distinguished food. As his store was located at the 13th Street of Donglou, it was then named "Shibaijie Fried Dough Twik" (Shibaijie Mahua).



## ■ Kang Le Ice-cream

Kang Le offers a variety of ice-cream popsicles ranging from classic chocolate to pineapple to my favorite hawthorn berry, and their most famous, red bean flavor. The company was founded in 1951 and has become one of the most successful ice-cream brands in the city. For Westerners, their ever-popular red bean popsicle may take some getting used to but once you are accustomed to finding beans in your frozen treat, the flavor can be very refreshing. They also offer several snacks, XiaoChi, like the glutinous rice ball which is traditionally eaten during the Lantern Festival. The price is very reasonable at about 5 kuai per popsicle depending on location. There is a Kang Le window on Bing Dao, offering a refreshing treat during a day of shopping. You will better hurry and get your fill of these frozen treats before the weather turns cold!



## ■ GOU BU LI

Founded in 1858, Gou Bu Li, (dogs ignore it) sounds like a great name for a restaurant right? The name of this century old brand is at first a bit confusing. One story about the origin of the name stems from the founder's childhood nickname, Gouzhai (puppy), and after his dumpling business started to take off patrons came up with the saying, "Dog doesn't care" [to talk to us] as he was incredibly busy making his dumplings. Tradition maintains that Empress Dowager Cixi tried the baozi and pronounced them delicious, quite the endorsement.

Regardless of the Chinese name, Go Believe as it is known in English was unveiled as a transliteration ahead of the Beijing Olympics. It is much more appetizing and pleasing to the Western ear. In a city known for dumplings, being known as one of the best is quite impressive. Much of the brand's success is attributed to the careful selection of ingredients. Each piece is required to have 18-20 folds. A secret recipe handed down from the founder and careful attention to detail also helps insure quality and growth of this popular Tianjin based brand. The opening of the high-speed



rail between Beijing and Tianjin has brought a boom to the Tianjin branch, according to Li Yongshu, Tianjin manager, "Increasingly more people are coming, many from Beijing, in fact, more so busy with customers that it was hard to keep the carpet clean so we changed to hard wood flooring."

## ■ Er Duo Yan

Founded in 1892, this Tianjin brand takes its name from the alley in which the original shop was located. The name translates as "Ear Hole", thankfully the snack tastes nothing like the name of the restaurant. The founder was a Chinese Muslim named Liu Wanchun. Like other Muslim restaurants in Tianjin it is easily identified by its green insignia with Arabic script. The restaurant's specialty is Zha Guo, a deep-fried rice cake with a red bean paste center. It makes for a great treat, if not a greasy one. The outside is golden and flakey and is served warm on a chilly day.

The restaurant offers a variety of other pastries and bread dishes, including a rice cake with a fruit center. If you like fried dough and rice snacks, this is the place for you.



## ■ Laomeihua Shoes



This Tianjin brand company located on Heping Road was founded in 1911 and originally served the unique needs of women who had gone through the tradition of foot binding. This is no small feat considering the perfect foot of a woman at that time was a "3-inch golden lotus". The company became well known for providing the special shoes needed after foot binding. As times and customs changed the company took a new direction. When reform and opening gained momentum in the 1990's the company had to find a way to meet evolving needs while keeping a semblance of its rich history. They began to offer different options to consumers and have become a favorite of the older generation, making comfortable shoes for those entering a more relaxed and gentle phase in life.

## About Tianjin Rego International School

Tianjin Rego International School provides education of the highest quality in English to international students between the ages of 3 and 19. Housed on one large campus, the Primary and the Secondary schools both work in harmony to enable the holistic development of every child. A collegial atmosphere fosters the learning and development of all of our students.



## Why To Choose



Founded in 2000, REGO now attracts students from more than fifteen different nationalities. With a growing number of students in both the Primary and the Secondary school, the school continues to flourish and expand, as does the extent of our educational provision. A developing program in Music, Sport and Drama coupled with strengthening links to the local community, encourage our students to develop into well-rounded individuals.

TRIS students are learning to be:

- \* Knowledgeable; they demonstrate understanding and excellence in their work.
- \* Ambitious; they are self-confident and strive towards achieving their best.
- \* Independent; they are inquisitive, self-motivated, and autonomous learners.
- \* Creative; they think in original and innovative ways in all aspects of their work.
- \* Principled; they value the internationalism of the school community, and show integrity and respect towards others in their actions.
- \* Responsible; they are self-disciplined and care about others, about the environment, and about the interdependence of people and the global community.



# Ink stone

## 砚台

砚台与笔、墨、纸是中国传统的文房四宝，是中国书法的必备用具。砚台随着毛笔和墨的发展而发展起来的。最早出现的砚台是汉代的石砚，即磨石头的砚台。后来随着时间推移，砚台的材料也变得多种多样起来。光用石头的种类就有几十种，还有用玉、铜、银、瓷、陶等做的。砚台早已不再仅仅是单纯的文具，而成了集雕刻、绘画于一身的精美艺术品，有很高的观赏和收藏价值。

天津西洋美术馆在九月份举办中国刀城黄石砚展。给大家带来中国五大砚台之一的黄石砚艺术品展览。方城，是河南的一个县镇，早在春秋时代就存在的历史古迹。境内存在中国最早的长城——楚长城遗址。方城的黄石砚，始创于汉代，盛于宋代。辉耀于当今，耀于隋唐。都称一绝。1993年，方城黄石砚被国家图书馆收藏进宝笈。1994年参加全国首届砚展，荣获石砚、工艺美术金奖；1995年被国家轻工部列为名牌产品，并列为国家国礼礼品。

Ink stone, brush, ink and paper are the four treasures in the study in traditional Chinese culture. As the name tells, ink stones were made of stones but as time progressed, more materials were used to make ink stones, such as jade, bronze, silver, porcelain and clay. Nowadays, ink stone is not only a stationary but an art of carving and painting. Many collectors have realized to its value.

Tianjin Western Gallery Museum will have a yellow ink stone exhibition, which is produced in Fangcheng, one of China's five major ink stone origins. Fang Cheng is a county of Henan Province, in which the earliest Great Wall of China is located. The yellow ink stone was first made in the Han Dynasty and became prevalent in the Song Dynasty. They still produce first-class ink stones today.



Wang Chunyang  
Ink stone artist who  
owns an ink stone  
company

Q: What did you bring for this exhibition?  
A: There are some ten pieces of my work. Each of them has a story. For example, one of them is inspired by the Monkey King who stole the saint peach in heaven palace. The Monkey King is the most popular fictional figure in Chinese culture. Chinese people like his braveness and unyielding spirit to evil things.

Q: How do you choose materials?  
A: We find stone materials on Yellow Stone Mountain. We do it all by ourselves. We climb up the mountain, pick stones and carry them down. It's impossible to use explosives because the stone is weak and will turn into ashes. Only the stone found two meters underground has a sound shape and smooth surface.

Q: What's your future plan?  
A: I started making ink stones when I was 18 and it's been 20 years since then. I think every piece of stone is unique in its texture and color. I don't use the internet, I spend all my time with stones. Ink stone is my lifetime partner.

Q: What do you think of the talent pool in your industry?  
A: When I had just started in the industry, I had to work as an apprentice for three months, unpaid. It was a bitter work. I carved on the stone for six hours and had only 5cm to show for it. But now the benefits for technicians is quite good and more people want to learn the skill.

## 【黄石砚及玉雕艺术展】

时间: 2012年9月4日-7日 9:00-16:00 8日拍卖  
地点: 天津西洋美术馆 (和平区解放北路和赤峰道交口)  
门票: 10元  
Yellow Stone Ink Stone and Jade Sculpture Exhibition  
Time: 9:00-16:00, September 4th to 7th  
Venue: Tianjin Western Gallery Museum 天津西洋美术馆  
Add: At the junction of Jie Fang Bei Lu and Chifeng Dao, Heping District  
地址: 和平区解放北路和赤峰道交口  
Ticket: RMB 10



## Cruise artistic hall, stimulate unlimited creativity, culture essence, and wonderful summer vacation

-2012 Hopeland International Kindergarten Summer Camp special arts activity



In August, Hopeland International Kindergarten plans a series of classes to help stimulate and encourage the natural and infinite artistic creativity of our young children. The classes included fun art, kids' ballet, happy Orit, kung fu, taekwon do and swimming. At the same time, the usual program of learning of Hopeland continued with interesting English learning activities and challenging math games. Let's make sure that all our children enjoy developing their knowledge and skills during these fun activities which will help make a great start to the next semester. With contributions from the Tianjin Cultural Center, the Science and Technology Museum and the Children's Art Theatre, everyone enjoyed the visual feast, surprises and the enjoyment of the children! The kids just love Hopeland International Kindergarten!

8月24日-26日，我园开展了为期三天的暑期艺术特色活动。在为期三天的活动中，我们为孩子们准备了丰富多彩的艺术课程，包括手工、舞蹈、跆拳道、游泳等。同时，我们还为孩子们准备了有趣的英语学习活动和富有挑战性的数学游戏。让孩子们在快乐中学习，在学习中快乐。通过这次活动，我们不仅锻炼了孩子们的动手能力和创造力，还让他们体验了不同的文化。孩子们非常喜欢Hopeland International Kindergarten!



## Tianjin's First And Only Partner School - What Partnership Really Means



**I**t is a remarkable and very special opportunity to be part of a school family that is both proud history and acknowledged as being at the forefront of 21st century educational debate and innovation. Here is the dynamic story of what this partnership means for our partner school in the UK.

Wellington College has a proud 134 year history, founded by Queen Victoria as a lasting memorial to the Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley who helped Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo and went on to become British Prime Minister. Our links with the British Royal family remain strong, with HRH Prince Andrew, the Queen's son, acting as Wellington College International Tianjin, since October 2008. HRH Queen Elizabeth and her husband, HRH Prince Philip, visit Wellington College UK to open the Royal Square School International Conference, the Queen's annual visit there is very popular. Two schools have each won the most history and social ground-bridge in common.

Wellington UK is one of the most popular and high profile private schools in the country, with over four applications for every place. It is an exciting, busy and innovative institution, with impressive facilities, outstanding academic results and personal care, excellent staff/pupil support and a deep commitment to learning beyond the classroom, as embodied in the distinctive Eight Attributes approach.

Here in Tianjin, though we were not the first school in the UK and spend time at our partner school. We have already sent over seven school groups to the UK, in February and April, as part of our Exchange Programme, when this included thousands in at the new Wellington. The latter group was joined by a third 'cultural visit' party, including two year old pupils groups, Prince's Trust, and together they performed at the prestigious and world-renowned Royal Albert Hall, a stunning feat in front of thousands at a certain room of Wellington family history. The future will see more cultural visits, as well as sports and academic trips which will involve Wellington College UK's junior school, Egham House, too.

The story does not end when you leave Wellington College. Former pupils (OWs) Wellingtons, or OWs) become part of the global OW network, which operates as a social, sporting, business, and many other links, and ensures that you will always be part of the family. There has been huge interest from OW's in the new Tianjin campus and many have either already, or expressed an interest to, arrange a visit. This enables returnees for the highly and term of belonging that being part of Wellington College engenders. We also focus to provide opportunities for internships at Wellington UK for our Year 12 leavers, just as we have former pupils from the UK with us at the moment.

Our partnership is truly one of endless possibilities

WELLINGTON COLLEGE  
www.wellington-college.co.uk

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Tel: 022-23117118 / 022-23117119 Fax: 022-23117118 Email: wj@butlerwing.com

# Whiter Than White

By Paula Taylor

## 一白遮三丑?

有人问过我，为什么外国人夏天都不用遮阳伞？这一直是一个我无法解释清楚的文化差异。在亚洲，美白产品可谓琳琅满目；而在美国，美白产品则视为危险品。而且值得注意的是，曾在亚洲人圈子里造成美丽的讨论，美国人的审美观念向日本的肤白体瘦或健康的肤色，但美无化学成分美白产品只用来改变肤色。都有自己独特的审美。其实，我们不用过分在意肤色，一个人的美与否，绝对不是取决于他的肤色，而是在于美丽的内心。

### White is Right?

Someone asked me why foreigners do not carry umbrellas in summer to protect them from the sun. I laughed. This is yet another one of those culture differences that I have attempted to explain to my friends without success. In Asia you will see that the beauty products for the most part, even those famous brands that are sold back home are adapted for the Asian market. They have an added ingredient – skin whiteners.

In England many of these products are viewed as dangerous as they contain too many nasty chemicals, and so the local government often does spot raids on the shops that sell them by sending in officials posing as customers. Of course the shops do not keep the products on open display but have them under the counter. The shops are often caught red handed and are effectively put out of business by the large fines that imposed upon them. It is an open secret that these products can be bought if you know where to go and what to ask for, they even have a code name.

Anything that lightens clothes, hair or skin has to contain bleach. That being so, in the long run it is not going to do their skin any good and may be the consequences will not be seen until years later. Why then do not only Asian women, but also some black women want to use bleach to lighten their skin? The

black and Indian women who do this do so because in their society the lighter the skin the better they are viewed. I cannot speak for the products here in China, I do not know what they contain, but in England they were found to contain hydroquinone - the nearest equivalent is paint stripper or turpentine, and of course it is illegal to use it in cosmetics. For those that have used them, the consequences have been horrendous. You wouldn't put neat paint stripper on your skin, why put it on if it is in a fancy package?

**“ If we concentrate on developing a beautiful personality, then people will naturally be drawn to us regardless of our skin colour ”**

Why are Chinese women so desperate to have white skin? This goes back a long way, rich ladies wanted to keep their skin white to show that they were not poor and did not have to work in the fields. Those that did manual work would have no reason or interest in protecting their skin and so would have it baked by the sun day after day. Nowadays of course most girls do not work on farms, but the idea of white skin as beautiful will not go away. My Chinese friend is quite dark and her family are always criticising her and saying that she looks like a farmer. She was

shocked when I said to her “Your skin is such a great colour, you should come to England, people would admire your tan”.

### Are you a Tan Fan?

In contrast Western women have an even more dangerous habit and that is they like to tan their skin, for them white is not right. Incidences of skin cancer are increasing and doctors are forever warning us of the danger, but it seems no-one is listening. A journalist strolled along a Mediterranean beach asking the English women that were sunbathing if they were not afraid of the danger of skin cancer. They asserted that they were not and that they were more afraid of going back to England looking nasty and white than of developing cancer. They were quite flippant and said things like “Well if I get it, I get it, we've all got to go sometime” and “You only live once, might as well enjoy yourself, being brown makes me feel good”. These women obviously had spent years crising their skin to a nice tan leather texture.

Many beauty competitions, including bodybuilding ones require competitors to be a deep mahogany. The newspapers are always criticising women celebrities if they are too pale. The headlines say “She looks like a ghost” or “She looks unhealthily pale”. A golden glow is all very well but some people take it too far. Anyone that previously thought a safe way to tan was to use sunbeds has long since had their illusions shattered. Some experts believe that sunbeds or tanning booths can increase the risk of developing melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer by 75%. There was a recent case that hit the news of a mother in America who was taken to Court, as she took her red haired fair skinned 5 year old daughter to a tanning

booth and the child sustained severe burns. Pictures of the mother reveal that she is strangely obsessed with becoming as dark as possible, she looks like a black woman in some of them, even though she is a white American.

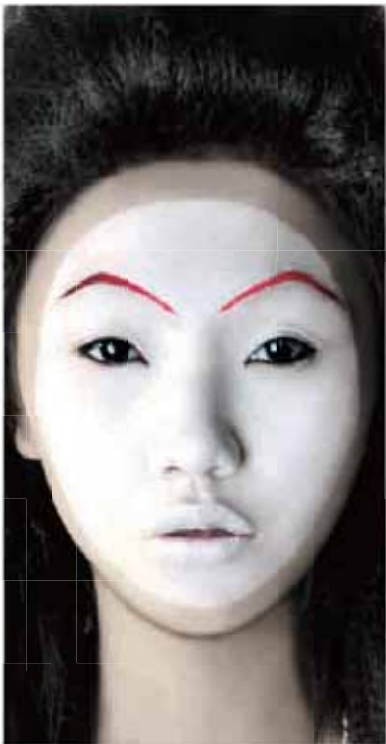
It has to be said that this is mainly a female problem. Sometimes I envy men because their lives are a lot simpler than ours. We are never satisfied, if we have straight hair, we want it curly and vice versa, we change the colour many times throughout our lives, not many women go through life

**“ That being so, in the long run it is not going to do their skin any good and maybe the consequences will not be seen until years later ”**

without pouring some kind of chemicals on their heads. We are constantly on a diet or obsessed with the way we look. We paint our faces beautifully and we worry about what to wear each day. In short, whatever we look like is not good enough and we do all we can to change it. Men have none of these problems, as far as looks are concerned they do the minimum amount of maintenance work they have to and don't worry about the rest. Why do men not have bad hair days? Why don't they have fat days? Why don't they have to have clothes in different sizes in case their diets are not working? They do not bleach their skin and when they go on holiday, sun tanning for the sake of it takes a back seat to shoving as much food or drink down their throats as possible, (sorry guys, generalising here).

I shocked my friend by showing her a newspaper article that did research on the best fake tan products, and the ones that got five out of five were the ones that enabled a woman to develop the darkest tan. Seeing that the sun and tanning booths are dangerous, could fake tan be the answer? Women's beauty magazines are awash with products to get a natural looking fake tan. The bad news is scientists have just warned that the chemicals used in spray tans may create serious health problems if inhaled, including cancer. If the main ingredient, DHA, enters the lungs it is then absorbed into the bloodstream where it could damage DNA and cause tumours.

Whether you want tan skin or white skin obviously depends on whether you are from East or West, but the old adage is true, beauty is only skin deep. This obsession with changing skin colour will only lead to problems in the future. There is a line from a famous film is “A woman is only beautiful when she is loved”. If we concentrate on developing a beautiful personality, then people will naturally be drawn to us regardless of our skin colour.



# Must-buy in summer

## 夏季必买小物

今年夏天,由于时时有雷雨骤降,高温天气有所缓解,但是每当雨过天晴之后,就感觉更难受。天津当地人有着各自的方法和装备来对抗这种天气,比如凉席巾,手持型小风扇,超大杯凉果汁冷饮,还有遮阳草蓆。作为一名在天津工作生活的外国人,必须多观察当地人的生活方式,从中学习更加实用的夏季避暑方法,一定不要懒在空调房不出来。



fitted electric fan, may just change this. If only I could handle the ridicule of such a contraption.

Moving away from the accessories, to the clothes themselves, and the contrasting difference between the summer fashion of some locals to the expat crowd. In this, I refer to those, who opt to cover every single piece of exposable skin. From the elbow-length gloves, and the face mask, to the thick stockings and dark trousers. These few, who opt for such clothing choices, continue to baffle me. Though I appreciate the need to protect one's body from the harmful rays of the sun, I simply do not understand how they are able to handle the humidity, wearing such an abundance of clothing in summer.

The next notable observation is the current obsession the local population appears to have with over-sized fruit drinks, largely from a singular juice bar. Though at least I am happy to see people finally moving away from tepid water, to the icy cold variety of a swinging fan on one's face, I simply prefer to use my hands for other things. However the recent spotting of a cap, with

umbrella wielding way, and continue to accept the sunrays bearing down upon my skin.

The handfan is the second most common accessory, to be admired by the local Chinese in summer. With patterns varying somewhere between a classic bamboo creation, and a rather happy looking little sheep, the fan can be quite the summer fashion statement. Though I confess it would be rather nice at times to have the cool breeze of a swinging fan on one's face, I simply prefer to use my hands for other things. However the recent spotting of a cap, with

the Chinese people around me. Though I do not claim to know every local method taken to stay cool during summer, or even to understand the underlying reasons behind some of these actions, I am merely able to comment on what I see.

The umbrella, the winter utensil that has truly found its place in the Chinese summer, providing shade from the scorching sun, or protection from the heavy rains, this is clearly quite the talented accessory. Though one is unlikely to see many in England strolling about with an umbrella in summer, this is certainly something I can appreciate in Tianjin, after those sudden bursts of torrid rain, have left me entirely drenched in recent weeks. Despite this I still opt against the



umbrella wielding way, and continue to accept the sunrays bearing down upon my skin.

the Chinese people around me. Though I do not claim to know every local method taken to stay cool during summer, or even to understand the underlying reasons behind some of these actions, I am merely able to comment on what I see.

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- Spend over 2000 RMB and receive a 300 RMB discount  
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- Sept. 8th(Sat) to Sept.16th(Sun) On these days there will be a special event for our valued customers at special room on 5F. Participants will get specialized personal treatment. Please consult our staff for details.

**Fashion Jewelry & Accessory**

Agete, the famous Japanese brand, has now come to Isetan for the first time. This new store brings many stylish works of art together under the one roof. You will be able to find what you are looking for here.

As a special opening offer, if you make a purchase of more than 8000 RMB, you will receive a special golden gift. This is a limited opening offer and only while stock lasts.

**Brand New Shop**

Benefit 1F



Sulwhasoo 1F



Origins 1F



2F



**Modification Opening**

天医 5F



LANEIGE 1F



Watch zone 4F



CLINIQUE 1F



Stationery zone 6F

Sept. 1st (Sat) to Sept.30th(Sun) New Product Promotion

**White radish**

White radish has a thin skin, tender, juicy, sweet and spicy. It can be cooked by frying, mixed into a stir fry or boiled. It can also be eaten raw.

**Cabbage**

The Chinese cabbage can be milky white or light green colour. It has a high moisture content and is often fried, boiled, mixed into a salad or used as stuffing.

**Leek**

The leek is a tender, dark green vegetable which contains large amounts of fiber and a rich flavor. Leeks can be fried, mixed in a stir fry or cooked with multiple ingredients.

**Chinese cabbage**

A typical Chinese Cabbage has broad green tender leaves which are slightly fibrous. It can be eaten raw but mostly it is fried, tossed into a soup or pickled.

**Isetan Membership Card Advantage**

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The activity is popular and will be carried on in the future. During promotion period, get registered or update personal information, get one free cold chocolate beverage from GOMI. Availability: 200 vouchers validly 2012, September 1st to 30st

# Eat Moon Cakes Like Chinese Do

By Jim Gibney

## 像中国人一样吃月饼

中秋将近，你肯定已经注意到各大超市都把月饼摆放到显眼的位臵销售。一年一度的月亮大战即将开幕。中秋期间月饼成为中秋馈赠亲戚朋友的时令礼品。如果你爱送礼，有可能会收到这些礼物。中秋节是中国最重要的四个传统节日之一，人们通过吃月饼来庆祝这个节日。

As Mid Autumn festival approaches you will soon start to notice that the store where you shop will have shelves filled with dozens of varieties of moon cakes. The individual moon cakes are usually round or rectangular and are a traditional offering between friends, work mates and family. If you are lucky someone will give you some. They are eaten while celebrating the Mid-Autumn festival which is one of the four most important Chinese festivals.



### Tradition

Historically, moon cakes are supposed to be eaten outdoors, while sitting under a tree looking up at the full moon and sipping on some tea. Sadly, I haven't seen many people doing this in Tianjin. However, one thing you can be sure of about moon cakes, they certainly have a lot of calories due to the high fat content. This makes them extremely filling

and many Chinese will have just a wedge rather than eat a whole cake in the one sitting.

### Fillings

I have to admit I am not a great fan of moon cakes. Over the years, I have scored a few moon cakes, mainly from work colleagues, and I usually pass them on. Why? Maybe it is the lack of sugary sweetness that is often evident in Chinese cooking. Certainly, moon cakes look attractive but the fillings, to me, are always a disappointment. However, never can you say they are not exotic and a Chinese tradition.

If you don't think that's the case, then have a look at these for some examples. Depending on the region the paste fillings can vary enormously. So, where you do your moon cake shopping can mean you will get fillings like lotus seed paste or the cheaper kidney bean paste. Then there are the sweet bean pastes which can be made of mung, black



or azuki beans. Some regions prefer jujube paste which is slightly sour in taste. Of course, there are many more.

If you're not crazy about beans then you can go nutty over the five kernel fillings. These types of fillings use nuts and seeds from a wide variety of sources including walnuts, almonds, sesame, peanuts, pumpkin or watermelon. To spice it up and add even more uniqueness and taste to the nice candied melon, ham or rock sugar can be added. The ingredients are finely chopped, carefully combined then bound together with a maltose syrup.

### Prices

Cheap moon cakes, the kind I usually give and receive, will come in an individual plain plastic wrapper. The more expensive the moon cake, the more flash the packaging. If you want to impress someone you buy the moon cake in the flashiest packaging. It's a bit like the system for baijiu. Though to me, all baijiu tastes the same – horrible – it all depends on how well the bottle is packaged and looks. So the more expensive they are, the more prestige is bestowed.

It is the same with moon cakes. The top of the moon cake may have the Chinese character for longevity or harmony. There may be pictures of the moon, the moon goddess Chang'e, her companion rabbit or just



a bucolic image of vines or flowers. Mooncakes are big business in China with prices ranging from a measly one or two kuan to whatever the market will pay. It depends on the stuffing and the packaging.

In recent years, with the growth of capitalism and the ever increasing numbers of the Chinese middle and upper class there have been new less traditional styles of moon cakes developed to appeal to those with different tastes and bigger wallets. Some of these more modern fillings include ice-cream, chocolate, caviar or jelly. So, if you really want to impress the friend that has it all, get them the foie gras and champagne moon cakes.

Depending on how deep your pockets are the sky is the limit as to price. Last year Starbucks coffee houses offered a set of moon cakes in a fancy box for \$60. A box from the Haagen-Daz ice cream company will set you back more than \$30. Because moon cakes are cheap to make, you have to be careful you are getting the real deal! Last year police in Guangzhou confiscated 8,000 boxes of



counterfeit moon cakes. I hope they didn't eat them all.

### Strange gifts attached to moon cakes

Of course, there are other ways to blow a bit of spare cash on your friends. In Zhengzhou a baker came up with the idea of mooncakes made of silver decorated with 56 precious stones. These would set you back 6,900 yuan so a box of half a dozen would be about 40,000. A bit out of my price range. In Changchun spend 1,800 RMB on box of mooncakes and get a "free" golf club. Another baker in Yunnan managed to throw in a digital camera.

You could write a book about moon cakes. Here are a few bits of moon cake trivia. Perhaps you did not know it, but the biggest moon cake was made in Shenyang. It weighed in at 13 tonnes and had a diameter of 8.5 metres. It was 20 cm thick and had a surface area of 52 square metres. Apparently, they are still eating it. The award for the worst taste combination would have to go to the beef curry moon cake. It was popular, I heard, in India.

Last year a department store in Beijing offered a moon cake made of 100 grams of gold. This would be pretty fattening, hard to digest, even harder to digest and would cost you 60,000 RMB. I'd be happy to accept one as a gift but it's a bit over the credit limit on my Mastercard. Of the regular moon cakes, that is, those made for eating, the filling that is the most expensive tends to be durian. You can pay \$50 just for one of these delicacies.



### What foreigners say about Mooncakes

Obviously, Chinese people love their moon cakes but what about foreigners? I've given my opinion about them, so I thought I'd ask a few people from "out of town" their opinions. Of the several "wai guo ren" we surveyed they had all received moon cakes. Strangely, none of them had given moon cakes! Perhaps, it is seen as just a Chinese custom. At least one person said that they did not know where to buy them. Hard to believe that!

They all knew that moon cakes were given to celebrate the Mid Autumn festival but only one knew they had something to do with the story of Chang'e the moon goddess of immortality. As to the taste, all agreed that while they may not have liked them much at first, they are now quite fond of them. It seems they are an acquired taste. Most agreed that you cannot judge a moon cake on the first tasting, even the strangest tastes can grow on you.

Particularly popular were the durian flavoured moon cakes – these people must have rich friends - and those containing nuts. Stinky tofu and salty egg filling also got honourable mentions. One respondent even mentioned ice cream flavoured moon cakes but the traditionalists will say that these aren't really moon cakes. Several people mentioned a dislike of those that contain sweet beans or meat. I would have to agree with them on this one.

Anyway, this year the day to go out, sit under a tree, sip your tea and munch away on your moon cake is September the 30th. I hope it is clear night so you can see the moon. Enjoy.

## Salvatore



As the Italian style street in Tianjin has increased in popularity so has its options for Italian Cuisine. A new Italian restaurant has just opened on the outskirts of the area. Although new to Tianjin, Pasta Fresca Da Salvatore already boasts of 24 years history.

Originally established in Singapore by Carceci Salvatore, an Italian who started with three simple tables, the restaurant produces fresh pastas, sauces and ingredients in their own factory based in Shanghai. Its specialization in pasta is

evidenced by its robust offerings in this classic Italian dish. Pictures and names of 18 types of pasta cover a colorful menu reminiscent of a child's coloring book. Since many of their customers are Chinese, it provides them with a textbook look at authentic Italian food. The selection of sauces is also rich. You can choose from olive oil base, seafood base, tomato base and cream based sauces; each of the bases is offered in several different varieties.

Insalata Di Mare is a cold combination of squid, king prawns, and mussels accompanied with fresh vegetables. The classic Mediterranean taste is enhanced with a dash of fresh squeezed lemon. Pizzas are made with traditional Italian recipes and guests will find the similar taste found in their origin country.

An Italian chief chef is now working in the kitchen to guarantee the food quality can meet the standards found back home. We look forward to an outstanding performance by Salvatore in this landmark area of Tianjin.



## 沙华多利意大利餐厅

Addr: 22 Guang Fu Dao, Italian Style Street, Hebei District  
地址: 河北省石家庄市槐底街22号  
Tel: 24453101, 24453102  
Hours: 11:00—22:30

## Seafood Buffet for Friday Night

Friday evening always makes for a great happy-hour. You've made it through another five exhausting working days and should give yourself a well-earned adult beverage. You don't need to decide where to go at the last minute. Just go straight to All Day Buffet Restaurant in The Westin Tianjin, a grand seafood buffet is waiting for you!

It is a weekly feast! The seafood buffet features fresh lobsters, crabs, prawns, mussels and salmon. There are several ways of cooking them that you can choose, such as sashimi, baked with cheese and BBQ style.



The teppanyaki station is also something you can not miss. With steak, chicken, prawns, skewers and fish on offer, there is something to satisfy everyone in your party. Steak and chicken are richly flavored and tender. Several types of sauces are served for dipping, but you may need to add just a little bit salt.

Each guest will be offered a baked lobster with cheese. How many of us will immediately come out just to try the



lobster? What's more, a steamed fish is served for each table. Older Chinese people, who always have traditional tastes, will want to come back again.

The buffet has a very fair balance of food from various regions. Westerners will surely be satisfied with the teppanyaki while local people will be surprised to see fried spring rolls and Tianjin baozi.

It is definitely a buffet for all comers. It's no wonder that you see friends, couples, families and colleagues choosing All Day Restaurant for a Friday get-together.

## Westin

Addr: 1F Seasonal Taste, The Westin Tianjin, 101 Nanjing Lu, Heqing District  
地址: 和平区南京路101号天津威斯汀酒店1层四季餐厅  
Tel: 23890088  
Price: RMB309+15% service fee

## Coffee in a Zoo

Cafés have become a popular spot for people to relax, chat, and even study. However, themed cafés are still rare in this city. In Ao Cheng, a local trend setting area, has seen the opening of a new café themed with animals.

As the name implies,

Zoo Coffee gives you a feeling of being in a forest. Tables and chairs are made of plain wood, giving things a natural flare. The most eye-catching things are of course the fluffy animal toys that are placed in every corner. A white tiger sculpture by the bakery counter, facing the entrance. I really couldn't help caressing its back!

As this is a coffee franchise of a Korean brand, everything from decoration to coffee making procedure has to comply with a consistent standard. As we all know, Koreans like sweet coffees. So we can see a lot



Chicken sandwich



Blue berry waffle

The bakery selection is also tempting. Waffle is one of their specialties and Belgium Waffle and Blue Berry Waffles are two best sellers. The sandwich menu is perfect for a quick lunch. Ham & Cheese, Chicken Teriyaki and vegetarian sandwiches can meet most people's needs.

of coffee coffees like vanilla latte, caramel latte and some other drinks topped with cream. But for westerners, espresso, Americano and Latte are all served, either in plain or fancy flavors. The coffee tastes really fragrant and smooth and the shop owners said the coffee beans come from South American countries like Brazil and Costa Rica.



## ZOO COFFEE

Addr: Magnetic City Business Area, Bin Shui Xi Dao, Nankai District (near Jinyi Cinema)  
地址: 滨海新区泰达现代国际商业街区(近金逸影城)  
Hours: 9:00—22:00

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## The ideal place for businessman to stay

By Parker Barrball

天津喜来登酒店位于天津滨海新区，是天津滨海新区首家五星级国际品牌酒店。酒店设施完善，环境优雅，是商务人士和休闲度假人士的理想选择。酒店拥有多种房型，可以满足不同客户的需求。酒店还提供多种会议设施，是商务人士举办会议的理想场所。酒店还设有健身房和游泳池，为客人提供舒适的休闲环境。



Tianjin has no shortage of luxury hotels and high-end shopping. However the Holiday Inn Tianjin Agda City at the Agda City shopping mall brings together both comfortable accommodation and shopping convenience. When you walk in the lobby bar with the piano music in the evening makes for a great spot for happy hours, whether you are a guest or a local. The J&R Lobby Lounge is now having a Special promotion to help all gift bear the heat.

What is food sweet treat is not enough to keep you cool there is always the seafood buffet going on in the Agda Cafe. The fresh local seafood is another great way to keep cool while you sample delicacy for lunch or dinner. The Agda Cafe serves a special menu of Chinese and Western dishes and even a Buffet in the evenings. I must say they American Burger did not disappoint on our visit.

Of course in this time of year everyone has moon cakes after in preparation for the holiday the traditional Chinese you king is a great gift to give a little bit of love to friends and colleagues. I am not a personal fan of

moon cakes but it seems that the real impression of the position is in giving these as gifts anyway.

Out of the most impressive parts of the hotel is the conference area. There are thousands of square meters of both banquet hall and conference rooms with every technological amenity one would need for a proper business meeting. The banquet halls are not just for a wedding fit for a King, or a banquet.

In the summer weather walking around is pretty easy. Shopping in outdoor markets is no problem with some shops and Ego Bars. However, what the hell does in Tianjin women like to shopping. Shopping from the Holiday Inn Agda City at the shopping mall will be welcomed and more options for those wanting to get in some shopping without walking until. Guests can simply use their room-cards to go to and from the hotel and the shopping mall. The size of the ocean cant make a room service hotel as only guests can see the difference.

If however is one great agenda the night room is just as simple as any full service gym

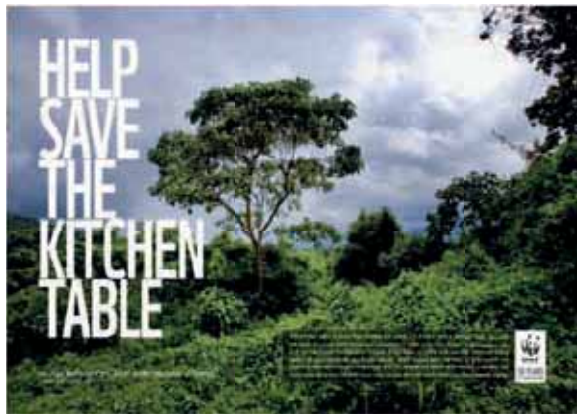


in town. The facilities are very clean and even sport a heated swimming pool on the fourth floor. When you want to relax after working up a sweat, the VIP lounge offers legot for a quick drink and snack. The lounge and rest of the hotel will love for guests to stay productive, or distracted, depending on your online habits.

In the southeast corner the basic color is white, smart, and minimalist. The light is soft so even you close the doors, you will feel comfortable and relaxed. The bedding is of good quality and the curtain keeps out unwanted light during a rest, which is great when recovering from jet lag. Moreover, it is divided into three size along area and bed room. The bathroom is well-equipped with toiletries, bath robe, bath mat, and bathtub. It is well suited for businessmen to stay while on a business trip in Tianjin.

Above the 200 floor, there are executive guest rooms. The room is more spacious and offer a view is equivalent with the regular room. However, What's more, there is an independent shower as well as the bathroom.

So all the Holiday Inn Tianjin Agda City seems like a great choice for both business and pleasure when staying in Tianjin.



## ALO Authentic French Brasserie

We invite you to discover the gastronomy of Auvergne (Auvergne, France) which is famous for its buffets, like goat and worms. Apart from having the Michelin star hotel restaurant, "Le Petit de l'Ouvrier", Chef Chambon has been recognized as one of the top 10 "Best Chefs of Tomorrow" by Gault & Millau guide.



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# Tibetan Buddhism and Daoism all rolled into one!

By Kyle Knutson

## 五台山：体验佛教与道教文化

五台山位于中国山西省东北部，距省会太原市200公里，与四川峨眉山、安徽九华山、浙江普陀山并称“中国佛教四大名山”，是中国佛教及旅游胜地，列中国十大避暑名山之首。大多数到过五台山的人，通常只见到以五百尊菩萨像为中心的菩萨坛，规模宏大的寺院群。而真正意义上的五台山实际上是指五台县的五座毗罗玉皇菩萨座，呈簇状排列的山峰。它们分别是：东台望舒峰、西台望海峰、南台锦绣峰、北台叶斗峰和中台翠岩峰。由于五座山峰海拔均在3000米以上，因此除了一些虔诚的佛教徒能够攀登高峰合理解释文殊菩萨外，很少有人能够到达五台山。也是由于台怀佛教寺院群分布在五座山峰之间，因此，人们通常就把到台怀镇称为到五台山了。

Rising beautifully and spread out across the clear blue sky (if you are fortunate to have one), the Wutaishan mountain range in Shanxi province can offer some satisfaction to those who long for a remote mountainous area experience amongst the flat expanse of Northern China's wheat fields. Straggled within a valley of the five major terraces which comprises Wutaishan (Five terraced mountain) is the town of Taihuai (台怀) where you can witness the colorful processions of pilgrims dressed in colorful garb wandering the streets and paying tribute to Manjusri, the Buddhist Bodhisattva of wisdom, or Wenshu (文殊) in Chinese. As one of the four holy Buddhist mountains in China, it plays a significant role in Buddhist culture and education (hence the number of parents who travel here asking for guidance on how their children can achieve a high gao kao exam score).

Transportation to the area can be slightly difficult at times but it was still definitely worth it. First, I took an overnight train to Datong (大同) immediately after wrapping up my final class for the week at Nankai University (I literally had to pack the night before). Then, after a groggy morning slog

from one end of Datong to the other, I took one of the fairly frequent 5 hour buses to Wutaishan from the new south bus station (Xin Nan Zhan 新南站). Be warned that some buses only go as far as Shahe (沙河) and you may have to transfer onto another bus outside of the bus station.

Your final destination should be the town of Taihuai (台怀), the central tourist town in the mountain range, so don't say "Wutaishan" to the bus ticket office staff when you transfer. This situation happened to me and the Shahe bus station ticket seller thought I meant the Wutaishan train station which was actually the name of the main train station in Wenshu (文殊) in Chinese. As one of the four holy Buddhist mountains in China, it plays a significant role in Buddhist culture and education (hence the number of parents who travel here asking for guidance on how their children can achieve a high gao kao exam score).

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and the other monks could spin. If you decide to participate, just remember to turn them clockwise to keep the positive karma flowing!

Most of the temples are included in the admission price but a few may charge an extra 10 yuan. If you want to escape the gashly crowds of people, the much more peaceful Yuan Dynasty Nanshan temple is about 2.5 km south of the main (and yet to be paved at the time of writing) street which borders along the eastern part of Taihuai. Just behind the simple direction signs after

interspersed within the mix did certainly spoil some of my most meditative and contemplative moments.

Nevertheless, there were a host of temples in the area that I visited. At one point in history, there were over 200 or so in the area until an uprising occurred around the 9th century which destroyed most of the buildings. Eventually, Wutaishan's religious significance became prominent again during the Ming Dynasty and became a popular pilgrimage center for monks who held a special affinity to the Bodhisattva Wenshu. Notable Lamas, Emperors Kangxi and Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty also visited Wutaishan and left their own personal epigraphs at some of the temples. It is also believed that Wenshu appears amongst the cloud formations in the sky or even takes on the appearance as one of the visiting Wutaishan monks.

Probably the most famous temple that I visited was the Tayan Temple with its huge 75.3 meter high white Tibetan stupa (dagoba). I could literally see this magnificent structure overlooking the city no matter where I was throughout the whole day. At its base, were numerous Buddhist statues and Tibetan prayer wheels which the tourists

crossing a bridge to the left of the main road (after about 2km or so walking south) and you will see it sitting on a pleasant hill with good views. I remember breathing a sigh of relief because for once, I could actually take the time to listen and feel the cool wonderful mountain breeze; free from the distraction of visitors.

If you are still in the mood for a short hike, Daluoh peak, just east of town has 1,088 steps that you can climb before arriving at the Wufang Manjusri Palace. Here, I was able to observe copies of the five Manjusri statues whose originals were in the five most popular temples in Wutaishan: Xiantong, Tayan, Manjusri, Shuangxiang, and Laoshou temples. Each temple was like eye candy with golden pagodas, blindingly white stupas, colorful prayer flags, and various representations of Wenshu riding a lion and wielding a sword. The sword itself was not used to threaten but to rid oneself of illusion and misdirection.

As evening descended on Wutaishan, and the active chanting of the monks, the tinkles of the temple bells and the squeaks of the turning prayer wheels started to die down, I decided to retire at one of the local restaurants and treated myself to a Taimo (fry) dinner which included Taimo noodles,

Taimo soup and diced Taimo mixed with chicken in a mild sauce. Taimo is a local mushroom that the locals grow here. It is healthy but can be a little bitter for western tastes. Make sure you have an expert with you if you decide to buy any dried Taimo to go to ensure good quality.

Wutaishan was a perfect example of a great intermingling of all the major Chinese religions that a town could offer. For those who have a bit of adventure and time on their hands, a journey to Wutaishan will certainly leave you with that impression.

# Enchanted City Whose Culture is Rooted in History

by Marina Kucher

## 体验历史的积淀

在历史上，天津总是被描述成一个“政治后花园”，设立天津这样一个独特的城市，天津是中国五个重要的城市之一，其在国际上的知名度远超过其他四个城市。每个大城市都有自己的特色，北京是首都，上海是中国最大的城市，深圳是中国的主要金融中心，广州是主要的生产基地。那么天津的特色是什么呢？

从2000年开始，天津市政府就始终把重点放在对天津本地历史文化的发展上。2005年，市政府颁布了历史文化遗产保护规划15年规划，有615项建筑被列为历史风貌保护单位。天津历史中心风貌区的部分不能吸引来自世界各地的游客。

Historically, due to this proximity, Tianjin had both benefited and suffered from its role as Beijing's "political backyard".

Tianjin is one of the five central cities of the People's Republic of China but rarely heard of in the outside world. Other cities in China have something distinct about them, like Beijing is the capital, Shanghai is the largest city in China, Shenzhen is the major financial center, and Guangzhou is the main manufacturing hub.

What is Tianjin? To give a city an identity, to promote the city, the government took a direction to emphasize the history of Tianjin. From the year 2000, the focus on Tianjin's specificity was intensified as part of an attempt to differentiate the city from the Chinese capital. With its nine foreign concessions, Tianjin is unique, even when compared to other cities which were open to foreign trade and settlements during the late-imperial and Republican periods.

Tianjin's authorities are very aware of the city's history. In 2005, the Tianjin Municipal Government launched a fifteen-year foreign heritage preservation plan (2005-2020) and adopted "Regulations to Protect Tianjin's Historical

the city. They look nice but don't have any historical value. To differentiate between real and fake historical architecture, one must look for a place that acknowledges the historical significance of the building. Tianjin has got much to offer – both rich gorgeous relics of Western and Chinese past.

The Astor Hotel is probably the most well-known historical relic in Tianjin. Several years ago, when I was not familiar with the history of the city and when I didn't know anything about the name "Astor", I had already noted the beauty and charm of the Astor Hotel.

The building of the Astor Hotel is as magnificent now as it was more than a hundred years ago. It all started with the name of the British missionary John Innocent, the founder of the Astor hotel, who came to Tianjin in May of 1861. John Innocent was among hundreds of Westerners pouring into Tianjin after the "Treaty of Tientsin" was signed, as foreigners couldn't travel freely around China before that.

The Second Opium War followed the First Opium War that was decisively won by the British. Several documents known as the "Treaty of Tientsin" were signed in Tianjin in June 1858 and ratified by the Emperor of China in the Convention of Peking in 1860, after the end of the war. The Second French Empire, United Kingdom, Russian Empire, and the United States were the parties involved. These treaties opened more Chinese ports (according to Nanking Treaty signed after the First Opium War, only five Chinese ports were open for the free foreign trade – Shanghai, Ningbo, Fuzhou, Xiamen and Canton) to the foreigners. The "Treaty of Tientsin" had also permitted foreign legations in Beijing, allowed Christian missionary activity, and legalized the import of opium. Thus, Tianjin was opened as a commercial port. The UK and France took the area of Zizhailan as their concession.

Zizhailan means "purple bamboo forest" or sometimes it's mentioned as a "black bamboo forest", now the area is Heiping district between the Jilin Road and Chengde Road. British Concession set up in 1860, German Concession set up in 1895, and the Russian Concession set up in 1900 were the largest by area in Tianjin.

In the concessions, the citizens of each foreign power were given the right to their own laws and police force. That was because Tianjin concessions were granted to keep the protection laws and agreements for safety due to the 1900 Boxer uprising and bloody massacres of European church members. Different



concessions developed their own cultures distinct from the rest of China, because each administration would try to make their concession look "like home". Churches, public houses, and other western institutions sprung up in the concessions.

China became home to John Innocent, who remained here for 40 years. In 1863, he bought a parcel No.29 of a riverbank land in the British concession for 600 taels (Chinese "liang", a weight measurement equal to 40 grams) of silver and built a one-story British-styled house, used as a trading place and hotel. This was to be the first hotel within the concession and at the time was called "The Mad House" and later, "The Old House".

The Astor Hotel became the prime venue for all diplomatic activity in Tianjin. It housed the consulates of the U.S., Canada, Japan and Germany. A lot of international treaties were signed at the Astor Hotel: the Sino-Denmark Treaty and the Sino-Netherlands treaty, both signed in 1863, as well as Sino-Brazil Harmony Trade Treaty (1882), Sino-French Treaty (1885), and Sino-Portugal Commercial Treaty (1887).

The Astor Hotel became the popular gathering place for Westerners, the only place in town to enjoy a good dinner and relax. In the summer of 1886, renovation and extension work began on the Astor Hotel and the hotel became a three level structure with a veranda and a tower facing the park to the West. Built in a traditional European architectural style, the Astor Hotel was the most impressive building in Tianjin during the early 20th century.

The name of the Astor Hotel is also connected with another prominent figure in the city's history. Dering von Gustav was a shareholder of the Astor Hotel, director of the Tianjin Customs and the chairman of the board in The Municipal Council of the British Concession. Under Dering's influence, the Astor Hotel underwent large development: the construction of Victoria Park planned by the Astor Hotel became the first hotel with telephone, heating facilities, running water, and elevator in China.



Prominent political figures have stayed in the hotel over the years. Herbert Hoover, later 31st president of the United States of America, came to Tianjin to work for Kaifan Mining Coal and stayed at the Astor Hotel. American president Grant stayed here in 1879. Albert Einstein in 1922, Charlie Chaplin in 1931. Dr. Sun Yat-sen stayed here on several occasions. Yuan Shikai and XiuShichang, both Presidents of the Republic of China, hid here during the uncertain political times. Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, came dancing at the Astor Hotel every autumn during his six-year stay in Tianjin. The tenth Panama Larna and the 14th Dalai Lama read their prayers at the Astor Hotel while visiting Tianjin in 1954. The Premier Zhou Enlai held some banquets at Astor Hotel. Former British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, paid visit to the Astor Hotel in 2011. The list goes on...

During its history, the hotel was renamed two more times. First, when the invading Japanese army took over the Astor Hotel in 1941, All British shareholders were taken under escort to the concentration camp in Wei Fang and the Japanese invaders changed the name of the hotel from "Astor" to "Asian hotel". After Tianjin was liberated the hotel got its new name "Tianjin Hotel". The name "Tianjin Astor Hotel" was restored only in 1984. The hotel's Chinese name "Li Shan De" expresses the Confucius ideas of the power of understanding and the power of reason.

The third important person in the history of the Astor Hotel is an Irish businessman and the major shareholder William O'Hara, who was appointed as Chairman of the Board of the Astor Hotel in 1916. But in 1943, he was taken into the concentration camp in Wei County by Japanese army. The camp's population included British, Canadian, American, Australian and other citizens who were forced to stay in the camp for nearly two and a half years until construction of Victoria Park liberated them. In 1952, Mr O'Hara handed over the hotel to the government and left with his whole family to New Zealand.



O'Hara's Pub in the Astor Hotel is named after him.

In the modern times, the hotel underwent several renovations. In 1987, the new building was attached to the Astor Hotel. In 1998, the Astor plaza rose up next to the hotel. In 2010, the grand construction for enlargement was completed by Tianjin Tourism Group. Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. was appointed to manage this prestigious and historic property, a national cultural relic.

The historical past of the Astor Hotel is imprinted not only in the magnificent architecture and furniture, but in the smell and creaking of wood floors and staircases. A heavily carpeted hallway with dark wood paneling whispers, "There is history here". How many great people walked these corridors! The old wing certainly does give one the feeling of what Tianjin must have been like in "the old days". I enjoyed walking around the "hotel", reading the various room plaques.

The museum in the Astor Hotel is so worth a visit. On display are memorabilia, antiques and photographs that span the last two centuries. In the museum you can learn about all the foreign concessions, names of the streets and names of the foreign residents. Did you know, there were such streets in Tianjin as Edinburg Road, Sydney Road, Oxford Road, Dublin Road, Wellington Road, Bombay Road, and Greenwich Road? Did you know, that Flint James (1720-) was the first Englishman who came to Tianjin and blooded Henry (1825-1903) was one of the first Americans? I must confess that I violated the "Don't touch" rule in the museum. The charming old furniture is so appealing, and the Bible from the 19th century is truly a treasure!

The Astor Hotel is a gem among historical relics of Tianjin.



# Tear Jerking Talent

by Paula Taylor

## 眼泪铸成的达人

很多档为钱而生的节目现在都有了中国版本。但不幸的是,这些节目的一些坏毛病也随之移植了过来。比如,在一些选秀节目中,有些技艺不人的歌手眼看就要被淘汰了,但当他突然抛出一首催泪弹,声泪俱下地讲述自己悲惨的身世,表达想要改变命运的想法,观众一下子就被打动了,你甚至记了,他唱得再有多难听,你也得投出同情票,让他继续参赛。

节目的制片人 also 发现了这个收钱良机,甚至逼迫选手在台上不停地讲述放去的亲人并且最好连日期,这样的节目你还会继续支持吗?你还会继续花高额门票费为他们买单吗?反正我也不会去他的演唱包厢包了,要不我的生涯就那样了!

In a previous article I explained how reality and talent shows are becoming more and more popular in China and I expressed my dismay at these valueless imports. The same problems infecting these shows in the west, such as fake contestants and sob stories have also travelled over to China.

When talent shows first appeared on our screens they were supposed help amateurs hoping for their big break. Now it is often revealed that many of the contestants are in fact professionals, some of them even have recording contracts or have released records. If that is the case, the genuine amateurs do not stand a chance. It is quite poor really and it makes me feel cheated, as if the TV companies think we are so stupid that we will swallow whatever bitter offerings they serve up.

Another insidious facet of these shows are the sob stories that precede most contestants' appearances. I remember wanting to vote for somebody because she had entered the show as her father had secretly filled in an application form for her without her knowledge and he then died of cancer. When she was going through his belongings, she found the form and she felt had to enter the show to honour his memory. This was an extremely heartwarming story which was absolutely true, but it did not have anything to do with whether or not she was talented. From that point on many people wanted her to win, we had to wipe the tears from our eyes and swallow the lumps in our throats each time she sang, as we thought of her poor father. As it happens her



contestants. I could accept the exorbitant price of the phone calls, at least I knew that I was being exploited, but I could not accept them thinking that I was a viewing idiot, although thinking about it, I was, as I fell for their cheap tricks book, line and sinker.

So it was with a heavy heart that I learned the new hot show in China is The Voice, this is a very popular show in many countries so you may be familiar with it. A group of four professionals each has a set of budding singers to mentor and train. The usual stories have started to come out Chinese style. There was a 20 year old girl contestant who said she had just lost her father three months ago. However people found out that in another singing contest early this year she said she had just lost her grandparents. Then the program published an official statement saying that this information was wrong, she had actually she lost her father and her grandma had fallen ill. If my father had died, talking about it on TV is the last thing I would do.

Good news and success stories do not sell and do not persuade us to part with our money, so the producers of these shows are not interested in anybody who has a happy life, they want all the gory details of tragedies, skeletons in the closet, sickness and heartbreak. When they cannot find anything juicy enough to whet our emotions and cash from us, they scrape the bottom of the barrel and we are hit with such bombshells as "My husband's brother's wife's boss's sister's mother-in-law's next door neighbour's uncle's budgie died, and so I have come on the show for a better life", cue gullible wretches (me) picking up the phone in order to give them that better life. Okay, okay slight exaggeration but you get the point. I have a question, why can't they just sing? It is a singing competition after all. I have voted my last vote, called my last call, I will save my money, I want a better life too!

# One Night on the Train

By Jim Gibney

## 火车一夜

曾经有人说过,生命是一次旅程而不是终点,我相信这不是孔子的话,但如果是那个时代有火车的话,我想一定是这样的。在中国第一次乘坐火车您一生中最激动的旅程,而这旅程是从火车站开始的。为买到一张好铺票,我要提前10天跑去火车站排队,然后把所有购票信息的小纸条递给售票员,什么?还要排队?好吧,我再去拿。

几个小时,我终于买到了票了,到了出行那天,我被人挤上火车,好不容易找到自己的座位,却发现上面有人,把别人叫出来交谈,被人围观。终于,你对这张床的使用取得了胜利,本想好好休息,却不断有人上来搭话,又是那被问了无数次的无聊问题,我都学会了。在火车上除了睡觉你没什么可做的,因为火车上除了高昂票价,如果你觉得幸运的押错票另算,睡醒还有年轻人聊天,啼哭的声音,他们多数在啊!听着这朝气蓬勃的声音,你也许能渐渐进入梦乡。

Some one once said that "life is a journey not a destination". These are pretty wise words that are obviously the product of a great mind. Now speaking of great minds, I am pretty sure these words were not said by that great sage Confucius but I am confident that if trains had been around in his time it's the kind of thing that he would have said.

Nowhere in the world is there a journey like the one you experience on a long distance Chinese train trip. The journey actually begins ten days before you get on the train. Ten days before is when the tickets go on sale. If you want a sleeper it is very important that you book early or you will miss out and may have to spend the whole trip sitting up.

So ten days earlier, you to the station. No point in complaining about the queue, you'll just have to wait just like the other 500 people. After an hour you get to the window still clutching the details of your train trip carefully written in Chinese characters by your Chinese friend. "Passport?" asks the ticket seller. You go home to get your passport.

You return with passport. Finally after several hours, you emerge from the station with a ticket in your hot little hands. You await the day of your trip with anticipation. It finally arrives. You push through the crowds

and onto the train. You find your compartment. You look at your ticket and check out your bunk. There is someone sleeping in it.

You check your ticket again. Yes that is your bunk. You try to wake up the snoring body. It mumbles something and turns over. You call the conductor. He checks your ticket. Yes it is your bunk. By now a crowd has



gathered to see what the wagsnorer is doing. You ask the conductor, could you make the man move. Finally, the man grumpily moves on.

You finally sit down to relax. Everyone in the compartment is staring at you. One of them finally asks in Chinese, where are you from? Your answer in broken Chinese does nothing to inspire further conversation in Chinese. However, one of the onlookers knows some English and so a slow conversation in English begins with the standard questions.

Where are you from? How long have you been in China? What is your job? Do you like China? After these staple questions it can get a bit tricky. You may be asked how much money you make or are you married. If you are married you will be asked about children and if you are not, there might be an offer to meet a sister or friend - she's very beautiful.

After a while you might yawn a bit and suggest that it is time to have a bit of sleep. If it is an overnight train, you will have no choice in this matter as the lights will be unceremoniously turned off at a predetermined time. Once you have made yourself comfortable, not that easy to do, you will be able to listen to the snoring of your fellow travellers.

If their snoring is not too loud, you will be entertained by the loud noise emanating from the nearby compartment where the young students are celebrating, with a case of beer, finishing or returning to their studies. The girls will giggle and the boys will boast as they wake away the evening. If you're lucky you might drift off to sleep in a couple of hours.

All too soon, it will be morning and you are at your destination. Chinese trains? I wouldn't travel any other way.

# Caves in Natural China

by Paula Taylor

## 中国的天然洞穴

当人们想到中国,可能首先会想到的是长城和大熊猫,而中国种类繁多的天然洞穴却获得较少的关注。例如,久负盛名的桂林芦笛岩,“独洞”回廊称为最壮观的天然画廊,与诗歌、哲学和汉字融为一体。现代的洞穴文化被分为两种,一种可供旅游;另一种可供居住。在桂林象鼻山的回廊处,其高昂的价格并非普通民众可以负担的。而在中国,洞穴的价格可能会更便宜一些。专家们明白为什么它吸引人们受欢迎,甚至愿意支付可观的费用。而且并不需要大量资金投入。在西安地区的当地人认为,很多人想入住到别处的人搬出去。他们中有许多人还在空荡荡的洞穴中生活。他们都在那里中醒来,他们的生活,要发展农业和林业,利用洞穴是一个好主意。事实上,中国人会手为自己居住生活又是一个证明他们的想象力和创造力的证明。中国是一个能够为人们提供不断惊喜的土地。

When people think of China, probably the first thing that comes to mind is the Great Wall or giant pandas. One remarkable feature of China that garners less publicity is the abundance of caves. If the idea of going hundreds of feet underground in the dark is not your cup of tea, you may be interested to know that many of the caves are tourist attractions and as such have dazzling lighting arrangements. Not all of them welcome visitors, some caves have a more intriguing use, but more of that later.

Regarding those caves that are tourist attractions, the Reed Flute Cave is one of the most famous attractions in Guilin City. The cave got its name from the giant reeds at the mouth of the cave. There are enterprising craftsmen who fashion the reeds into flutes

and sell them outside. This cave system was opened to the public in 1962 and has been doing a roaring trade ever since. Chinese people like unusual things and they particularly like rocks.

At 240 metres long there is plenty to see and walk dropping sights await, visitors to the cave are presented with the spectacular sight of stalactites, stone pillars and rock formations. The Chinese like to give poetic names to the rock formations, to which legends and stories have been attached. Names such as Crystal Palace, Dragon Pagoda, Virgin Forest, Flower and Fruit Mountain abound. Also doing business there are the official photographers who offer photographs at 20 yuan each, as they say the lighting is not sufficient for non-professional

photography.

Also in Guilin is the Silver Cave, so called because the roof of the cave is supposed to make you feel that you are in a fairyland of ice and snow because of the colour of the rocks. No doubt you will be impressed by the high roof, waterfall and underground river. The different parts of this cave have also been given poetic names such as Screen of Music, Keep Moon Palace and Waterfalls on Snow Hill as well as the Three Treasures of the Buddha, Discussing on Buddhist Sutra, the Mixed Pearl Umbrella and the Solitary Pillar Propping up. I think it is worth visiting because of the names alone.

Many caves are alive and are all wonderful, but the claim is that Silver Cave distinguishes itself from the others by the fact that it consists of three parts, the lower cave, the grand hall and the upper cave. It also boasts an amazing collection of stalactites, stalagmites, and stone pillars. Silver cave is billed as a magnificent natural art gallery, a combination of poetry, philosophy and aesthetics.

These are just two of the cave systems open to the public but there are many more all over the country. Caves also have another use here. Many people live in caves and until 2011 there was a cave boarding school. The people that live in caves in China are not unusual, there are many places in the world where people do this, Turkey being one of them. There are various reasons why people live in caves and it is not just poor people.

In Arizona there is a luxury cave house for sale at a cool £1.5M dollars. Why is it so expensive? Have a look at the advert for this house- "Sitting on 37 acres, Chulo Canyon Cave House is carved into an outcropping of granite boulder, extending more than 2,000-square feet into a desert grotto. It occupies 2,890-square feet of living space and comes with an 890-square foot guest house, a subterranean game room underneath the guest house, library, workshop space, home office, and a carport. There's a glass-walled sunroom, kitchen, an eight person dining room, a sunken living room, two bathrooms, a sleep loft with walk-in closet tucked below underneath the loft stairs, and exercise room" Another strong selling point for me at least is their natural temperature control "The house never slides below 66 degrees Fahrenheit or above 72 degrees. The home's natural pool is a short hike away, up the side of a nearby mountain and fed by a freshwater creek for six to eight months out of the year. The higher up you go, the more pools there are to choose from. The owners also installed a carefully camouflaged hot tub". I would like to live in this house but...I am too poor and cannot afford \$1.5M.



Reed Flute Cave

The cave houses in China may be a bit more modest but they are no less desirable to the inhabitants. Of course there are different standards of cave dwellings and some "mansions" have electricity and running water as well as several chambers. They also feature high ceilings and yards at the front. Some of the prices being touted around are from 191 yuan per month to rent a basic one room dwelling without plumbing or other modern comforts, to a three bedroom one bathroom cave which could be sold for anything up to 290,550 yuan – that is if you can find anyone prepared to sell. One man who grew up in a cave later moved to the city but he longs to go back. He says that once he retires he will try to move back, although it will not be easy as cave dwellers rarely move on, so satisfied with their way of life are they.

Experts understand why cave homes are so desirable. They are cool in the summer and warm in the winter. In a land where space is at a premium, caves are energy efficient, as the farmers can save their arable land for planting if they build their houses in the caves. It doesn't take much money or skills to adapt. Locals in the Yan'an area say that a lot of people want to rent their caves but nobody wants to move out. There is no shame in living in a cave, indeed Mao Ze Dong stayed in these very caves in 1938. The locals say that they are very comfortable, many of them

have lived in caves all their lives. They revel in a life that is simple and uncomplicated.

Until recently the Dong Zhong cave school in Gui Zhou taught 200 children, many of them boarders. The cave also housed 18 families and their livestock. It was closed down early in 2011 as the Government felt that it did not reflect well on China as a modern society and so they provided a modern facility.

If you want to try cave living there is a hotel in Yan'an, reviews were mixed but I am tempted to try it myself. Probably the city dwellers that stayed there and were dissatisfied had expectations that were too

high. One of the reviewers complained that it was basic but then said that the night sky was very beautiful, he could see lots of stars. It is worth going there for that feature alone. We don't see many stars in this part of China.

Making use of the many caves in China is a good idea commercially and practically. The fact that the Chinese use what is at hand to carve lives out for themselves is yet another testament to their resourcefulness and ingenuity. China is a land of constant surprises.



The Silver Cave

## LOCALEVENTS

### New semester starts



Monday, 13 August 2012 marked the start of a new school year at the International School of Tianjin (IST). IST's teaching faculty and support staff greeted new and returning students from across their 40 countries, and were especially invited to welcome returning students to the newly renovated Qiu classroom building.

The beginning of a new school year is a wonderfully exciting time for all, full of the promise of new learning and development, and of new challenges and excitement. Being a healthy year means the needs of students come first. IST is committed to ensuring that each one is not only a student, but an individual, and that each child feels valued in an exciting year of learning and fun.

### Summer Activity



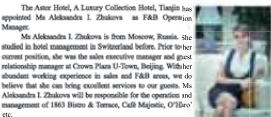
This summer, we are full of passion. This summer, we watched together, and were inspired by the Olympic athletes. During the Olympic Games in London, we were inspired to carry forward the spirit of sports. The SUZHI International Children's water gun fight held a wonderful children's water gun experience at Fitness Center of Tianjin Astor City Holiday Inn, aimed at letting more children understand this Olympic sport. The children first practiced the basic movements, to give the children an idea of how they want to be the winning one to experience it for themselves. Look! How energetic they are!

### Piano Prodigy Wu Ke Ji live concert



On August 19th, the 13 years old pianist Wu Ke Ji, SUZHI held a piano solo concert at World Concert Hall. Wu Ke Ji started to learn piano performance when he was 4 years old. He said, his feeling when he playing great and getting achievement in the future.

### Aleksandra I. Zhukova Joins The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin as F&B Operation Manager



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin has appointed Ms Aleksandra I. Zhukova as F&B Operation Manager.

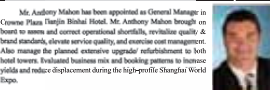
Ms Aleksandra I. Zhukova is from Moscow, Russia. She studied in hotel management in Switzerland before. Prior to her current position, she was the sales executive manager and guest relationship manager at Crown Plaza U-Town, Beijing. With her abundant working experience in sales and F&B areas, we do believe that she can bring excellent services to our guests. Ms Aleksandra I. Zhukova will be responsible for the operation and management of 180 Rooms & Terrace, Café Mojito, O'Leary's etc.

### The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin Got 3 Awards Recently



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin is awarded three awards: "Best Accommodation Brand" in 2011 China Hotel (China) Awards for New World, "Global Hotel Brand of the Year" Best 2011 China Hotel & Hospitality Awards by Travel Weekly and "2012" Best 2012 China Hotel & Hospitality Awards by TripAdvisor. These three awards were awarded to the hotel for its outstanding service and offering a range of comprehensive and diversified facilities, equipment, services, facilities and environment for business & leisure travelers.

### New Leader in Crown Plaza



Mr. Anthony Mahon has been appointed as General Manager in Crown Plaza Tianjin Bihai Hotel. Mr. Anthony Mahon brings on board to assess and correct operational shortfalls, revitalize quality & brand standards, elevate service quality, and exercise cost management. Also manage the planned extensive upgrade/renovation to both hotel towers. Evaluated business mix and booking patterns to increase yields and reduce displacement during the high-profile Shanghai World Expo.

### Tianjin Jazz Music Festival at Qing Wang Fu



2012 Tianjin International Jazz Festival kicked off at Qing Wang Fu on July 29th. The jazz festival was the first of its kind happening in Tianjin and received a lot of attention. Popular jazz bands from the United States, Brazil, Russia, France, Germany and Malaysia brought eight wonderful shows to local audiences.

On July 29th, a jazz band called Black Diamond from Russia performed some classic jazz songs including Summer Time as well as some adapted from Chinese pop songs.

The guests obtained a wonderful summer night with beers and BBQ. One of them stepped upon the stage and sang with the band. The music festival lasted till August 7th.

### Famous Artist in town



Mr. GUYTON CHEN, a famous Chinese musician of traditional and modern music styles had the pleasure to perform on the stage of the new Astor stage 19th July. His live performance on 19.7.2012 was on 19 July 2012.

### Hot Summer Cocktail Party at Royal yacht Club



Tianjin Royal Yacht Club held a Hot Summer cocktail party on stage on August 18th. All the guests enjoyed the wonderful programs such as dance, singing, and ball games and performed to the great bartenders. The lucky draw was the climax of the night.

### Le Procope Lounge Havana's Night



In July 2012, Le Procope Lounge held a Havana themed party. Every guest got the special Cuban ambrosia with authentic elements such as Havana rum, mojitos, pinacolada and salsa dance performance. In order to enrich the Cuban theme, Le Procope searched the Spanish Cuban Tapes and Cuban music. The guests were a different and exotic party night in town.

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# Why you need to watch the American TV Show: Breaking Bad

## 不能错过的美剧——《绝命毒师》

什么居家强风潮？什么又作中作少年危机？看看《绝命毒师》里的Walter Hartwell White就一目了然。收入微薄的高中生化学老师Walter White本来流里流气混日子，妻子又怀孕了，他家两个儿子也闹着火药的支出，自己还刚刚被确诊为肺癌晚期，什么倒霉的事情都叫他碰上了。他的心情沮丧可说是到了极点。Walter Hartwell White决定而走险，利用自己的学识研制毒品，然后自产自销。本来已经走人地境的Walter，此时正向万幸的归来，他的生活是否会得到改善呢？他的家人能否理解他呢？这个在生活和工作上都不能重视的小人物，此番要犯下大错吗，他还有没有退路呢？

### 1.The Premise

For those of you who may not have heard of this Emmy winning series, in the pilot episode a regular guy played by Bryan Cranston (Malcolm in the Middle) is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Heartwarming from the beginning I know. We then see him struggling with how to provide for his family. Did I mention he is a highly overqualified (the "discovered" grey matter) highschool chemistry teacher? He has a son with MS, a wife who is almost forty and oh yeah, pregnant. Instead of hitting the craps tables or selling a kidney, our down and out hero makes the next most logical decision- he starts cooking methamphetamine with a deadbeat former student.

While this may sound like a family friendly giggle fest in the same category of a bag of drowning puppies, I assure it's a bit dark. Walter, the cancer patient becomes Walter the methcook but not without a painfully steep learning curve.

### 2.Staying Power: Evolution over Degradation

Unlike so many television series where the character arcs and plot lines run their course by the 3rd or 4th season Breaking Bad has not only come into its own with character development, it still has us drooling for more each week in its fifth season. One of the main

characters, Jesse, the highschool dropout turned hopelessly inept meth cook goes from a pathetic mash of rich kid drug addict, to murderer, to continued screw up, to drug kingpin in the span of a few seasons. The strength of the characters in generally is that they evolve in believable ways. Especially Walt, who for the best intentions(providing for his family), has become far too comfortable in the skin of his pseudonym, Heisenberg. At one point he even starts



building bombs to get rid of rivals.

### 3.A guilty Pleasure

Sometimes you just need to watch a good action movie right, or secretly watch a romantic comedy by yourself and cry it out. We all need a guilty viewing pleasure and Breaking Bad provides that. It is dark but it starts out, like Walter, with the best intentions. It's a story that is believable because when Walter starts out his life of crime, he is not only a bumbling criminal; he never loses focus of his goal, the financial security after the cancer takes him. As time goes on the characters closest to Walt, including his wife, lose their innocence and it is all because of their proximity to the Southwest's best new meth cook.

I cannot stress enough the amazingly good writing behind this show. If you can convince a friend to watch this better-than-you-first sexual-experience TV show you will have been drinking discussion material for the next 6 to 8 years. Trust me it's that good. If you like a feel good Disneyesque show, flip away from this one, actually, run forest run. This is an awesome look at what happens when a decent but desperate man is pushed against a ticking clock and wants to provide for his beloved family.Walter's wife, his 'business' partners, and even brother-in-law are all given ample attention to develop into three dimensional and empathetic characters. Unlike the Kardashians, and they have the advantage being 'real' people, Walt is on the one hand highly sympathetic and on the other truly despicable. Morality is not just stretched its thrown into a blender, sent through a wood chipper, and then served up cold to an audience that is hooked from the first episode. Check it out.



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Tianjin port has 154 berths; 12730 meters coastline; 99 berths are over 10000 tons.

Tianjin port is one of the most complete function port in China. The development of Tianjin Port is on a rapid growth. In 2009, the throughput reached 100 million tons; 2008, 200 million tons; 2007, 300 million tons; 2010, 400 million tons; it is the top 5 port in the world. In 2011, the total throughput in Tianjin Port is over 430 million tons and container throughput exceeded 11.5 million TEU.



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