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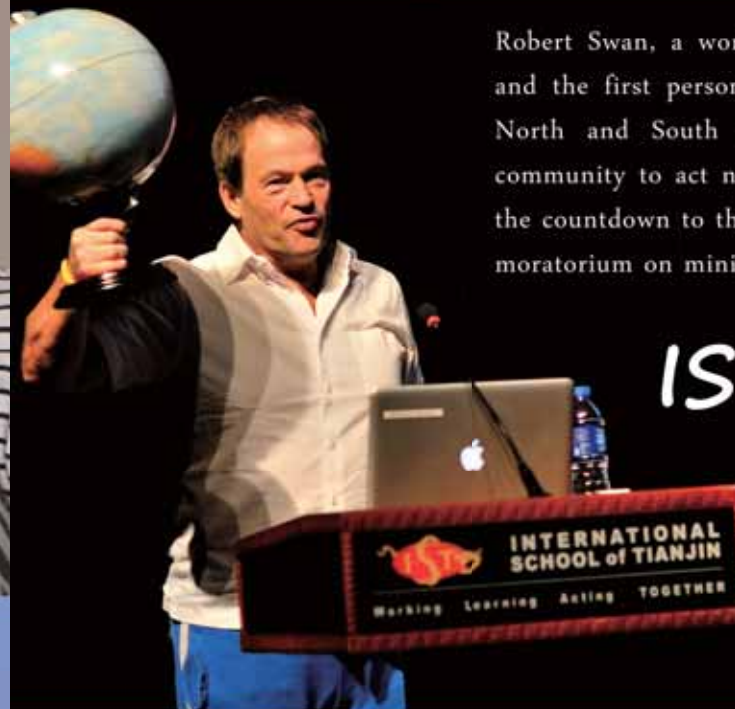


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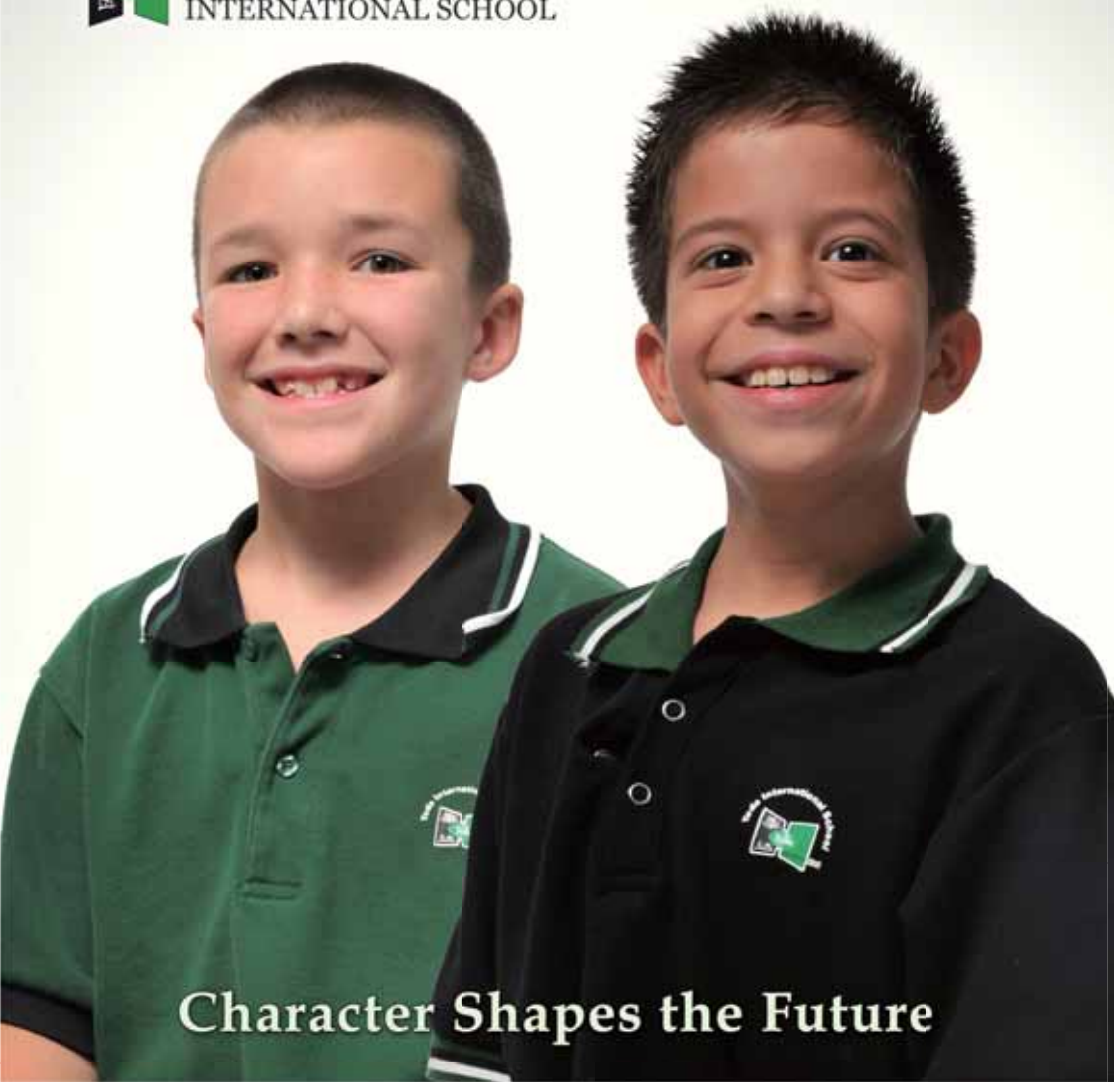
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GEBA Japanese Restaurant (3F)

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For inquiries, please call our hotline 2457 8888 ext. 2607

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Dinner 5:30pm - 10:00pm

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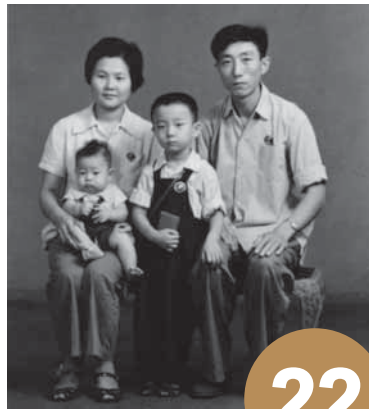


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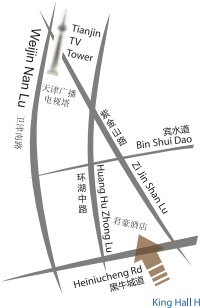
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2 Happy New Year Promotion

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Survey

Crossing the road the Chinese way



Kindergarten is where most people learn how to cross the road. It is simple: wait for the light to turn green, look both ways and then cross while staying on the zebra lines. It is a basic rule everyone knows and it has been this way for decades. However, in China, you will find this rule does not apply. The rules here are different. Actually, I will tell you a secret: there are no rules here at all. When a group of people are gathered by the road side, they will cross no matter what the color of the traffic signal. Of course, this is a bit of a joke but what else can you do?

Interviewees: Dean Smith (New Zealand)
Parker Barriball (USA)
Kyle Knutson (USA)

Are you frightened when you try to cross a busy road in China?

Dean: It's certainly nerve wracking at times as the cars can come from all sorts of different angles and directions.

Parker: I used to be but after a year you learn the rhythm of the traffic.

Did you find there are any rules in crossing the road?

Dean: Not really – I guess the best rule is to **choose a speed and direction and stick to it** so that the oncoming cars can anticipate where you are going.

Kyle: I find that the pedestrians invent their own rules when it comes to getting to the other side. For example, some will slowly **inch their way forward** whenever there is an open space and assuming that cars will just see them and go around.

Do you think pedestrians' who don't follow traffic rules should be fined?

Kyle: The only way to get pedestrians to follow the rules is to fine them. **However, the pedestrian traffic lights NEED to give them enough time to cross the road when they turn green.**

Parker: If you want to fine pedestrians for infractions, there needs to be an **equal enforcement** of the rules for drivers' who break traffic laws.

Do you think it's all pedestrians' fault?

Kyle: Not really. In my opinion China is a **pedestrian unfriendly country**. Cars basically have the right of way and the pedestrian lights are not green long enough for us to cross the street. So these problems actually encourage pedestrians to break the rules or else they will never make it to the other side of the street.

Parker: No, it's a combination of the driver and pedestrian with neither side willing to wait or let the other go even though a bit of courtesy would help keep things less congested and safer for all parties. Both are at fault.

* The topic for next month is Have you ever rejected or cheated by a taxi driver? We look forward to reading about your experience with taxi drivers. Send email to editorial@jinmagazine.com.cn and you'll have the chance to win a 100RMB restaurant coupon.

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Letter from the Editor

Congratulations on us all for surviving the end of the world! Did you have a great time at your Christmas and New Year celebrations? I decided to leave every little worry behind and flew to Korea for Christmas and to celebrate my birthday. The end of year is always a stressful time with all types of year end things to do at work. It is so busy and then you must make time to buy presents for family and friends.

Modern people do have a lot of worries and stress that comes from all aspects of life. However, fifty years ago, people had a much simpler life with their only major worry being to feed the family. In this issue we interviewed a local family named Wang. Mr and Mrs Wang are in their seventies and have been married for over 50 years. They have recalled for us their life together. Their son has shared with us his sweetest childhood memory and his experiences in educating his own child.

For the Wang's happiness was easy. In the days when households had difficulty making ends meet, some new clothes and a bowl of stewed pork for Spring Festival was all they needed to be happy. Today, children are hard to satisfy because they have so much more than earlier generations could have dreamed. However, today's children are confronted with ferocious competition at school. Which generation is happier?

祝贺我们都躲过了世界末日！你的圣诞和新年过得好吗？我毅然决然地抛下了所有烦心的人和事飞到韩国庆祝圣诞和生日。每年的年底都是非常忙碌的，要做各种总结和规划。但你还是要抽出时间为家人和朋友挑选礼物。

现代人总是有很多烦恼和压力。但是，时间倒回50年，人们的生活相对简单，他们唯一担心的就是如何养活家里的几口人。本期我们采访了天津姓王的一家人。老王夫妇已经七十多岁了，他们回忆了两人一起走过的日子。他们的儿子也讲述了记忆中幸福的童年和自己的育儿经。

在家家户户都不富裕的年代里，幸福来得更加容易。一身新衣服和一碗红烧肉就能让人倍感幸福。而现在的孩子什么都不缺，但是却要面临更加严酷的学业竞争。到底哪代人更幸福呢？

Monica W



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WHAT'S ON

Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra New Year's Concert

莫斯科国立交响乐团新年音乐会
Conductor: Dmitri Orlov
Time: 19:30 on Jan 1-2
Price: 880/580/380/280/180/120 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Philharmonic Orchestra New Year's Concert

布拉格爱乐乐团新年音乐会
Performer: Philharmonic Orchestra
Conductor: Ondrej Vrabec
Time: 19:30 on Jan 5 Saturday
Price: 580/380/280/180/120/80 RMB



Tianjin Grand Auditorium
No.24, You Yi Road, Hexi

Italian Opera New Year's Concert

意大利歌剧精英天津新年音乐会
Time: 19:30 on Jan 3 Thursday
Price: 880/680/480/380/280/180/120/80 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Drama: Everything in the Garden

话剧《欲望花园》
Scenarist: Edward Albee
Director: Han Jie
Time: 19:30 on Jan 1-2
Price: 880/580/380/280/180/120/60RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Classic Peking Opera

元声京戏坊·传统经典《大·探·二》
Performer: Tianjin Peking Opera Theater
Time: 19:30 on Jan 12 Saturday
Price: 240/180/120/100/80RMB



Tianjin Grand Auditorium
No.24, You Yi Road, Hexi

Wien Klang Sinfonietta New Year's Concert

奥地利维也纳之声交响乐团新年音乐会
Conductor: Jane-Ryder-Matt
Time: 19:30 on Jan 4 Friday
Price: 1580/1280/980/680/480/380/280/180/120 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Royal Scottish National Orchestra New Year's Concert

皇家苏格兰国立交响乐团新年音乐会
Performer: Royal Scottish National Orchestra
Conductor: Peter Oundjian
Time: 19:30 on Jan 3 Thursday
Price: 1280/880/680/480/280/120 RMB



Tianjin Grand Theatre
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068

Drama: In the North of Haidian

话剧《海淀之北》
Director: Wang Dingyi
Leading Performer: Cai Yingnan, Liu Yang, Li Lin
Time: 19:30 on Jan 18-20
Price: 580/380/280/180/120/80 RMB



Tianjin Concert Hall

Guqin Concert

琴瑟红楼古琴音乐会
Time: 19:30 on Jan 13 Sunday
Price: 180/150/120/80/50/30 RMB
Tel: 83882000 83882002 23320068



Western Shore Museum

Vocal Classic Concert

声乐经典专场音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 4 Friday
Price: 100 RMB

Western Shore Museum

Classic Folk Music Concert

民乐经典音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 5 Saturday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic String Duet Concert

古典弦乐重奏室内乐专场音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 11 Friday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic String Quartet Concert

弦乐四重奏经典音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 12 Saturday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Folk Duet Concert

民乐重奏音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 19 Saturday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic Jazz Music Concert

爵士经典天津音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 25 Friday
Price: 100RMB



Western Shore Museum

Classic String Quartet Concert

弦乐四重奏天津音乐会
Time: 20:00 on Jan 26 Saturday
Price: 100RMB



Don't Miss

English-speaking Community of Xikai Catholic Cathedral



01 January 2013 @ 11.30 a.m.
Solemnity of Virgin Mary
06 January 2013 @ 11.30 a.m.
Epiphany of the Lord

During Advent, our Community will have second collections each Sunday to raise RMB 15,000. Donations will be made to the ICCO for selected kids' extra nutritional needs, and to the poor living in the suburban Districts in Tianjin through the Sisters of Charity.

St. Joseph's Cathedral (西开教堂)
9 Xining Dao, Heping District
天津市和平区西宁道
English Mass every Sunday @ 11.30,
celebrated by Fr. Eko Prasetyo from Indonesia.
Email: xikaicathedral@gmail.com

What's hot on Weibo...

► Crazy man slashed 22 elementary school students in Henan Province

Min Yongjun, 36, a long-time epilepsy sufferer, attacked an elderly woman neighbor and 23 elementary school children with a kitchen knife on December 14th. He was subdued by teachers and police. Police investigations revealed Min had been worried about the end of the world rumours which led him to go on his rampage. @人民日报



► Sirens' wail to get renewed legal backing

Following the death of a patient in a traffic jam on December 7, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Beijing Health Bureau have announced new regulations to help ease ambulances' passage through traffic in emergency cases.

The regulations will stipulate that ambulances have traffic priority in emergency treatment and while transferring patients in critical condition. Drivers that refuse to give way to ambulances will be punished and be held legally accountable if the patients die, the Legal Mirror reported on Thursday. @GlobalTimes



► Developing manners in metro

The Tianjin Metro has become a major transportation option for local people and the transfer stations in rush hour are extremely busy. Volunteers have been helping to usher the crowd onto trains and to promote metro manners. Passengers are becoming increasingly aware that it is important to leave

space for those getting off the train and to line up at both sides of the gate. @天津地铁运营

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Tianjin named among Top 10 Best Commercial Cities in Mainland China

■ 《福布斯》中国内地最佳商业城市 天津蝉联十佳

全球知名财经媒体《福布斯》中文版发布中国最佳商业城市排行榜，天津连续第三年蝉联中国内地十佳商业城市。

Tianjin was named among year's Top 10 Best Commercial Cities in Mainland China for the third consecutive year when Forbes Magazine (Chinese Edition) revealed the list on Dec 12th.

Shanghai retook the crown from Guangzhou, it was followed by Hangzhou and Shenzhen. Guangzhou fell to fourth place this year; while Tianjin remained at the tenth place.

Wuxi, Nanjing, Ningbo, Beijing and Suzhou were the other cities to make the list.

Talents, city size, purchasing power, passenger & freight transport, operating costs, private enterprise and innovation were the major factors that Forbes Magazine analysed to compile the list.

Flextronics Buys out Motorola's Tianjin Plant

■ 摩托罗拉出售天津工厂：7000人与设备一同易主



12月11日，摩托罗拉移动技术公司与伟创力集团宣布两家公司签署了一项最终协议。根据协议，伟创力将收购摩托罗拉位于天津的制造工厂，并接管摩托罗拉位于巴西的设备与工厂。据了解，天津工厂涉及7000名员工，连同设备、设施都一同出售给伟创力。在交易完成之前，天津工厂正常运转不会裁员。

Singapore-based electronics manufacturing services provider Flextronics announced on December 10th that it had signed a definitive agreement with Motorola Mobility LLC to acquire Motorola's manufacturing plant in the Binhai New Area, Tianjin.

The 10,000 workers at the plant will keep their jobs and will 'continue work as usual'.

Flextronics will assume management of the Tianjin facility in the first half of 2013. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The Tianjin plant has an annual production capability of 30 million smart phone units and it is where 90% of the Motorola phones sold in the world have been produced in recent years.

The Preparation of 6th East Asian Games Going on Well

■ 第六届东亚运动会筹备工作进展顺利

第六届东亚运动会将于2013年10月6日至15日在天津举行。届时，将有来自中国、韩国、朝鲜、蒙古、日本和中国香港、中国澳门、中华台北、关岛(含友)等九个国家和地区的运动员、教练员、裁判员、媒体记者和政府官员、体育官员来津参加运动会。这是目前在我市举行的规模最大的国际性综合运动会。



The 6th East Asian Games will be held from October 6 to 15, 2013 in Tianjin. Tianjin is looking forward to welcoming athletes, coaches, referees, journalists and officials from nine countries and regions including Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Chinese Taipei and Guam. It will be the largest international sports event ever organized in Tianjin.

The Games will take place in 24 different venues including 13 that have been newly built. Five of the 13 new venues have now been completed, including the Swimming and Diving Pool at the Tianjin Olympic Center, the Tianjin Tuanbo Soccer Stadium, the Tianjin Haihe Education Park Stadium, the Tianjin Stadium for University Students and the Stadium at Tianjin Normal University.

An Expats Soccer Team in TEDA

■ 中国女孩发起国际足球队 17名球员来自12个国家

来自英超、法甲、意甲等国际足坛著名联赛举办地的球员一同在滨海新区的足球场上竞技。来自12个国家的17名外籍队员组成了一支业余足球队，每周都要进行一场足球赛。这支球队的发起人是一个中国女孩张彦，她还身兼经理、领队和队医的职责。



Would you expect to see a soccer team composed of players from FIFA top ranking countries like England, France and Italy? Well, now you can see one in TEDA. An amateur soccer team composed of 17 expats from 12 countries has a weekly match in TEDA area.

The team was organized by a Chinese woman Zhang Yan, who is the only Chinese in the team. She plays the multiple role of team manager, leader and team doctor.

Zhang Yan originally worked for an Italian company where she organized a football match between her expat colleagues and a local team in Tanggu. She received a lot of positive feedback from her expat colleagues who hoped she could arrange more matches. It motivated Zhang to establish the international soccer team. As time went by, more players joined from countries such as Germany, Poland, Japan, South Korea and Canada. With an average age under 30, most of them are not yet professional footballers and continue to work as teachers and company employees.

More Rational Consumption of Imported Wines

■ 进口葡萄酒降价一成 市民不再盲目追逐高端品牌

曾备受市民追捧的进口葡萄酒今年明显呈下降趋势，个别高档品牌降价30%，平均降幅达10%。记者了解到，进口葡萄酒在本市售价走低的重要原因之一是消费者更趋理性。随着东疆保税港区加快打造进口葡萄酒集散中心以及海伟酒类交易市场在天津港保税区落户，让更多市民近距离了解进口葡萄酒。与过去消费者追逐高档品牌相比，目前100元至200元区间的进口葡萄酒正受到更多市民青睐。



The price of imported wines have been declining this year with an average reduction of 10%. For some high-end brands, the price has dropped 30%.

One of the main reasons for this is due to the change in consumer's attitude towards imported wines. As consumers become more knowledgeable about wine, their consumption is becoming more discerning. In the last two years, the imported wine distribution center in Dongjiang Port Free Trade Zone has been established and the Hai Wei Alcohol Trade Market has been created in the Tianjin Port Free Trade Zone. Local people now have the chance to learn more about imported wines than ever before. According to a source from Hai Wei Alcohol Trade Market, wines in the price range 100 to 200 RMB are the most popular options in Tianjin. In the past people were more likely to buy expensive wines but this seems to be changing.

龙腾盛世

Best wishes in 2013 Spring Festival

2013的春节，爱您一生的福气

福

Blessing: eight treasure rice is an everlasting tradition for Spring Festival

禄

Fortune: red bean sponge cake is also called "Fortune with blooming flowers"

喜

Longevity: A peach-shaped birthday cake can exorcise evil spirits and lead to a longer life

喜

Happiness: auspicious calendar, 2013 notebook, and 300RMB voucher

喜

268RMB/Set
Value for money!

238RMB/Set if book before Jan. 10 2013
Till Feb.24, 2013, limited availability, and hand-made manufacture takes time, so please book in advance for two sets or more.

More than just a label "Made in China"

by Chao Lee



“中国制造”不只是个标签

英国广播公司（BBC）最著名的新闻主持人之一，George Alagiah先生近期来到天津惠灵顿国际学校，进行为期一天的跟踪采访。据悉，此次访华的主要目的是为制作纪录片收集素材，通过英国广播公司电视频道向英国观众宣传西方教育体系和方式在中国的发展情况，下一站整个制作团队将赶赴中国杭州。作为西方主流媒体的资深新闻工作者George先生畅谈天津印象以及中国未来经济发展的无限可能性：“中国有可能在今后10年内，发展成为世界金融中心，所以西方观众有必要对中国有所了解。”

Mr. George Alagiah, one of the most famous BBC anchors, arrived with his work team from London at Wellington College International Tianjin on November 6. They came to Wellington to report on the increasing demand for British public school-style education in China, which emphasizes creativity and inquiry.

Another reason Mr. Alagiah came to China for the first time was to cover the leadership handover for the BBC, in addition to conducting a series of reports on the relationship between China and the UK.

The Six O'Clock News has been on air

since 1984 and is watched by an average of 4.2m viewers a day. George started presenting the bulletin in January 2003. He also presents World News Today on BBC World, the BBC's international news television channel. Prior to joining the Six O'Clock News he was one of the BBC's leading foreign correspondents, notably as a specialist on Africa and the developing world.

What is the point of your visit to Tianjin at this time?

The whole trip to China for us is obvious, there is a transition of leadership here in China. This comes at a very interesting time because of the election in America.

On Nov. 6, we had the election in America, on Nov. 7 we got the results of that election and on Nov. 8 The Chinese National Congress started.

In two weeks we have two different leadership processes going on in the world. From the British point of view, we have always traditionally looked west. They looked west across the Atlantic. Really the one and only reason I am here is because, in the future, all people from Europe are going to have to look east to China as well.

The new leadership in China will stay in power for 10 years. When that period ends, by that time, China may well be the world's biggest economy. Certainly, it will be a powerhouse in the global economy. So it is quite important for the millions of viewers in Britain to get to understand what China is about.

As you know, we see the label "Made in China" all the time in England, such as on washing machines and clothes etc. But beyond that, what does "Made in China" really mean? Who makes things in China? Therefore, we are not only doing the story of the transition leadership, we also want to educate our audience back in the UK about China.

What's your comment about Wellington College International Tianjin?

It is very interesting for British audiences. We think of China as a country a long way away and we don't really understand. When you come to Tianjin, you see that they are very interested in the British way of doing things, such as education.

This is one of those examples that can educate British audiences to realise that China is not a threat and Chinese people are interested in our way of learning and education.

What would you like to say to those



Talking with a Wellington student

parents who intend to send their kids to a British school in Tianjin in the future?

What can I tell you is that when I interviewed some of the students at Wellington, especially those students who used to study in Chinese schools, what they told me is that the education here in local schools is good but it is high-pressured. It is about tests every day and teachers do a lot of talking. What the parents are going to find out here is that there is less pressure. So I talked to one young student today who told me that in his spare time he built a robot that can solve the Rubik Cube in less than 2 minutes. That would be impossible if he studied at a local school.

Actually, we also interviewed a smart little kid named Mimi in Wellington College Tianjin in the morning. She is very talented as a pianist and performed in London. Therefore, there is already a connection between the British audience and this wonderful little pianist.

Before you set up the plan to visit Wellington College in Tianjin, did you have any idea about this northern city in China?

No, honestly, I had heard about Beijing and Shanghai but I hadn't heard about Tianjin. When I got off the bullet train, I discovered that Tianjin is huge. We think London is a big city but these cities in China seem far bigger.

What's the impression about Tianjin so far?



George Alagiah with Wellington Headmaster

Tianjin Through The Generations

By Paula Taylor

最令人怀念的时光

对大多数外国人来说，他们经历的天津是快速发展中的天津。当然，天津并非一直如此。很多外国人来到中国是因为曾经读过一些历史书籍才对中国产生了兴趣。那么50年前的天津是什么样的？

我们采访了王家两代人。老王夫妇出生在上世纪三十年代，经历了新中国解放、唐山大地震和物资匮乏的年代。他们没有轰轰烈烈的人生，却相濡以沫五十余载。他们的儿子小王经历了清贫但快乐的童年，如今对自己的儿子也能保持平常心。

他们都非常怀念过去缺少物欲刺激的年代和简单亲密的人际关系。那种大杂院里的喜怒哀乐现在再也体会不到了。所以，人们的快乐并非来自物质的丰富。但是，时代的发展确实让生活变得更加便利，所以我们也无法回头再过以前的生活了。

For those of you that have lived here for some time and get out and about in the city, you will have seen first hand the rapid development of Tianjin. Indeed since I came here four years ago Tianjin has changed almost beyond recognition.

What must life have been like 10, 20 or 50 years ago. We can study history and look at some of the old buildings to get a glimpse of the past, but by far the best way to have an insight on this is to look through the eyes of the older generation of Tianjiners and find out what life was like back then. No doubt things were hard. Tianjin neither had the money nor the investment by outside parties as did Beijing. Many Tianjiners lived very basic lives, in fact back then, at the time of China's

momentous change, anyone with money was viewed as undesirable. A friend's grandmother who came from a privileged background found that the tables had indeed turned when she wanted to get married. At that time it was fashionable, no a requirement that all people be the same. Her background and family status went from being very high, to very low and there were not many suitors. Where once upon a time her wealth would have meant a steady stream of suitors beating a path to her door, it now repelled them.

Another friend's mother and father are extremely short in height, this is not the normal Asian short stature. They are diminutive even for Chinese people. Her mother explained that because their families

were so poor, when their mothers were pregnant they didn't get sufficient nutrients through the food they were eating so many babies born back then were underdeveloped and underweight. I can't stand how people here order much more food than they can eat in restaurants and then waste it. Chinese people explain that people were so poor in the past, but now they don't have this problem and don't have to worry about where the next meal is coming from, so to waste food shows they have money. Sometimes when after having eaten with friends I survey the vast amount of food still left on the table and say "Let's get a doggy bag", they are embarrassed and say "Just leave it, it doesn't matter".

I fear that with the city's rapid

development, many of the features of the past will be eradicated and the only places to see them will be gu wen hua jie and wu da dao, everything else will be just a distant memory for the older ones with younger Tianjiners not even aware of their city's roots then continue. There seems to a "Off with the old, on with the new" mentality. Many of the hutongs are disappearing and are being replaced with shiny, new tall buildings many with no character at all. The older generation do not seem to in mourning for the old Tianjin, they also celebrate the city's rebirth.

We interviewed a family to find out what life was like in the old days in Tianjin. Wang Chang Nian, the father, Wang Cui Lian, the mother and Wang Wei the son. Wang Chang

Nian was born in 1936, and Wang Cui Lian was born 1938, they are both from Shanxi. Wang Cui Lian, came to Tianjin before China was liberated to work. In 1949 Mao Zedong at Tiananmen announced that "The People's Republic of China has been established, Chinese people are their own masters". As you know this heralded great change for China and at that time people were confident, the national fervour was running high. Wang Chang Nian was already here in Tianjin. He had a problem and so it was difficult for him to marry - he was considered too tall, at 1.8metres he was viewed with suspicion. Eventually someone from his hometown and who he worked with said "If you are willing to become my son, I am willing to give you my

daughter. Wang Chang Nian agreed and thus the marriage deal was sealed.

Love was very different back then, nowadays there are couples openly displaying affection for each other on the streets, in the parks, even in the bus shelters. When Wang Wei's parents met, these tactile displays were unheard of. However that is not to say that theirs is not a true love story. If they were to sum up their time together, they would tell you that they have never had a cross word. In those days marriages were built to last, and although it would be impossible for them to tell each other they love each other, they show that they really care for each other in other ways. Their son had never seen them openly display affection for each other.

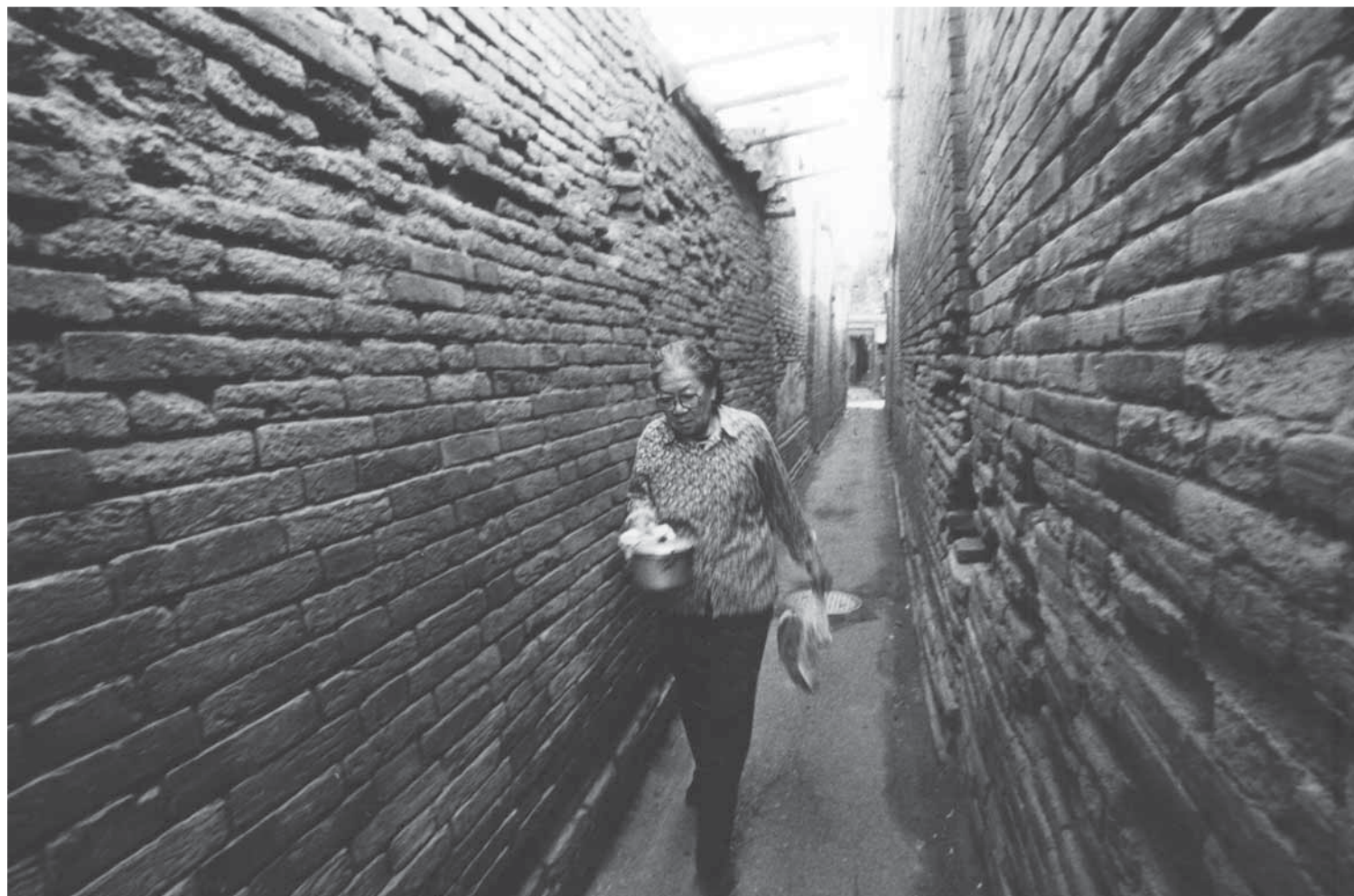


photo by Zhang Jian

An old lady passing a narrow hutong with local breakfast



Mr. and Mrs. Wang's wedding photo in front of the Tian An Men Square

Wang Wei again tells us how he envies his parents' marriage. He feels that today it is very difficult to understand the kind of loyal love that his parents have, and although they are so undemonstrative, he was amazed that when his father was sick, his mother accompanied him in the hospital from the time it opened, to the time it closed. Nothing unusual about that, most wives would do that if they could, but what Wang Wei was amazed to see, was that his mother never let go of his father's hand, she kept fast hold of it and repeated over and over "I am afraid you will die, I don't want you to die". Prior to this Wang Wei had never seen any displays of affection between his parents before and when his father was released from the hospital, they went back to their usual quiet relationship, not touching each other, nor even speaking much to each other. Wang Wei says "I can't even understand how they have lived together all these years, so quietly, side by side, I can't understand it but I envy them their peace and harmony. Most people like the hong hong lie lie kind of life, but my parents are xiang ru yi mo". He has used two idioms, hong means blast or explosion and lie means fiery, ardent.

Xiangruyimo literally means to moisten with saliva, but the meaning is sharing meagre resources/mutual help in humble circumstances, you get the picture. Lots of old people here have hobbies, some of them go dancing in the parks at night, but when I asked about their hobbies, I was told that Wang Cui Lian was too busy looking after her husband. As long as his health was okay, she was happy. They don't go out much, preferring instead to stay inside with just each other for company. They have now been married 50 years – obviously their marriage philosophy works, but then again they are from a different era. In those days nobody got divorced, it was unthinkable. Any problems that they faced as a family were to be faced together.

Weddings were much more simple in those days too. They simply got married but there was no reception, and their honeymoon consisted of a trip to Beijing. Although the world is a much smaller place now, there of course was no fast train to take them from Tianjin to Beijing, the train that took them was much slower, so Beijing seemed much further away. They thought it a great adventure to stand before the Forbidden Palace, two

newlyweds at their start of their life together, at the start of the new China, two tremendous changes for a young couple to face. The weddings these days are extravagant affairs, there are the expensive photo albums to arrange, the fleet of red cars, the fireworks and that is aside from the reception itself. This family are slightly different in that they are devout Catholics. In those times no doubt it was not popular to have a faith but they followed it nevertheless. Consequently they always wanted a proper wedding and as you can see from the picture, many years later Wang Cui Lian achieved her dream to have a proper wedding and wear a wedding dress. This picture capturing those memories is a treasured possession. I find it very moving when you consider what some people have as dreams. All she wanted was to recapture the moment when she pledged herself to her husband.

She worked as a doctor and her husband worked as a university teacher – these are considered to be good jobs nowadays but back then there was no special status accorded to educated persons, in fact it was the peasants and farmers that were the important ones back then. Therefore their salaries were quite modest, as a university teacher he earned 55 yuan per month. Obviously people were a lot more satisfied with their lives in those days as almost everybody was in the same boat, there was no trying to keep up with the neighbours materially speaking, as the neighbours didn't necessary have anything that others felt that they too had to acquire. The salaries they earned, although did not allow for any luxuries, were sufficient for their needs.

Giving birth was yet another experience that was different. Nowadays women that have children are generally all given



The Wang's old photo



Finally had the wedding photo shot 50 years later.

caesarians. There are several reasons for this, it means that the delivery time can be controlled so women are given an appointment to give birth. The sheer number of people here means that everything has to take place as quickly as possible in order to make room for the next set of pregnant women waiting. Chinese women do not like pain, so they welcome this arrangement. I personally think that Chinese women are so slightly built and so slim that natural childbirth would not be easy anyway. Back then Caesarians were only an option for women that had trouble giving birth, and it was a matter of pride to deliver the baby with as least assistance as possible. Women were a lot stronger back then, which is amazing considering they had less food to eat and none of the modern conveniences we have. I suppose the pollution and pesticides we have these days are responsible for our food not having as much nutrition.

The Son

Wang Wei himself did not follow their faith and when he grew up and got married, his parents were disappointed that he went through a divorce. They told him "You should join our religion because Catholics do not get divorced". He decided they were right and in 2007 converted to this faith, after which he met his second wife, also a practising Catholic. He says "I can relax and not worry that my wife will leave me as she also does not believe in divorce". This second marriage was also a modest affair as he has learned from his parents' example that what is needed to have a successful marriage is not a lot of money, and it is not a showy display of wealth that some weddings are. He didn't have a lavish reception, or the red cars etc., he just invited

the few friends that had helped to arrange things to eat with them.

Wang Wei told me he clearly remembers when his parents started smoking and drinking, it was after the earthquake of 1976. Everybody slept under the bed in case of a recurrence, but there was no room under the bed for his parents so they were so nervous that they tried to relax themselves by imbibing before sleeping. Incidentally, the women that usually smoke in China are those of the older generation, 60 years and up, although some young women have started they are generally regarded as rebels.

In those days everybody knew their neighbours, an easy thing as everybody lived in a courtyard with several other families. The children seemed to be regarded as community responsibility and at meal times would be regularly fed by whoever happened to be dishing up the food. Wang Wei fondly remembers his neighbour's cooking was much better than that of his parents as the neighbour added a lot of oil to their food, which is considered to make the food more delicious. Therefore at mealtimes many children presented themselves for feeding. The neighbour wished to confirm who was who, as if she had argued with a particular family, she would not feed their children. Once as usual she asked "What's your surname?" Wang Wei answered "My name is Wang", the neighbour told him to get out. Then she asked the next child who said "My name is Zhang", the neighbour welcomed him to eat, obviously there was no problem with his parents. However arguments were over small things like somebody putting their cabbages in the public part of the courtyard, thereby preventing everybody else from using the space. How different from today when nobody cares about anybody else. Wang Wei noted that today when people argue with

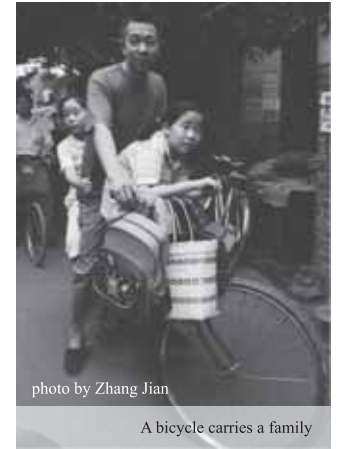


photo by Zhang Jian

A bicycle carries a family

others, it is often violent and the police have to become involved.

I think it must have been nice to have this kind of close relationship with one's neighbours, my habit is to offer a greeting to the people I meet on the stairs to my block, but sometimes people just ignore me, or if I am on the stairs and see someone trying to open the door, they are flustered and try to get in before I reach them. Maybe it is because I am a foreigner and they are afraid. Wang Wei also laments the change in the dynamics of neighbour relations. He has lived at his present house for 6 years but does not know his neighbours. He is on greeting terms with an elderly neighbour from downstairs, but that is all. When his own son was born he took him to show the neighbour, but in the old days the whole compound would have been delighted to celebrate the birth of a child.



photo by Zhang Jian

A wedding banquet in the hutong

FEATURE

Now he has his own child, no doubt he will contrast it with his own childhood. I told him I know that children here have lot of pressure on them, particularly when it comes to schoolwork. One mother told me "Of course we have to give our children lots of pressure, if other people's children get good exam results and my child does not I will really lose face". However Wang Wei begged to differ, he said "I don't think children today have more pressure than what I had, I think I had a lot of pressure when I was young. The school environment these days makes studying very easy. My son is just a year and a half old but he already knows how to say some English words. Also I can help my son to do things, such as buy a house when he needs it. Today's children do not have to worry about getting enough to eat, they can eat and sleep well, isn't that a good thing? They don't have to worry about money, that is the parents job. They have a lot of things we did not have, they have mobile phones and computers, they are a lot of things they can do for entertainment. When I stayed in the countryside I saw that the children there did not receive any pampering from their parents, they had to go to school by themselves, and sometimes this meant using the mountain roads. These days, as long as the children eat and sleep on time and as long as they do not wet the bed, their parents really praise them. When I was young I had to do a lot of things to get the same kind of praise. Children get so much from their parents but I personally do not want my child to lean on me forever. Of course I will pay his schools fees and provide financial support when he gets married and help him buy a house, but when he is an adult he must not rely on me too much, after all when I die, who is going to support him then? As far as children having pressure to do well in their studies is concerned, this competition is not between the children, it is between the parents, they are the competitive ones. For instance my wife wanted to take our son to a meeting and the first thing she thought about was what to put on our child, because there his clothing must be of the same standard as the other children, it cannot be of a poorer quality. Even things like the boxes of baby milk formula are inspected very carefully. Everyone wants to know whose child has the best test marks, whose child studies the best etc. Children are innocent, they don't really care about these things".

When I put it to him that I thought women were stronger in those days, he disagreed with me, he thinks that women these days are strong, but in a different way, not physically but emotionally and mentally. These days women do not need to rely on their husbands so much, they can do things for themselves. However he acknowledges that as his wife has gone through childbirth he now thinks that women are capable of anything. I think most women

would agree that if men had to go through childbirth perhaps we humans as a species would die out!

Wang Wei feels that it is much harder to bring up children now. In the old days people had many children and the older children helped to look after the younger ones. These days parents have one thing on their minds and that is to make money. The reason for this is that everything needs money whereas back then people's expectations and requirements were much lower. Now we need to buy many things for our children. We have to give our children things we did not have when growing up, we have to buy the best clothes, the best toys etc". I asked him if he agreed that people's attitude to money is different now and he agreed, he said "After I had my child I started to think that money is really really important. We can do anything with money, sometimes just working hard is not enough. Before, everybody was the same and nobody had more than

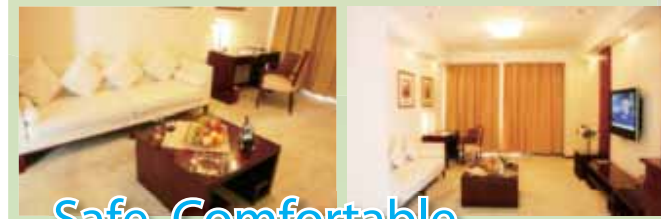
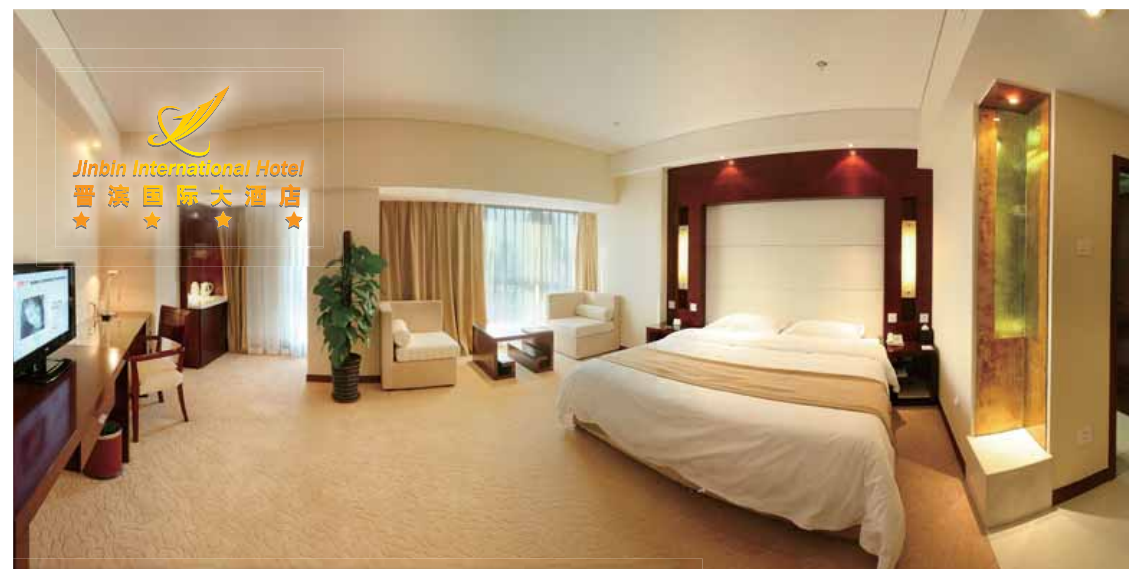
anybody else, but it is different today, there are so many things that we want to buy.

The surprising thing is that if you ask your parents if they prefer their lives now or back then, they will probably tell you that when they were young, things were much better, everybody knew their neighbours, there was not so much crime, people had more time for each other and although everybody was poorer they were still happy. However if you ask the older generation in Tianjin which days are best, they will tell you that their lives are much better now and the first reason they say it is better is because everybody has enough to eat and. Doesn't that tell us a lot about humans? We don't actually need much in the way of material possessions, just enough to eat, clothes to wear and somewhere to live. A wise man once said "Give me neither poverty nor riches". It is a shame that these days we are defined as a person by what we have and not by who we are.



photo by Zhang Jian

Sweet childhood memory in hutongs



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MBA in China, Career or Corruption

By Parker Barriball

选择商学院的理由

如今，国内外工商管理硕士（MBA）课程越办越红火。人们选择就读MBA的理由各不相同。在有些人看来，报考MBA就是晋身到管理阶层的一块垫脚石，同时对自身未来的规划和发展都是一个质的飞跃。其中，大部分报考MBA的学生都有转职业倾向。而且，关于读MBA的目的，有人说，“我不在乎谁能成为我的老师，而是谁会成为我的同学和朋友。”在学习的同时，还交到朋友固然重要，也不排除寻找到生意伙伴的可能性，因为学生在学习交流中成为了一生的朋友，合作也是正常的。但是，这并不是校方办学的主要目的。通过在一起共同学习，从而在同学之间、同学和老师之间可以结合理论和实践一起分享管理经验才是选择商学院继续学习的主要任务。

It's said that the US Senate is the most exclusive men's club in the world. That maybe true but a close second must be the elite business school's of China. The main advantage there is that in addition to powerful male classmates, you will find beautiful female classmates in the mix. People pursue higher education for different reasons and depending on the kind of school you attend your experience and career path afterwards can be vastly different. So what does having an MBA from a Chinese business school mean versus being a Westerner coming into China with an MBA from a Western school?

If one was to make a shortlist of hot

topics that both Westerners and Chinese are concerned about, education (and the careers available as a result) would have to be in the top five. As the world is trying to come out of the hangover that was and is the global economic slowdown many people, young and not so young, are looking around at what to do to advance their career. For many of my university classmates that answer came in the form of hiding out in grad school in the US until things pick back up, for me it meant coming to China to carve out my piece of the pie. While there are plenty of examples of successful entrepreneurs who never went to university, or obtained an advanced degree

like an MBA from a prestigious University, education is important regardless of your home country. One staple of professionals the world over has been the MBA (Master's of Business Administration). It represents a significant investment of both money and time, but what is the return on that investment? What many schools use in promoting their MBA programs is not the curriculum itself but the attractiveness of the degree to future employers, the network offered through alumni, and in some cases, the playboy atmosphere found in top tier schools, though the last bit may not make it into the brochure.

Let's take a quick look at the numbers, which may give us one side of the equation. According to the US-based Executive MBA Council in 2011 the average global tuition fee for an EMBA (Executive MBA) program was \$73,000. Some business schools, like Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business in Beijing, can take it up to the \$100k range. That's not to mention the opportunity cost which could be as much as \$140,000 if you choose to study for two years instead of working. But maybe you choose away from a full time degree at a top tier school, and go for a part time program. Then you are looking at very little opportunity cost because you can work and study simultaneously, but the prestige (which remember is a big selling point of an MBA) might be diminished by going to a mid-tier school, or choosing distance learning. And remember that there are plenty of employers who are willing to foot the bill for your education which drops the cost to zero. Each path has its own return based on a very specific set of conditions, so numbers may not be enough to really evaluate the utility of an MBA.

So what do you get from an MBA program. Knowledge, a new skill set, upward job mobility, and at least in theory a larger network of business contacts than you would otherwise not have. Another aspect of having an MBA on your CV is that it signals certain things to future employers, for example, that you can learn at a higher level, and that you are motivated to advance your own career. These signals may not always work in your favor. Some employers may see you as too expensive or even a threat to their own job if you look good enough on paper. Obviously you should not decide against an MBA because some HR director has an inferiority complex, but having an MBA could make certain companies see you as overqualified.

One of the biggest parts of the MBA debate is how valuable it is to your career versus years of experience in a given field.



There is no hard and fast answer to this because it will depend highly upon your situation and your potential employer's requirements. Western companies are more likely to focus on skill sets (regardless of where you pick them up) and experience over a piece of paper that says you are a businessman. In China credentials matter, to the point that if a high school grad can't make it into one of the top nine Chinese universities, some families will regard the last 18 years as a failure. We spoke earlier of the high price of an EMBA from Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business; the university boasts some impressive alumni, in fact over 75% of their enrollees held positions of Vice President in their respective companies before starting their MBA. Whether its high level government leaders or chairmen of large enterprises, alumni of China's top business schools share one thing in common, they are all rich. Students at these institutions often bring many years of business experience with them and build on an existing skill set. But more often than not, curriculum is not a large selling point. Many students come to these institutions because of the prestige and networking (ie guanxi) that comes with the MBA of a top tier Chinese business school, but there are other benefits to attending such

an exclusive club, like the coeds. Increasingly, scandal is being associated with schools like Cheung Kong because of the extracurricular activities of their high profile alumni.

If you follow the pulse of the Chinese blogosphere in regards to these schools, the impression is that they are less for education and more a rendezvous point of the beautiful, powerful, and rich of China. Cheung Kong came under scrutiny recently when Wang Shi, a 61 year old property developer, and alumnus eloped with actress Tian Pujun, a fellow classmate. If James Brown is to be believed, this is a man's world, and when the Chinese see the high-powered men's club of elite business schools, it does not play real well with the common man. There is already plenty of angst about the growing income gap in China. However, from the perspective of those attending these schools it's a one stop shop, in two years you can gain prestige, an impressive network, and with a bit of charm (or money) find true love. So maybe an MBA means different things in different places. It's certainly not a decision to be made without a bit of research and reflection about one's career goals.

For most Westerners in China the top MBA and EMBA programs will be out of reach due to language barriers. However, long

distance learning and part time online coursework is a very popular option for those seeking the skills more than the prestige of the MBA. There are plenty of options on the table and even if you aren't one of the elite hobnobbing in Beijing, an MBA may be the right career move for you to advance yourself, either here in China or back home in the West.



Paid your Dues in China? You will!

好汉不提当年勇

不管你过去有多少年工作经验，来到中国后你都要重头开始。所以，你的第一份工作基本可以当做培训的过程。语言和文化是你需要翻越的两座大山。

你不要指望公司会为你安排专门的培训，你的老板也不会手把手地教你。所以你必须抓住一切可以学习的机会，充分地融入你的团队，在工作和人际交往中慢慢观察、体会和学习。有很多工作中的小事都是不容忽略的细节，比如中国的节假日、写商务信函使用的措辞、以及中国严格的等级制度。

In last month's article we arrived at the point where you caught employers' attention and hopefully you're now on your first job in China. Let's start climbing the career ladder. The rule of thumb in China as it is everywhere else is that the first job is usually more about training than anything else. The first job in China takes you back to that point even if you've already had ten jobs back home!

Even if you've got twenty years of experience! Even if you've just got an executive job! That's just it; everything about working in China is very different; from the market to the regulations to the culture all the way to the customers themselves. So try to grasp everything you can from everybody

you meet. On the other hand, don't expect a real training course to be handed over to you and certainly don't expect your supervisor or your colleagues to feed you with a golden spoon.

They will expect you to learn by doing and to hit the ground running. There's just no time for that "non-sense" here! It's all about action. Develop a new product, reach a new client, close one more deal and cut some of that cost. You just have to start applying yourself to the job and to watch your colleagues, superiors and even your subordinates to learn from them.

It certainly helps if your team likes you. Try to reach out to them and avoid the pitfall that most expats fall in. Do not build your



own bubble and live in it. Try to talk to them now and then. Have lunch together. Go out every couple of weeks with your Chinese friends and colleagues as frequently as you go out with expats.

It might be more difficult sometimes because of the language barrier. However, if you're working at a company and your Chinese skills are not up to a usable standard, then I can safely assume that your Chinese colleagues can speak at least some English or you wouldn't be very useful amongst them.

The language barrier in the workplace might cause some communication issues that can strain information transmission and waste time. Outside work, it's usually something Chinese and expats laugh at and just exchange vocabulary so it would help you learn Chinese faster than if your Chinese friends have perfect English skills.

When you first accept the job, be sure to note these things. Try to get the vibe of the place before taking the job. If you're lucky enough to find a team that will be welcoming you onboard and will give you the "Chinese Business for Dummies" crash course, you'll be blessed with an awarding job and possibly a great start to your career in China.

This doesn't mean of course that everything you've done before coming to China has gone in vain. The fundamentals are the same and basic practices of business are the same in all cultures and ages. What's different is how to put your skills in action and to get the best out of the situation. Technical skills will always be the same wherever you go. It's the personal and situation skills that will need to be reviewed.

There's one issue that I just want to point out since I mentioned learning the Chinese language from your friends. Well, frankly it's not very easy. I've been here for two years now and I'm not a speaker yet. I hardly distinguish some words when people are talking in front of me and for some reason it's even more difficult when they are talking TO me!

However, this doesn't make it right to just ignore the whole thing. If at first you fail, try again. If you quit a class, think about hiring a teacher. If that doesn't work, buy a book or an online course. Try to find what will work for you and at least try to get SOME Chinese language skills.

As far as cultures and languages go, China has some of the richest, oldest and most complicated ones and although you can get by without learning Chinese, it will just make your life more difficult. I know because a trip to the supermarket for me is something that I have to plan and the translator is the most frequently used application on my phone. When the battery dies on me, part of me dies with it. You can avoid that if you try and learn even the basics.

Integrating into a culture starts with getting involved in it, learning the language and understanding the cultural norms. These norms should be navigated with the utmost care in China since as a western expat, you probably have no idea what a Chinese would do in certain situations so we'll try to cover some of these etiquette norms here.

Starting with the basics; you're new in China and just got your first job here so you need to take note of the Chinese calendar. You have to plan your meetings considering the Chinese New Year (Jan-Feb), National Week (Sep-Oct) and the many holidays you probably never heard about. Check an online Chinese calendar and keep it handy.

Another basic is the language; you don't want to write something in Chinese to find that you've written something meaningless or even insulting! If your Chinese isn't up to business level, ask for a professional translation or get a friend to proof-read it for you. Another mistake is relying completely on machine (computer/internet) translation. It's OK for a few words but it mis-translates some words because there are many Chinese characters that have multiple meanings.

It's also a good idea to have your

important documents (contracts, brochures, price lists, specification sheets, etc.) translated to Chinese because of different language skills of people you're dealing with. One very nice touch from your side would be translating your business card and maybe even getting yourself a Chinese name!

Yes, you can ask a friend to help you pick a Chinese name or you can at least make yours easier! Here's how: If your name is John, Adam or Jane, you're OK but if your name is Anderson, Jennifer or Samantha you can use your shortened form; Andy, Jenny or Sam. You can then find the Chinese characters that sound like those names and use them. Just ask someone to read them and help you choose so you make sure the literal meaning of these characters isn't funny or offensive.

Some things are common everywhere. At meetings you're expected to wear business or business-casual attire (at least a neat shirt and pants) and try to beat the common rush hours and be on time. Handshakes and eye contact are common as well. One different thing here is handling business cards. You have to give them with care, to hold them with both hands and treat them with respect. Always call Chinese peers with their last names unless you're good friends or you're using their English names (which they use as a favor for foreigner convenience, which is why we have to return the same favor).

Always pay attention to hierarchy in China. It's a culture that places importance on age, precedence and position. At business meetings, make sure you address a senior figure with the required respect. You should of

course respect everybody but the way you talk to a senior figure is seen as an important step to socializing with them. If addressing a company's president for example, it's common in China for him/her to be addressed "President DongFeng" while Mr., Miss, and Mrs. are common when addressing colleagues and subordinates.

When meeting with another company, it's important to designate your team/delegation leader. He/she has to present the team to the host/guest team and to delegate the roles. Avoid the urge to "steal the show"; in China it signals disorganization instead of the creativity it might show in western cultures.

How to choose a business gift in China? What do you do at Chinese business meals? How to deal with arguments and ugly racism situations? 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.

Send comments & questions to Moe ELGHAREEB via email moghareeb@gmail.com



Fisker revenue nears \$200 million

Troubled electric carmaker Fisker is expecting to generate around \$200 million in 2012 revenue, Fortune has learned from multiple sources.

It's a decent figure considering that the five-year-old company only began delivering actual vehicles in July 2011. But it's also well short of what the company was promising prospective investors. For example, one source tells me that documents circulated last November by defunct broker-dealer Advanced Equities projected around \$1.2 billion in 2012 sales. A subsequent projection from this past February had cut that figure to \$400 million.

For contrast, rival Tesla Motors (TSLA) reports revenue of

just \$106 million through the first nine months of 2012 (although Q4 is expected to be its biggest quarter by far). Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk also said recently that the company's cash-flow turned positive in the last week of November.

Fisker spokesman Roger Ormisher declined to confirm the revenue figures, but did say that the company took issue with a recent Wall Street Journal article about the companies financial options. For example, he says that the company's board did not review "the option of seeking bankruptcy protection" as the WSJ claimed. He also stressed that Fisker had hired investment bank Evercore Partners to find a strategic partner, and not to find a buyer.

What about food inflation, Bernanke?

In an unusual move, the U.S. Federal Reserve last week signaled it would put its focus on jobs ahead of inflation next year by buying up billions of dollars worth of bonds until the unemployment rate falls to at least 6.5%. The central bank's announcement was a relief for the jobless, as the employment picture has failed to improve much since the Great Recession formally ended more than three years ago.

But while the Fed moves on with its bond bonanza assuming rapidly rising prices won't be a problem, or at least not any time soon, it will be hard to convince shoppers at the grocery aisle.

Next year, officials plan to purchase \$85 billion of mortgage-backed securities and Treasury securities each month,

part of a continuing drive to push down long-term interest rates to boost borrowing, spending and investing. What's unexpected is that, for the first time, the Fed disclosed an unemployment rate it wants to reach before letting short-term interest rates rise again.

What this means is that the Fed's other job -- controlling inflation -- will take a backseat. The central bank generally likes to keep inflation below 2%, but last Wednesday policymakers indicated consumers might have to briefly live with prices rising a tad higher. If unemployment stays too high, officials said they were willing to tolerate inflation of up to 2.5% for a short period as long as it remains close to 2% in the long run.

Source: money.cnn.com

Disneyland is a work of love. We didn't go into Disneyland just with the idea of making money.

迪士尼是一项爱的工程。我们创办迪士尼，不只是抱着挣钱的想法。—沃尔特·迪斯尼（Walt Disney，美国迪士尼公司创始人）

Everything is on the table except when it comes to quality.

一切都可以讨价还价，但品质除外。—鲍勃·伊格尔（Bob Iger，迪士尼公司 CEO）

There are men who can write poetry, and there are men who can read balance sheets. The men who can read balance sheets cannot write.

有的人能写诗，有的人能读收支平衡表。而能读收支平衡表的人不能写作。—亨利·卢斯（Henry R. Luce，美国记者，《财富》杂志创办人）

conomy the poor man's mints; extravagance the rich man's pitfall.

节约是穷人的造币厂，浪费是富人的陷阱。—马丁·塔珀（Martin Tupper，美国经济学家）

There's a phrase in Buddhism, 'Beginner's mind.' It's wonderful to have a beginner's mind.

佛教中有一句话：初学者的心态。拥有初学者的心态是件了不起的事情。—史蒂夫·乔布斯（Steve Jobs，苹果公司联合创始人）

Source: Fortune China

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Past Event

Factory Visit at Continental Automotive Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.

Time: 05. Dec. 2012

Around 40 persons from Tianjin and Beijing came to Conti Tianjin with the German Chamber of Commerce and spent three hours there getting to know development of Conti in China, their products, company culture and the successful concepts.

Firstly Mr. Hubert Limbrunner, the Plant Manager of Conti Tianjin gave a warm welcome and introduction of Conti to the German Chamber group. After that, the guests put on the uniform and were divided into four groups to discover the well organized workshops. All guests are also impressed from the enthusiasm of the Conti-people to their company.

About the company: Conti Tianjin was founded in year 1995 and belongs to the Continental Automotive Group. It is a Foreign-Owned Enterprise, located in the center of the TEDA industrial zone in Tianjin with more than 1,500 employees and 29K square meters of building area. The main product portfolio covers most fields of automotive electronics including blue tooth systems, radios, engine control units, body control units and transmission control units for both local and international OEMs.





EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

November 29th, 2012

GM Briefing: the Sustainable Leader – Mr. Robert Swan



The European Chamber Tianjin Chapter welcomed a special speaker and guest from Europe for November's GM Briefing event, the Sustainable Leader – Mr. Robert Swan.

Robert Swan, OBE, one of the world's preeminent polar explorers and environmental leaders, is the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles. In 1992, on completion of the walks to both poles, Robert Swan was challenged by world leaders at the first 'World Summit for Sustainable Development' to undertake a ten year global and local environmental mission involving industry, business and young people. Upon the successful completion of the missions, Swan reported back to world leaders at the second World Summit in 2002. Here he committed to a further ten-year mission to inspire youth to become sustainable leaders and promote the use of renewable energy for a sustainable future.

Robert's gave a presentation to more than 30 GMs in house, it focuses on his mission to honour his life-long commitment to preserve Antarctica by engaging, inspiring, and educating young people, educators, and business leaders across the globe to make informed and sustainable decisions for the future. The dramatic story of success, failure, and leadership that evolved out of his expeditions and subsequent transition to global motivator has the power to inspire and uplift any audience. His presentation not only highlights the key elements of successful leadership and what it takes to achieve the impossible, but also raises awareness on the issue of climate change and the importance of people and businesses around the world adopting sustainable, renewable energy practices so that Antarctica will never be exploited for its resources.

Dec.12th, 2012

2012 China Tax Seminar: The Risk Less Taken - Managing Change and Complexity



With the support from PwC, the European Chamber Tianjin Chapter hosted the 2012 tax seminar: "The Risk Less Taken: Managing Change and Complexity" on December 13th, 2012. The business environment has become more uncertain and volatile than last year's. Thus, we will dive deeper into the strategic, financial and operational issues companies are facing and the opportunities to mitigate the risks.

Leading professionals from PwC shared their insights on the trends and developments impacting the taxation of China, the senior official from Goods & Service Section, Tianjin Municipal State Tax Bureau also attended and gave a presentation on the updated policies.

Highlights of this seminar:

- Equity Transfer and Valuation
- Mastering the Transfer Pricing Life Cycle
- Overview of Customs New Developments in year 2012
- Preferential Tax Calculations Applicable to Annual Bonus, Employee Equity Plan Income and Severance Payment
- Managing Indirect Taxes in Tianjin



Past Events

Dialogue with the Tianjin Government & 2012 AmCham China Tianjin Annual Appreciation Dinner

5:30-8:30 PM, Wednesday, December 12 – Renaissance Lakeview Tianjin Hotel

More than 170 AmCham members and officials of Tianjin Government came together recently for the 2012 Annual Appreciation Dinner hosted by AmCham China, Tianjin at Renaissance Lakeview Tianjin Hotel on December 12th.

AmCham China President Christian Murck opened the event by appreciating Tianjin government's support to AmCham over the past years and the attention to AmCham China's White Paper on the government meetings or events. He also highlighted that the member companies' operations are well supported by the local government in 2012.

Mr. He Ronglin, Vice President of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference acknowledged the efforts from both the government and the business community, and he is pleased by the increasing investment from foreign countries, and particularly from the U.S., and their contribution to the city's economic development. He also emphasized that the American business community and Tianjin government have much to gain from cooperation.

Michael Hart, Chairman of Tianjin Chapter Executive Committee addressed AmCham's willingness to contribute to Tianjin's economic development and transition, including AmCham members' investment in Tianjin and local companies' investment in the US. He also thanked all of the corporate sponsors, which are Alcan Cable (China), Jones Lang LaSalle,



Leadership Development International Inc., Tianjin International School, Motorola Solutions (China) Co., Ltd., Cintas (Tianjin) Enterprise Services Co., Ltd., Taylor Printing Company (Tianjin) Limited, PPG Coatings (Tianjin) Co., Ltd. and United Family Hospital.

AmCham China, Tianjin Chapter's Annual Appreciation Dinner gives attendees the chance to celebrate the mutually beneficial cooperation between the American business community and Tianjin government.



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CHINA'S EXPORTS

by Paula Taylor

中国海外留学生

在英国伦敦这座城市，有许多多不万万里来此求学的中国留学生。众所周知，伦敦的物价偏高，知名大学的学费更是贵的惊人。几年下来，确实是一笔不小的开销。尽管如此，中国父母们还是竭尽全力把孩子送去出国深造，希望将来可以学有所成，前途无量。但是，小留学生们在异国他乡学习和生活中遇到的困难往往出乎家长的预料。而且，成才之路也并非会因为其海外留学经历和背景从此变得一帆风顺。中国父母在决定将孩子送出国门之前，必须把这些因素考虑在内。究竟子女出国留学是势在必行，抑或是家长的一厢情愿？

South East London where I come from has more Chinese people than the whole of England put together. Many of them are students whose parents have sacrificed everything to send them abroad in order to have more opportunities, in the hope that this will lead to

a better life. Your country no doubt has its fair share of Chinese students, as statistics show that, despite the huge cost to a family, the population of overseas Chinese students is increasing in number every year. In fact since 2008 the numbers have been increasing by 20% annually. In 2011 the number of



students studying abroad reached a staggering 339,700.

It is extremely expensive to study in an English university, in fact the number of British students fell by 10% this year as many felt that the burden was too great. The majority of students have to fund their courses themselves as, unless the parents are wealthy or have equity that they can use, students have to get a bank loan for themselves and then they are subjected to years of debt. Upon graduating many find that they cannot get a suitable job.

The reality is that most people do not go to university, they leave school at 16 and get a job. The training they get on the job better equips them to cope in a competitive job market. Also due to their youth, they are attractive to companies as they do not have to pay them a high salary at first, and they are malleable and easy to train. Contrast that with a university graduate who is much older with no work experience but who expects a salary commensurate to their degree, and it becomes obvious who is more attractive to a lot of companies. In England ability is the most important thing and a university degree is no guarantee of that, or of common sense. Consequently the number of graduates forced to take menial jobs is worryingly high, and it must be heart breaking for them and their parents that after years of studying and after incurring huge debt, sometimes the only jobs

they can get are as cleaners, rubbish collectors labourers and shelf stackers. Figures show that the amount of graduates taking on these kinds of job has almost doubled in five years. Others have taken on such jobs as caretakers, road sweepers, odd-job workers, hotel porters and door-to-door sales people. These are the lucky ones, some even fail to get this kind of work and are unemployed many years after graduating. At the moment the figures for people who graduated in 2010/11, and were still unemployed six months later is believed to be roughly 9 per cent (20,620). Added to this toxic mix is the bad reputation that many students have, i.e. for heavy drinking, bad behaviour and not studying.

What has this got to do with Chinese students? At the moment China has the largest numbers of students in the world studying overseas and many of them are in England. Are they better off for having studied abroad at such prohibitive expense to their parents? Are they able to get a job in England once they have graduated? If they come back to China after graduating what does the job market offer them here?

Many Chinese students arrive in England ill equipped for life there. They seem to know almost nothing about the country, aside from outdated opinions such as it is polluted from the Industrial Revolution. They choose a good university but often find

out that they are not suited to life in that particular city. One student who is studying at Manchester

University told me "I can't stand the weather, it rains every day. My mother came from China to see me and she asked me "When is it going to stop raining?" I told her it never stops raining. The only difference is that in winter the rain is colder". If Chinese students choose London they are shocked at the prices, particularly for accommodation, hence they often find that they have to live several to a room, which obviously makes it difficult for them to study. Locals criticise this habit, as overcrowding makes the places dirty, and these students are used to having everything done for them so are unused to cleaning and maintaining a property. They do not integrate with the locals but generally just stick together with other Chinese people, which means that any incorrect views they hold on the country are perpetuated as there is no-one in their circle to correct them. Their English also just progresses to a certain point and no further. Many fail to finish their degrees and just drop out altogether. I know someone that dropped out after two years and then just stayed in England illegally doing menial jobs.



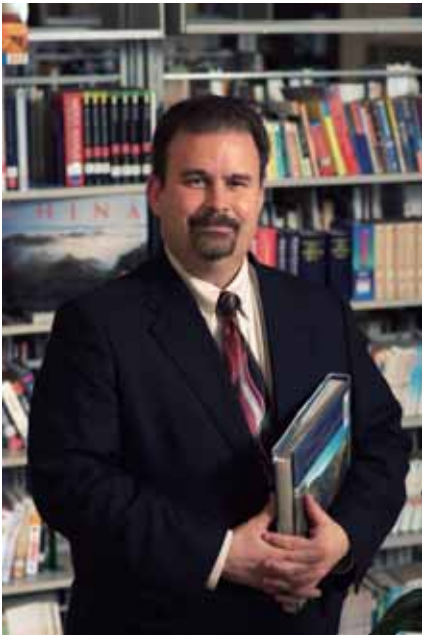
His father worked hard to send him to England. So he could not tell him that he had failed and kept up a pretence that he was doing well. Of course it goes without saying that some do succeed.

Apart from the above, the law in England regarding overseas students has recently changed, making life even harder for them. Previously students who received their undergraduate or graduate degrees from a UK university were entitled to work in the UK for two years after graduating. This policy has now been cancelled so they have to find another way of staying, if that is their wish, or go home.

When they come back to China, some of them receive a nasty shock. They come back with high expectations that companies are lining up to offer them great jobs and big fat salaries, because they have overseas experience. This is not the case and quite often they are criticised because others feel that they are arrogant and condescending. As their English is not necessarily better than someone here that works hard on the language, it is thought that they have no reason to feel superior. There is even a word for them – Turtles, this is a play on words.

As this is the situation, an overseas education is not necessarily a quick route to success, many experts here advise returning students to lower their expectations when searching for a job.

Parents invest a huge outlay thinking that it will be worth it in the long run, as their children will repay the investment by being able to have stellar careers that will enrich the whole family. Of course in the case of some it is possible, but sadly this is not true for the majority. Therefore parents should carefully consider their children's characters and preferences, strengths and weaknesses before entering into the major decision of sending their children abroad to study. As a point of interest, I have a good friend that did not go abroad to study but was educated here and got a job in one of the Big Four blue chip companies. She was headhunted and recruited to work in the London office where she has been for the past 6 years. Hard work and natural ability sometimes triumph over no ability albeit with an overseas degree, parents should consider this before sacrificing their all.



half a dozen balls above a pit of snapping crocodiles. The advantage of these different perspectives helps him to build the consensus that is necessary in the debate on what constitutes a quality educational program.

Mr Azmeh may not have always wanted to be a principal but his interest in becoming an educator began to take shape at a very early age. He was fortunate to have had, in his own words "fantastic teachers", especially when he was a student at an international school in Saudi Arabia. As he explains, the teachers there were not only skilled practitioners in the classroom but they were also wonderful role models that stressed the importance of treating others with respect. It was here he was taught to appreciate cultural diversity and he saw and experienced how teachers can encourage and empower their students.

Satisfaction in your work is very important and Mr Azmeh finds a great source of this in his job. Furthermore, he feels it is incredibly rewarding to work with all the members of the school community in identifying priorities, setting goals, developing plans of actions and then implementing those plans on an annual basis. At quieter times in his

must be comfortable using technology to organize data, to communicate with others, to conduct research and to present ideas. At the same time the school recognizes that technology is a tool and does not replace good teaching or good study skills and habits. In addition to harnessing students' interest in technology the school provides experiences outside the traditional classroom setting through activities such as field trips, sports, performance activities and community service.

The students have access to a variety of technology tools to enhance and support their learning which include a campus-wide wireless network, classroom access to interactive whiteboards and online research databases. Furthermore, it offers courses supported through virtual learning environments using programs such as Moodle, plus other online and school-based technology offerings. The school also has a system called Power School which allows parents to track their child's academic performance and progress. These tools make it easy to check and monitor all students' progress.

The school strongly supports arts education and understands its contribution towards the development of intellectual capacities. Mr Azmeh realises it is important



English conversation club and others.

There are also activities which teach and promote leadership. Some of these include the Teda International School House program, the National Honor Society, the Model United Nations and the Global Issues Network. For creative students, the school offers a range of activities including those related to the visual and performing arts and various Chinese arts and crafts. The school also promotes service learning. Currently, the school sponsors both a student service club and a faculty service committee which is supporting various charity projects in Tianjin and around China.

Mr Azmeh thinks the school's most important achievement has been to evolve from a small, local international school to be

programs, our students and graduates are being accepted to top universities and top college preparatory programs around the world.

Of course the world is always changing and no institution can rest on its laurels. So it is only natural that the school is always thinking ahead and implementing the latest educational tools and ideas. Many tools available to students in today's classroom were not even thought of twenty years again. Mr Azmeh realizes that though the school is fortunate to have a campus which includes adequate classroom space, indoor and outdoor play areas, a gymnasium, a small library and a cafeteria, it is not enough to take it into the future. So the school is looking to further expand its facilities for the school

community.

The current campus, he states, was originally designed as a Chinese primary school and lacks many of the features other K-12 international schools offer. For the future the school requires a modern, purpose-built facility which will allow it to remain the school of choice for foreign families residing in TEDA. That is why the school's strategic plan calls for a new, purpose-built facility to be acquired within the next 5 years. It is always hard to predict how education and technology will change the school experience in the future but Mr Azmeh is sure that Teda International School will be at the forefront.

Fantastic Education Nurtures Wonderful People

By Jim Gibney

Joseph Azmeh, Teda International School's Secondary Principal and Headmaster, is a man of the world in more ways than one. As a child and for much of his adult life, he has lived outside his home country in various regions and countries including the Middle East, Latin America and, now, China. He has seen international schools from a variety of different settings as a student, a teacher, a counselor, a K-12 administrator and as a parent. These experiences have helped him develop a broad perspective that he feels has been an important factor in his success as an international school educator.

This ability to see issues from a variety of perspectives has, he believes, made him a better decision maker and a more effective communicator when addressing the various sectors of the school community. Being a principal is not easy, it can be a balancing act which involves trying to keep all members of the school community happy. It can be like walking a swaying tightrope while juggling

career, he has been able to look back and see the progress that has been made and how that has positively impacted upon individual student learning. Truly, to know that you have made a difference in someone's life is one of the most satisfying aspects of his job.

He explains: TEDA International School recognizes that every young person has something to contribute or can excel in particular areas. Students want to be recognized for their successes. So it is only natural that one of the main goals of the school is to provide opportunities for all students to find that success. When students have the opportunity to achieve success in one area, that event will propel them on to success in other areas. All students therefore are offered a multifaceted approach to learning which includes learning opportunities to help find the areas in which they can discover their special talents.

Education is more than imparting knowledge and the school understands that students live in a digital age and that they

when teaching students to try to understand the world that they live in and that the arts will help them discover something about themselves. The school believes that all students are potential artists and have the capacity to express themselves artistically. Students have many opportunities to discover the artist within themselves and the knowledge that art can be a source of inspiration and a trigger for social transformation.

The school strives to offer an after school activities program that truly supports and enhances the school's mission statement with a wide range of possibilities for students to learn about themselves and to showcase their strengths and talents. Activities are wide ranging in their focus: in athletics, the school competes in a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball, and volleyball, with other international schools in Tianjin, Beijing and around China. The school also offers various personal interest activities include chess, swimming, badminton, table tennis, an

one that is known and recognized internationally. This has been accomplished through international accreditation and the development of several internationally-recognized programs which are offered by the school. An example is the partnership the school has recently established with the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at Johns Hopkins University in the United States. This partnership allows academically gifted primary students to be provided with access to special CTY programs.

The school has also establishing an outstanding Advanced Placement program which offers high school students the opportunity to earn university-level credits through taking advanced placement level classes. The school is also the only international school in Tianjin to be offering a fast-track diploma program which allows top students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma in just three years rather than the usual four. As a result of these exceptional





Hopeland New Year Celebration Party

中国的传统节日元旦即将来临，华兰国际幼稚园的外籍教师将会和小朋友们一起体验过中国新年的快乐。她们一起剪窗花，挂灯笼，包饺子，做汤元。通过这些活动体现出中国的传统文化，同时，也传递出和平友爱的节日主题。过中国新年也逐渐成为中西方文化交流的桥梁，并成为了世界的新年。

Since the traditional Chinese festival, New Year's Day, is approaching, foreign teachers from Hopeland International Kindergarten celebrated with children by making paper cuttings for window decorations, making dumplings and sweet dumplings. Through these traditional activities that reflect Chinese culture, the celebration delivered the theme of peace and love. Gradually, Chinese New Year is turning out to be the bridge of communication between east and west.

2013



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Not Music to My Ears

by Paula Taylor

是流行金曲还是精神折磨？

为什么《江南style》会那么红，成为Youtube上点击率最高的关键词？全世界的网友都在模仿鸟叔的骑马舞并将其发扬光大。我向中国朋友，为什么《江南style》能在中国走红。她说，很多人其实是对骑马舞感兴趣，因为它简单，容易模仿。你知道很多人节奏感都不太好。另外，很多人也希望中国能有一首红遍世界的流行歌曲。

但是中国确实有自己的《江南style》。每当快过年的时候，超市里都会循环播放那首《恭喜发财》。还有那首大街小巷都能听到的《爱情买卖》，我总是情不自禁地哼唱这首歌，就快把我朋友烦死了！

Is it just me that doesn't get it? What is so funny about Gangnam Style?

This song, as you probably know, has become the most watched YouTube video ever. Why??? A Korean newspaper columnist lamented this song's popularity claiming it dumbed down the Korean language. Many people were curious as to the meaning of the lyrics and a newspaper in the UK said "Gangnam Style" is about rich people living in a rich area who are just concerned about spending money and outer appearances, the song parodies the huge differences between rich and poor in Korea". However the Korean columnist went on to explain the true meaning of the lyrics which includes the lines "A guy who one-shots his coffee before it even cools down", and "A girl whose heart gets hotter when night comes". He wondered what part of the song gave the impression that it was parodying the gap between rich and poor.

This song will not win the Ivor Novello Award, nor will it win any prizes for artistic direction. However it appears that I and the Korean columnist are in the minority as accolades continue to be heaped upon PSY. He appeared at Oxford University and gave a talk to the students there; he made the cover of what is widely regarded to be the music bible, Billboard magazine; he was awarded an accolade from Time Magazine, "Fleeting Celebrity of the Year"; he was due to appear at a high profile Christmas party in the US and perform in front of President Obama, the list goes on. His influence has also penetrated China.

I have asked my Chinese friends why it is so popular here and some also do not get

the joke but one said "We Chinese have no natural rhythm and most people cannot dance but we can do this dance so we like it". Chinese people love to analyze deeply and do not understand why there is no deep meaning to this song, so it is the dance, rather than the song itself that has become so popular here. To this end the video has been faithfully copied by myriad Chinese fans and is fast becoming famous, but this time as a Chinese performance, albeit done by amateurs. Favourite Chinese versions include the students at Shanxi University, whose video has been watched over 37,000 times, Sichuan University Gangnam Style, Dalian Maritime University Gangnam Style and particularly noteworthy is the Sun Yat-sen University video, which has clocked up an astonishing 1,950,000 views. We know that the Chinese are expert copyists, but did they really feel that the world needs more Gangnam style? Another reason it has generated interest here is that PSY is Asian and the Chinese are wondering why they cannot create just as popular a song, why they cannot achieve world domination, musically speaking.

Despite the fact that some records drive us crazy, we find ourselves inadvertently humming along to the tune every time they are played. When Rihanna's record "Umbrella" first came out I absolutely loved it. However a week or two later I was ready to inflict violence on my friends. It rains a lot in England, so there were so many opportunities for people to say "Don't forget your umbrella" upon which others would chorus "...ella, ella, ella". I actually threatened my friends that if anyone said this to me one more time I would not be responsible for my actions.

Does China have any songs that drive people crazy? When discussing this topic I asked a friend "You know that really annoying song, the one they play at the end of the year in every shop, gongxi ni fa cai?" She said "No. Only you are annoyed by that song, we like it". I laughed so much at her response that I started choking. The reason it annoys me is that the female band members sing in fake little girl voices that Chinese people find cute, but which I cannot for the life of me understand why this is considered good.

OK Let me rephrase my question, does China have any songs that drive Chinese people crazy? Yes indeed, but sometimes it is the lyrics that are the problem. I heard a lovely song with nice lyrics - except for the chorus. Here are some of the words "When I hear your voice I get a special feeling, I will never change my mind, I will love you forever, I don't care how stupid it is I will let my dream come true, I will tell you



something, I wanna let you know, even if every day has a storm, I will always by your side I am willing to do anything to make you happy, if you want our love to come true, I will try very hard to never change, I love you, I love you, as mice love rice".

Quite nice except the line "I love you as mice love rice"?? Whoever thought that this added anything to the romanticism of the song? Apparently Asian people love it, it is phenomenally popular here and has spawned many versions, apart from Hong Kong and Taiwan, there are also Vietnamese, Thai and Cambodian versions. It must be because Asian people love rice and it is valuable to them. I can't see the lyrics taking off in the west though, they would have to be changed to our equivalent of rice, something like "I love you like a potato, or I love you like bread". Asian people understand the sentiments behind this song, but we do not have the same relationship with food. However this song does annoy some Chinese people, a lady told me she feels like throwing up every time she hears it. I imagine there are lots of Chinese guys telling their girls that they love them like mice love rice. If you have a Chinese boyfriend/girlfriend or are married to a Chinese person, try using this

line on them and see what reaction you get. Better still try saying it to your western partner, substituting the word rice for a more suitable comestible. Please, if you ever see me do be sure to tell me what they say. It is so uncool it is sure to become cool.

Or how about "Aiqing Maimai", translated as buying and selling love. I think you will agree this can be interpreted in a dubious way as well as romantically. Much to my chagrin since I heard it I haven't stopped singing it.

Meanwhile it was revealed that in 2002 and 2004 PSY took part in anti-American Rallies and sung a song containing such choice lyrics as 'Kill those Yankees who have been torturing Iraqi captives. Kill their daughters, mothers, daughters-in-law and fathers. Kill them all slowly and painfully.' The protests were because two Korean children were killed by an American tank and requests for the soldiers to be tried by the Korean courts were refused, and the Iraqi war respectively. Although PSY has apologized, Americans have reacted in fury and have called for the President to boycott the Christmas concert, hence his next song may not be such a smash there.



ONE NATION – TWO DIFFERENT STANDARDS

提高素质，任重道远

随着中国经济发展和城市公共设施的不断升级，市民日常生活水平也逐渐提升。例如，最近天津市内地铁1、2、3号线以及滨海新区9号的相继开通，极大的方便了市民日常出行需求。但是经济建设飞速发展的同时，精神文明建设也同样值得关注。如今，公共场所内随处可见的禁烟、禁止餐饮或禁止打电话的标志，许多人仍然熟视无睹，不以为意。每每和朋友提及此类事件，大家都表示强烈不满或愤愤不平，好像每个人都深受其害。今后，希望人人可以从我做起，同时告诫家人朋友遵守公共场所管理规定是一种美德、一种社会进步的标志。

Whenever people from Mainland China visit Hong Kong they are always amazed. I think Hong Kong is an amazing place, but what I am amazed at and what Chinese people are amazed are quite different things. It is not so easy for Chinese people to go to Hong Kong, even though it is part of China, Mainlanders still need to get a permit to travel there. Although obtaining the permit itself is a fairly simple exercise, the problem yet again is the sheer number of people. When we decided to go to Hong Kong, Mary went to the permit office twice, the first time she gave up because the queues were so long and so she returned the next day. That time she was successful but she queued for over four hours, which she was told was quite good as others have queued the whole day. Therefore many people feel that it is too much trouble



and Tianjiners in general do not like to travel much outside of Tianjin. Naturally when others find out Mary has been to Hong Kong, they are curious and want to know what it is like. The first thing she tells them is how clean the place is and how everybody obeys the rules.

There are signs on the metro telling people not to eat and drink and not to discard their unwanted trash. Mainlanders often come in for heavy criticism from Hong Kong residents for not obeying the rules. This presents an interesting question. Why, if they are all Chinese, all part of the same country, do the HK residents obey the rules for the good of all, and yet Mainlanders feel that rules are elastic and that obeying them is a personal choice? It was pointed out by one Mainlander that there are no police enforcing these rules on the metro, yet Hong Kong residents do not break them, they do not smoke or eat and drink whilst travelling. Aside from the obvious dangers of smoking on the metro, it could be argued that there is nothing wrong with eating and drinking. Now that we have the 3rd line on the metro here, which has made life much more convenient for us, and as it is brand spanking new, we should maybe examine what is and what is not acceptable behaviour on public transport, in particular two things, eating and drinking and using the trains and buses as public toilets.

As I often travel on the buses here I have



seen much of what I perceive to be anti-social behaviour. For instance twice I have seen people allow their children to go to the toilet on the bus – except there is no toilet. One mother thoughtfully took a plastic bag out of her handbag and gave it to her son to use as a disposal toilet. OK so far so good, but then she hung the bag with its contents on a hook by the window, got off the bus and left the bag there. Most Chinese parents will ask “Well what was she to do, if a child suddenly wants to go to the toilet there is nothing that anyone can do?” This I can understand and at least she didn’t let him just go on the floor like a lot of parents do, but her conduct became unacceptable when she left the bag and its disgusting contents for someone else to find. On the metro in Beijing, a boy wearing crotchless trousers urinated and the stream of urine ended up on the legs of another passenger. The mother apologised but to my surprise, far from being angry, the other passenger just said “It’s ok, children’s urine is pure as they are innocent”. This would categorically not happen in Hong Kong, in fact when Mainlanders go there they make

sure their children are wearing regular trousers. No Hong Kong resident would tolerate this kind of behaviour.

Regarding eating and drinking on the subway, the fact that everybody observes the rules in Hong and Mainlanders do not is a source of ever increasing friction. This problem was highlighted when a Mainlander fed her child on the train and was criticised by a Hong Kong resident. The visitor got into a quarrel with her, as far as she was concerned her child needed to be fed so she was going to feed him and couldn’t care less what anybody else thought. The locals were so offended that somebody filmed it and uploaded it onto YouTube, prompting many complaints about the habits and behaviour of Mainland visitors.

I find the attitude of many Mainlanders quite strange when it comes to this type of thing, for instance the non-smoking Mary being offended on behalf of smokers at the 5,000 HKD fine for illegally smoking. She feels that it is too unreasonable to demand that much money “just for breaking the rules”. Likewise Shanghai once had an eating ban on the metro but was forced to cancel it

because so many commuters complained about it. They don’t mind the trains stinking of food, stained seats and rubbish everywhere, they can tolerate anything except rules. Chongqing also had a fines system but cancelled it and instead now just asks people nicely not to eat on the metro.

The latest city in Mainland China to attempt to eradicate eating and drinking on the Metro is Wuhan. They have opened a new subway line and the local government is keen to preserve the cleanliness. However as is to be expected, local residents have already started complaining about the fines system, voicing such gripes as “People who are running late need to eat their breakfast as they are travelling to work” and “Poor farmers will not be able to afford the fines of up to 200 yuan”.

Why are people speaking up for and supporting those who have no intention of respecting the rules? Surely if the metro is clean and safe, everybody will benefit. As long as I live I will never understand this ethos of protecting the rights of one person to the detriment of everybody else.

My view, which of course my Chinese friends do not like me to mention, is that Hong Kong residents are different because of the English influence in the past. Of course I am not proud of the fact that my country has done many bad things, including invading and conquering other countries. I am not proud that the connection with Hong Kong is due to the English government becoming involved in the opium trade hence the opium wars. However there is nothing I can do about this history, but nevertheless, one benefit is that Hong Kong residents have a different set of values to Mainlanders that is akin to the values in England. My mother taught me from a very young age not to throw rubbish on the floor and not to eat on the streets. Perhaps our Mainland friends have a different view as to the differences, if so I hope they can enlighten us. Meanwhile travelling in Hong Kong is a very pleasant experience. Most Chinese people I speak to deplore these bad habits, so just who are the perpetrators?

Grandmother says yes

外婆爱用的品牌

在沉寂半个多世纪后，以经典“旗袍少女”招贴画为形象的化妆品老牌“双妹”回归市场，作为上海家化的最高端品牌亮相，并在上海和平饭店开出首家专卖店。从“双妹”的广告设计中仍旧依稀可以看到“旗袍少女”的影子。为了将“双妹”打造成时尚奢侈品牌，台湾著名设计师蒋友柏的榕果设计公司全程负责全新LOGO、产品包装及店铺设计。新“双妹”虽已更换了设计风格，但由两个少女组成的商标仍带有浓郁的历史色彩。改头换面的老品牌开始走俏市场，重新赢得消费者的青睐。



Traditional Chinese brands are hotter than ever in China nowadays. Some of them, such as Shanghai's cosmetic brand Two Sisters, disappeared for a period of time, but a comeback in the market has triggered a new fashion wave lately.

Chinese people's views on the old brands were reinforced with cheap and outdated package designs, but today's old brands in China have found their own ways to express themselves. China's biggest cosmetics manufacturer, Shanghai Jiahua (上海家化), recently relaunched its brand Shuangmei, or Two Sisters,



under a new name: Shanghai Vive. Some Chinese customers say they find using such brands is a new fashion now.

For many years, Chinese people have been using the old Chinese products regardless of the many new foreign brands that have swamped the Chinese market.

The young generation is a large consumer group that favours famous luxury cosmetic products in China. Recently though they have also been tucking old brands into their makeup kits, such as Pehchaolin, a cream that

dates back to the 1940s, and ordinary Vaseline. These brands often cost no more than 10 yuan each.

"In the past, I spent hundreds of yuan on buying imported foreign brand cosmetics. But I noticed lots of online comments in favor of the domestic brands and many of my friends also use them. So I started to buy these products instead." Local newspaper journalist, Shi Xiao Xiao said.

The revival of these old brands among youngsters in China owes much to the internet. On one online forum, girls shared their experiences of using different cosmetic brands and their advantages. Many of them claim that old Chinese brands are more competitively priced and user-friendly.

Also online shopping is usually a lower-cost business model than shopping centers or other channels. A comment on a certain product is also spread much quicker than before over the internet. In addition, in the past several years, the old Chinese brands have raised their quality and made their packaging more attractive to compete with the foreign brands.

"I've been using international cosmetic brands for a long time. But I've always admired the celebrities' life in 1930s China. I know that my grandma's generation used this brand. I am very happy to enjoy the same fashion and products." Shi Xiao Xiao said. Time-honored brands hold a special place in consumers' hearts. Besides cosmetics, other old domestic brands such as Yong Jiu bicycles are also selling more than in previous years. Good quality, fashionable designs, plus nostalgic sentiment have become the perfect combination for an old brand to find a new growth path.

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Pehchaolin moisturizer (百雀羚)
Founded in 1931, Pehchaolin was among the first cosmetic brands in China, and some say even Asia. Its all-around moisturizer, coming in a round flat blue can, was the beauty secret of the local beauties during Shanghai's golden years. Not ready to be left in the past though, Pehchaolin has now expanded its product line into herb-based skincare items. Although people like the new products, the company's signature cream still gets vote with an all-natural recipe and a price that makes even your wallet smile. (RMB 4.5 a tin.) Get it in major local supermarkets.

Japanese Restaurant

Bunt 板特

☞ **Chef's special selected Sashimi** RMB888
(Sashimi types may change according to stock)

☞ **Black beef Sukiyaki** RMB320

☞ **Horse hair crab** RMB340
(Price may vary according to size)

Authentic Japanese cuisine recommendation

和幸

Breaded pork chop is a well-known Japanese dish that is famous around the world. It is made by the covering the pork chop with breadcrumbs and then frying it. As experts in this field, Tonkatsu Wako pays attention to all the details, including the cut of the meat, choosing the best meat and how much breadcrumbs need to be used, as well as the best frying method.

Set Meal of Curry RMB68

Meal of Tenderloin Pork Chop RMB68

Rice served with pork and vegetables on top RMB62

Garlicky Tenderloin Pork Chop Meal RMB68

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Read the Labels for Eating Healthy

By David Wong

认准标志才能吃得健康

在中国，吃是生活中一个重要的主题。随着人们消费水平的提高以及受西方习惯的影响，人们越来越注重食品的健康和安全。人们更青睐于纯天然、无添加的食物。因此，有机食品的概念变得越来越流行。“有机食品”是指在生产过程中不使用人工合成添加剂以及化学肥料的食物。在中国，你需要认准三个认证标志：无公害农产品、绿色食品和有机食品。

The eating habits of Chinese consumers are changing, and becoming more western, an example is breakfast. China's Bright Food Group Co Ltd has just completed its purchase of a majority stake in breakfast cereal makers Weetabix Food Co, the largest overseas acquisition a Chinese company has made in the food industry. Bright Food paid nearly 700 million pounds (\$1.12 billion) to acquire a 60 percent stake and has agreed to cover 500 million pounds of Weetabix's debt.

Food safety is also becoming more important as Chinese incomes increase and consumers are willing to pay a premium for foods that are produced naturally.

Eating healthy is usually associated with eating "Organic". In China, this is labeled "You Ji" 有机 and you can see more organic products in the higher end supermarkets. Organic foods are foods that are produced using methods that do not involve modern synthetic inputs such as synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Organic foods are also not processed using irradiation, industrial solvents, or chemical food additives.

For the vast majority of its history, agriculture can be described as having been organic; only during the 20th century was a large supply of new "chemicals" introduced to the food supply. The organic farming movement arose in the 1940s in response to the industrialization of agriculture known as the Green Revolution.

In Canada and United States, the organic food sector is growing at an annual rate of over 15% each year. In China, organics has grown at an even higher rate of over 30% and is referred to as "eco-production" and you can see this reflected in produce sections in major supermarkets and also at some open markets. Total area of land devoted to eco-production in China is 34 million hectares more than all land devoted to organic production in the world, at 30.42 million hectares.

In China, there are 3 special food designations: Hazard Free produced foods, Green Foods and Organics. The production and certification is jointly supervised by MOA Ministry of Agriculture and SEPA State Environment Protection Agency.



Hazard-free farm products refer to farm products and primarily processed products (including farm products, livestock products, aquatic products, edible forest products and etc.), that are produced in accordance with the rules of production technology for Hazard-free farm products and meet the quality standards for Hazard-free farm products, on production bases for Hazard-free farm products, and are certified by the Hazard-free farm products management agency.



Green food refers to Hazard-free safe, top quality and nutritious food that is identified by a special agency and is permitted to use the green food standards. For things that are related to life, resources and environmental protection, they are branded

"green" internationally. In order to highlight that this kind of food comes from the good ecological environment and can bring rich nutrition to people, it is thus defined as green food. However, this kind of food is not all green in colour.



Organic food refers to food that is produced in accordance with organic agriculture and the standards for producing and processing organic food and is issued the certificate by the organic food certificate issuing organization. It must meet the following requirements: There is no pollution in place of origin; not using any pesticides, chemical fertilizers, fodder, weed killers or growth hormone of chemical synthesis in the production process; not using any food preservative, additive or artificial pigment of chemical synthesis and using organic solvents for extraction in the processing course; free from pollution by hazardous chemical substances in the process of storage and transport; it must meet the national hygiene requirements for food as well as the quality standards for the food industry.

Organic food implements the standards set by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) The certificate issuing department conducts environmental inspection and quality certification of annual crops in crop production areas. The maximum validity period of the certificate is one year.

Organic foods are also appearing more on restaurant menus. Typically, grains and vegetables are easily found on promotional dishes menus and especially in Vegetarian restaurants. However, recently I found that meat is now being promoted as "Organic" or "Natural". Due to strict import regulations, all meat imports into China must be hormone free and some local producers have similar products available in order to compete for the high-end market.

Western style foods tend to lend itself more to healthy type cooking. Salads and dishes that use less processed foods are easier to prepare. Whereas, Chinese cooking tends to require a lot of preparation and cutting of foods to be stir fried or deep-fried. However, there is a trend for healthier Chinese dishes and many restaurants will accept your requests to use less oil, less salt and forgo the MSG.

Organic Foods has also become a recent trend of gift giving. Many companies now send out organic grown pulses and food products as a company gift. On line sales of organic products is becoming very popular

with same day delivery.

Eating healthy is not always easy in a country that is so centered around food. The usual greeting after "Ni Hao" 你好 is "Have you eaten?" "Ni Chi Fan Ma" 你吃饭吗? So there is a need to eat in moderation, eat smart and exercise is still the key. Try to eat a more balanced diet and try to cut down on those carbs. Some tips to controlling excessive eating are;

- Always drink plenty of water, have a glass before the meal and one during the meal.
- "an apple a day, keeps the doctor away" have an apple as a snack before a meal.
- Use a smaller plate, the brain can be fooled that you are having a full plate; especially when you are at a buffet and try to limit yourself to 5 choices - healthy choices
- Eat slower, put the knife and fork or chopsticks down between chews.
- Always eat breakfast and try to have a lighter dinner.
- Do not eat after 8pm
- Exercise at least 40 minutes every other day. If you are going just a few floors, use the stairs.

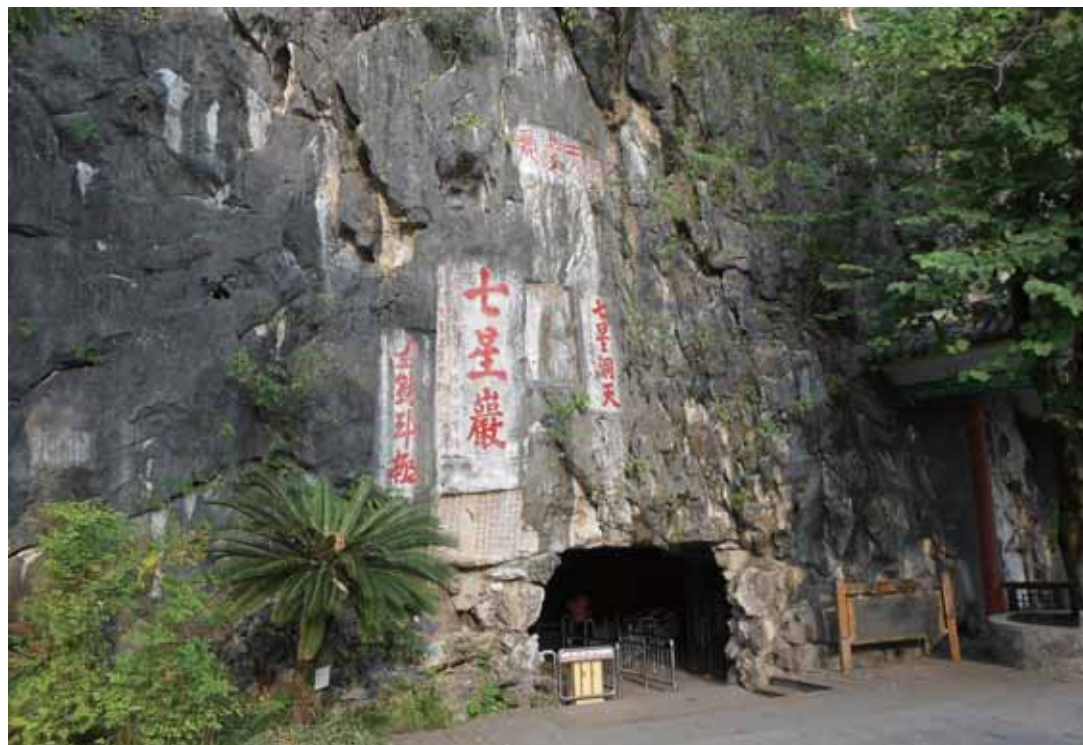
I hope this helps, with the holidays coming up, we all need to be diligent, yours truly included!

Zhaoqing: A great warmup to Guilin

by Kyle Knutson

肇庆

肇庆地处珠江三角洲，是中国著名旅游城市之一，被誉为岭南文化的发祥地，距今有1000多年历史。其中，星湖七星岩、鼎湖山两大景区最负盛名。与澳门和广州熙熙攘攘的旅游景点截然不同，肇庆处处透着静谧安详，令人身心放松，绝对是周末出行的好去处。因为无论从澳门还是广州出发，乘坐大巴只需要几个小时即可到达。



move out of Zhaoqing from one of its future viceroys.

Nowadays, Zhaoqing serves as home to the small Guilin like Seven Star Crag Park (七星岩 Qi Xing Yan). Other options for those who prefer to stick around town include the Dinghushan mountain area and a few Bagua villages scattered in the countryside.

After hopping on a comfortable 2 1/2 hour bus ride from the Guangzhou Long Distance Bus Station, the first thing I noticed when I arrived in Zhaoqing in the late afternoon were the lack of pedestrians and cars lulling at a snail's pace along the streets. Guangzhou is always known for being chock full of traffic and other mobs of automobile induced headaches. Zhaoqing already had that "different" feeling that I was looking for. A few high rise apartments followed along with some very obvious looking shopping malls that no one seemed to be paying attention to. Finally, the first of five of Zhaoqing's serene lakes appeared over the concrete horizon. Interestingly enough, four out of the five of Zhaoqing's lakes were originally one giant lake. Chinese engineers artificially separated it into smaller parts by a series of pedestrian walkways that literally sliced through the middle of the lake. Upon disembarking from the bus at the south end, I quickly rushed across one of the causeways

to the north end, where the towering limestone formations of the Seven Star Crag Park greeted me.

Dubbed as "little Guilin", this park certainly did bare a somewhat similar resemblance to its big brother. From an aerial view, the Seven Crag themselves were supposed to resemble the Big Dipper. Legend has it that seven stars fell from the sky and upon landing in Zhaoqing, seven limestone mountains sprouted out of their remains into the blister like formations we see today. I was actually stung by the sharp contrast between the otherworldliness of both the park and the city. How could these two polar opposites sit side by side with each other?

Eventually, the causeway narrowed and I entered the park. The central lake, or Star Lake, served as the heart and connective tissue for each of the crags. Generally speaking, you wander around some paths with part of the lake to one side and a crag on the opposite. Many of the crags had exotic and touristy sounding names, such as Toad Crag, Fairy Hand Crag, Pillar of Heaven Crag and Jade Curtain. While not really resembling their titles, they were still unique enough for visitors to come up with their own aesthetic interpretation.

Limestone caves (you have to pay extra money to enter the major ones) and temples

were also fine additions to the tree sprinkled limestone monoliths. If you have any bored children accompanying you who just can't be satisfied with anything except their cell phones, there were a few amusement park rides here and there. Climbing a few of the crags is another option if you have time but you can enjoy most of them looking up from the ground.

When evening approached and I returned to Zhaoqing, I was greeted with a surprising change. The evening shopping scene had transformed into a much more bustling atmosphere with bargain hunters, foodies, and movie goers wandering to and fro.

After soaking in the nightlife and checking into my hotel, I slept in a little and hopped on the 21 Bus for Ding Hu Mountain (鼎湖山 Dinghushan), the last and most popular stop on the line. Students, families and temple worshippers were among most of the visitors in the crowd who were stocking up on tasty sticky rice wrapped in lotus leaves for the hike. These excellent snacks came in a wondrous diverse set of flavors.

Although people were everywhere at the entrance, there were plenty of shuttle buses which transported most of the crowd to the top. The walking path itself led to many different beautiful waterfalls and streams

known for their special water. Further up was the Qing Yun Temple, Ding Hu island, and a special giant vassal which was supposed to be capable of feeding over 1,000 people. I caught a glimpse of many visitors tossing lucky red balls into its gaping mouth and enjoyed watching many boyfriends and girlfriends laughing and competing against each other. Dinghu Mountain is very spread out with clean air and masses of trees that really help to block out the summer sunshine. Be prepared for some walking though since most of the reserve took me all day to explore.

For my final day in Zhaoqing, I decided to see the countryside for that different side of China. The Bagua (八卦) villages, some of which are still inhabited while others being completely deserted, made the effort even more worthwhile. Bagua refers to a sacred octagonal symbol represented in Taoism. Each of the eight sections within the circle represents different aspects of one's life such as marriage, fame, fortune and job prospects. The first village I went to by bus, Li Cha Cun (黎槎古村), was the most obvious since its shape was exactly the same as the Bagua symbol. After walking around the eight sided exterior, the inner dwellings were almost a complete maze that I got lost in. A few guides were the only signs of life, directing visitors to the temples and other major structures open in the area.

Another village, Xianggang Cun (岗村), was a more typical and boisterous alternative to its counterpart. People still lined the streets selling local products. Men and women were gathered around in the parks playing chess, singing or watching their favorite television show (yes, the parks had their own public TVs). Most of the crumbling dwellings still had inhabitants, some curious, others bored; all peeking off into the distance.

Bus 315 will take you out to Li Cha village while the 308 heads to Xianggang village. Both buses depart from the Qiaoxi bus station in the western part of Zhaoqing. The buses take about an hour through some remote and dusty landscape.

Most visitors will spend their time either at the Seven Crag Park or Dinghushan. Both options are great for those with limited time but if you have that extra bit to spare, it's always fun to get to know an area even more with additional choices like the villages. And with Guilin off in the distant northwest, Zhaoqing is a great way to whet one's appetite for the main course that is Guilin.



Wish for a Better Year at the Temple of Heaven

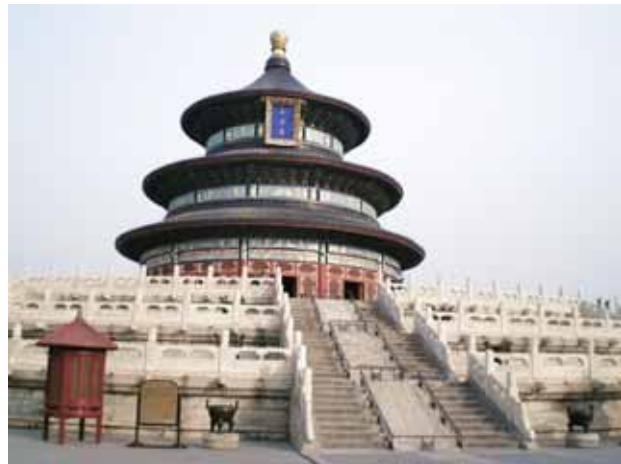
By David Wong

天坛祈年殿

北京的天坛始建于明朝（1406-1420），是皇帝用来祭天、祈谷的地方。天坛坐落在皇家园林之中，四周古松环抱，是保存完好的坛庙建筑群，无论在整体布局还是单一建筑上，都反映出天地之间的关系，而这一关系在中国古代宇宙观中占据着核心位置。同时，这些建筑还体现出帝王将相在这一关系中所起的独特作用。

现在的天坛公园已经不是皇帝祈福的专门场所，而是向所有市民和游客开放了。每天都有很多人在这里唱歌、锻炼、放风筝、遛鸟，在这个偌大的公园里消磨一整天根本不成问题。在温暖的季节里在这里野餐更是别有风味。

公园周边有很多北京特色小馆子，炸酱面、烤排骨都是地道的老北京风味。南边的红桥市场虽然没有秀水街那么有名，但也是外国人集中购物的场所。不过你记住一定要划价和货比三家。



The Temple of Heaven in Beijing has a special meaning to me. It was built in 1406 to 1420 during the Ming Dynasty and is the most easily recognized symbol of Beijing.

It is special to me because the Chinese Cultural Center in my hometown, Calgary, Alberta, Canada duplicates the Temple of Heaven. www.chinesecultural.ca. In fact it is located on the old site of the house that I grew up in during my youth in Calgary's Chinatown. The Centre has the distinctive design of the Temple Heaven blue dome outside and intricate ceiling tiles inside.

The original Temple of Heaven or 天坛 Tian Tan literary means Heaven Alter because it was used to make sacrifices to the gods for a good harvest. In ancient China, the Emperor of China was regarded as the Son of Heaven, who administered earthly matters on behalf of, and representing, heavenly authority. To be seen to be showing respect to the source of his authority, in the form of sacrifices to heaven, was extremely important. The temple was built for these ceremonies, mostly comprising of prayers for good harvests.

Twice a year the Emperor and all his retinue would move from the Forbidden City through Beijing to encamp within the complex, wearing special robes and abstaining from eating meat. No ordinary Chinese was allowed to view this procession or the following ceremony. In the temple complex the Emperor would personally pray to Heaven for good harvests. The highpoint of the ceremony at the winter solstice was performed by the Emperor on the Earthly Mound. The ceremony had to be perfectly completed; it was widely held that the smallest of mistakes would constitute a bad omen for the whole nation in the coming year.

Earth was represented by a square and Heaven by a circle; several features of the temple complex symbolize the connection of Heaven and Earth, of circle and square. The whole temple complex is surrounded by two cordons of walls; the outer wall has a taller, semi-circular northern end, representing Heaven, and a shorter, rectangular southern end, representing the Earth. Both the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests and the Circular Mound Altar are round, each standing on a square yard, again representing Heaven and Earth.

The number nine represents the Emperor and is evident in the design of the Circular Mound Altar: a single round marmor plate is surrounded by a ring of nine plates, then a ring of 18 plates, and so on for a total of nine surrounding rings, the outermost having 9x9 plates.

The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests has four inner, twelve middle and twelve

outer pillars, representing the four seasons, twelve months and twelve traditional Chinese hours respectively. Combined together, the twelve middle and twelve outer pillars represent the traditional solar term.

All the buildings within the Temple have special dark blue roof tiles, representing the Heaven.

The temple was occupied by the Anglo-French Alliance during the Second Opium War. In 1900, during the Boxer Rebellion, the Eight Nation Alliance occupied the temple complex and turned it into the force's temporary command in Beijing, which lasted for one year. The occupation desecrated the temple and resulted in serious damage to the building complex and the garden. Robberies of temple artifacts by the Alliance were also reported. With the downfall of the Qing, the temple complex was left unmanaged. The neglect of the temple complex led to the collapse of several halls in the following years.

In 1914, Yuan ShiKai, then President of the Republic of China, performed a Ming prayer ceremony at the temple, as part of an effort to have himself declared Emperor of China. In 1918 the temple was turned into a park and for the first time open to the public.

The Temple of Heaven was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998 and was described as "a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design which simply and graphically illustrates a cosmogony of great importance for the evolution of one of the world's great civilizations..." as the "symbolic layout and design of the Temple of Heaven had a profound influence on architecture and planning in the Far East over many centuries."

But the charm of the Temple of Heaven is not only the history but lies with the people who use it today.

The park is huge and you can easily spend all day and enjoying the various activities of the regular patrons. There are several singing groups and some include musicians. There are choirs of volunteers, classical and traditional music. If you arrive early, you will see the owners "walking" their birds, swinging their bird cages then "airing" them on tress and singing their hearts out (to the birds).

My favorite is the gentlemen that write their calligraphy on the cement with water brushes. Their art only lasts a few minutes while the words are wet and I can't read Chinese but it's interesting to watch their artistic strokes. If it rains or snows, no



Inside the Hall

problem there are long pathways that are covered, it will be crowded but becomes more intimate.

Kite flying is also popular and every type of kite can be seen or almost not seen as I saw someone flying the kite over 500 meters high!

There are plenty of snacks sold but I suggest that you pack a lunch and have a picnic. Even in the winter, it is fun and you can always go inside the several buildings to warm up. Just make sure you have good walking shoes.

For a more substantial meal, try the traditional Beijing Noodle restaurant on the corner outside west of the Temple of Heaven. You have to try their Brown Sauce Noodles

— Zha Jiang Mian 炸酱面 and Roasted Ribs
— Kao Pai Gu 烤排骨

South of the Temple just across the main road is the Pearl Market or 红桥 Hong Qiao, not as famous as the Silk Market or Silk Alley but it has everything if not more, especially pearls, which occupy the 3rd and 4th floor and all four floors in the building behind. Just remember to bargain and compare prices. Walk away if they call you back with another offer, you know your price is close. There is an art to bargaining and negotiating, but we will leave that for another article.

One final tip, don't take the taxis parked in front of the Pearl Market, they will cost more than all the money you worked so hard for during your price negotiations. Walk to the corner and flag down a taxi that is on the main road.

Two Early Statues

By Andrea Klopper

两座消失的雕塑

在当年天津各处的租借地竖立了很多雕像，大都是为了纪念一些具有历史意义的事件。我们这次介绍的两座雕塑如今都已经不复存在了，而且资料也鲜有记载。一座是矗立在德租界（现解放南路）的德国英雄Roland的雕塑。另一座“和平女神”雕塑建在法租界的“法国公园”（现中心公园）内，为的是纪念第一次世界大战的结束。



Postcard of Herr Roland (courtesy of Leyden 2001:80)

In the past, as today, there were a number of statues located in public places in Tianjin. They were generally to commemorate some historical event, either within China or abroad. Neither of the statues mentioned here remain, nor does there seem to be much easily accessible information about them, but for a time they bravely gazed down on the comings and goings of former inhabitants of this city.

This bronze statue was found in the park on Wilhelm Strasse (now Jiefang Nan Lu) next to the Bader-Kiessling Restaurant in the German Concession. It was referred to by many as Kaiser Wilhelm or Herr Roland as it was supposedly of the German hero called Roland. He had been a general in the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne's army, dying in AD778 when the retreating forces were ambushed in the Battle of Ronceveux Pass in the Pyrenees on the Spanish-French border. He became a popular legendary figure who inspired poetry, musical compositions and the oldest surviving work of major French literature The Song of Roland (11th century). Roland had a legendary sword called Durendal which was unbreakable and supposedly enchanted by various Christian relics. The sword was prominent in the statue. The shield was emblazoned with a two-headed imperial eagle. Gradually Roland became the symbol of independence of the growing German cities from the local nobility with many cities erecting statues in their marketplaces as an act of defiance. There is such a statue in front of the town hall of

Bremen, Germany which, since 2004, has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Subsequently Roland was considered an emblem of 'stadtrechte', civic liberty and freedom which is no doubt why he was deemed fitting for Tientsin's German concession. Built in 1905, it was torn down at the end of the First World War by French and British soldiers on hearing of armistice having been signed in Europe. During the war, it had been referred to rather sarcastically as 'Tin Willy'. The road was renamed Woodrow Wilson Street at about this time too.

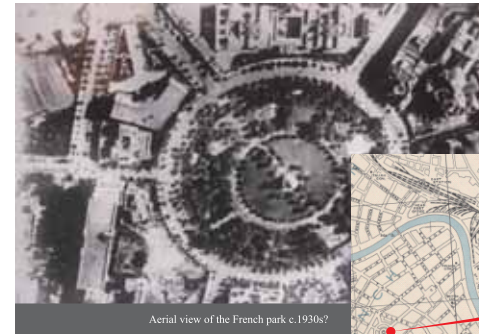
The 'Goddess of Peace' in the Monument de la Victoire was located in the circular French Park or Le Jardin Francais (now Central Park). The park itself was surrounded by large homes of a variety of wealthy Chinese businessmen. It served as a gathering place for the French community particularly on Bastille Day, 14 July.



from postcard (<http://tianjin.virtualcities.fr/Photos/Images?ID=25865>)



from <http://tieba.baidu.com/p/997483478?pn=3>



Aerial view of the French park c.1930s?



Goddess of Peace in the French Park

Location of Roland on Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse?

Map of Tientsin c.1945

This bronze statue was erected around 1922 [Jindai Tianjin Tuzhi 2003:61] possibly to remember those French from Tientsin who died fighting in the battlefields of the First World War. The figure, named Irene in French after the Greek Goddess of Peace, is actually wearing a soldier's tin helmet typical of the Great War and is shown sheathing her sword, suggesting an end to war. In 1938, it was apparently melted down by the Japanese military to manufacture shell



Postcard (courtesy of Leyden 2001:73)

casings, as was the case with the Goddess of Peace statue similarly erected on the Shanghai Bund.

While these particular aspects of history long past have faded in all but a few remaining postcards, there are other (admittedly fewer and fewer) signs around us of an earlier period in which expats made up Tianjin's population.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roland>

LOCALEVENTS

Christmas at Wellington



No sooner was Wellington's musical extravaganza, *Bugsy Malone*, over, than pupils were busy preparing for the Christmas concert and Christmas Show. The Junior School's production of *Christmas Around The World* took place on Monday, 10th December. The story revolved around a group of passengers on board a holiday cruise ship who find themselves shipwrecked on a desert island the week before Christmas. They are losing hope of being rescued in time for Christmas and talk to each other about what Christmas in their home country means to them. Each year group, dressed in national costume, presented a song or dance from the country of one of the stranded passengers, with one of the

most entertaining being the Year 2 pupils performing a Russian folk dance, complete with matryoshka dolls and Cossack leg kicking. Other treats included the human Christmas tree and gingerbread house. In an international school with nearly 30 nationalities, this was a wonderful way to celebrate the diversity of the school and the different ways various nationalities celebrate the festive season. After the show, pupils and their families were treated to a range of Christmas goodies including mince pies and each pupil was given a Christmas memento from Jane Robinson, Head of the Junior School.

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday, 12th December, the Seldon Theatre was the venue for the whole school Christmas concert which featured over 70 pupils and staff. The programme included a variety of instrumental and vocal items. The wind band played a selection of well known tunes including *Can You Feel The Love Tonight*, while the String Ensemble entertained the audience with a piece by Mozart. The Junior and Senior Choirs performed a number of carols and Christmas classics including the ever popular *Jingle Bell Rock* and the *Angel Carol*. There was also an opportunity to hear from some of the College's talented young instrumental soloists during the concert, together with a rendition of *The Three Kings*, by baritone, Gudmundur Jonsson, Head of Geography. The audience themselves were also able to join in singing a couple of well-known Christmas carols. After the concert, the audience enjoyed a drinks reception as the snow started falling outside, adding to the festive spirit.



Wellington College's History Trip

Wellington College has only been open for just over a year and yet, in this comparatively short time, the school has already established an enviable reputation for its sense of the past, amongst both staff and pupils. Forty pupils and four teachers embarked upon Wellington's first History Trip, to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic in November. In Berlin the sites visit included the Brandenburg Gate, the Olympic stadium and Sans Souci, Frederick the Great's palace. Special attention was given to locations and museums associated with the Cold War and the Second World War. In Poland visits were made to the historic city of Krakow and to the Nazi camp at Auschwitz. The trip ended in the beautiful medieval city of Prague.

The intention is to make the History Trip an annual event and plans are already in the making for a trip next year to north-eastern France, Belgium and Holland, which would include visits to Paris, Bruges, Amsterdam and, only too fitting for Wellington pupils, the site of the Duke of Wellington's great victory over Napoleon at Waterloo.



Wellington College at Yale University



George Bush Sr in his imposing portrait.

All of the many events that go into the World Scholar's Cup were held in various locations around Yale. The competition was intense and it was, according to all the Wellington participants, the toughest challenge any of them had faced in their experience of the World Scholar's Cup. Yet the team still came away with several medals and commendations to add to their enviable haul at the Global Round last summer in Bangkok. Katie Cook came third in the Individual Junior Debating competition, in addition to being commended for her creative writing. Minho Yoon followed his Art award in Bangkok with one at Yale, while Miho Azumi carried off the prize for the Scavenger Hunt. We attributed this to her prowess in Geography! The Junior Debating Team of Katie Cook, Konstantin Chakos and Ada Chen won all three of their debating competitions and just missed out on the medals. Katie was given a prominent part in the Showcase Debate, where she gave the decisive speech in winning the argument for the team defending the current US role in world diplomacy. President Bush, if not both of them, would have been impressed.

After the three days of competition the party spent a couple of days sightseeing in New York, before flying back over the North Pole to Tianjin. It was, as all of the students said, the trip of a lifetime, an experience they would never forget. It will be interesting to see how many of them end up studying at Yale or other Ivy League schools in the US, but the message of the competition was clear: they have the ability.

Wellington Remembers Those Lost in Battle

On Friday 23rd November, all Wellington pupils from Year 3 upwards gathered for Wellington College International Tianjin's second annual Wellington Remembrance Assembly.

Wellington College UK's very foundation is closely tied to those who gave their lives in the service of their country as Wellington was initially set up over 150 years ago to educate the sons of soldiers killed in action. Over 1200 former Wellington pupils or Old Wellingtonians (OWs) lost their lives in the two world wars. This was poignantly illustrated by showing the lists naming the fallen together with photos of some of those men. A video made recently by Wellington UK was shared during the assembly, in which 707 current Wellington UK pupils – the same number as the OWs killed in WW1 – lay down on the ground in Front Quad to help illustrate the scale of the sacrifice, as well as the youth of many of those killed.

There were excellent pupil contributions with poetry readings, including *My Boy Jack* and *In Flanders Fields* and explanations of why poppies have become so associated with remembrance. Extracts from the novels *War Horse* and *Birdsong* written by an OW, Sebastian Faulks were also read in the assembly too.

After the traditional two-minute silence, the assembly was ended with the trumpet solo *The Last Post*.



Top grades again

Tianjin Rego International School's third, annual 'Evening of Excellence' was held at the Sheraton Hotel. This is an important occasion for everyone at the school, giving staff, students and parents a chance to celebrate the hard work which goes into achieving top exam grades.



2012 Hennessy Dazzling Music Party in Tianjin



Organized by Hennessy V.S.O.P., popular Taiwan artist, Ni An Dong, and pop music diva from South Africa, Nadine, appeared at Hennessy V.S.O.P.'s Dazzling Music Party at the Tianjin Babi pub on Dec. 16. The event was the 21st stop of Hennessy's 2012 national show tour.

Top 100 Hotels Award China

The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin won the Top 100 Hotels Award in the Travel + Leisure magazine award ceremony in Shanghai. This is the second time for Hotel to get the honor from Travel+Leisure magazine. Hotel won the 2011 China Best New Hotel in the last year competition. This award is a great compliment for the entire management team. It is also a great gift for the hotel's 150 Anniversary in 2013.

IST AND BEIJING STAR KIDS CHILDREN'S BOOKSTORE HOSTS BOOK FAIR

On December 11 and 12, the Beijing Star Kids Children Bookstore set up a very successful book fair at the International School of Tianjin (IST) for the second year in a row. IST students, parents and faculty all came to browse and purchase books in time for holiday gifting and travel entertainment. The book fair featured the 2012 Panda Book Award titles and popular fiction. The bestselling titles at IST included the *Diary of the Wimpy Kid 7*, the *Guinness World Book of Records 2013* and the 2012 *World Almanac for Kids*. Also popular were the *Time Rider* series by Alex Scarrow, the *One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky.

The Westin Tianjin Christmas Tree Lighting Event



At that night of Nov. 30, 2012, The Westin Tianjin held a grand Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the lobby. The elegant and exquisite Christmas ornaments and huge Christmas tree passed the warmest holiday atmosphere to every guests. After that, the GM, Mr. Gao, made a little greeting to guests in front of the Christmas tree. When he finished, guests and hotel staff lit the tree at the same time.

Christmas Tree Lighting Event of Crowne Plaza



The high class hotels in Tianjin, such as Crowne Plaza Tianjin Binhai Hotel, held cheerful and meaningful Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies separately at the end of November. The giant Christmas tree at the gate of Crowne Plaza Tianjin Binhai Hotel and crystal ball for the ceremony brought the most spiritual holiday atmosphere to all the guests at that night.

German is the new language at Rego



Due to popular demand, Tianjin Rego International School has introduced a new German program. Students in the Primary and Middle School are now being offered the opportunity to learn German as a Foreign Language. Students throughout the school who speak German already are being offered language support in their "mother tongue" by the school's native German teacher. Furthermore students can receive guidance in attaining the Mittlerer Schulabschluss and the Allgemeine Hochschulreife.

The school already has an excellent reputation for its English programs, which have taken many students in a relatively short period from speaking no English to achieving high levels of proficiency and successful entrance applications to prestigious universities in Western and Asian countries.

Tianjin Rego International School is also known for its broad program of modern foreign languages, which enables students to study and to earn external qualifications in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, French, Spanish, and now German.

Given that the school believes in offering support to students in their home language, it has now developed a new Mother Tongue language program. It offers lessons to students of all ages in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, French, Spanish, and now German. These programs enable students to develop their reading, writing and other academic skills in the language they speak at home, which in turn supports their cognitive development in other areas including other languages.

A big congratulations to Ai Kudo in Rego



Ai Kudo traveled recently to Shanghai to swim in the Shanghai American School swimvitalion. There were over 500 students from over 20 schools competing, they came from Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, Beijing and Tianjin. Ai was the only representative from Rego as the qualifying times were quite strict. Ai swam in the 100m breaststroke with a qualifying time of 1minute 40 seconds and the 50m freestyle event with a qualifying time of 35seconds. Ai managed to smash her breaststroke time on the day and swam an amazing 1:36.99 coming 3rd in her heat and 5th overall for her age category. Unfortunately Ai was a little disappointed with her freestyle time swimming this in 35.71 seconds. This however was faster than her 50m swim in the whole of her previous year of swimming.

seconds and the 50m freestyle event with a qualifying time of 35seconds. Ai managed to smash her breaststroke time on the day and swam an amazing 1:36.99 coming 3rd in her heat and 5th overall for her age category. Unfortunately Ai was a little disappointed with her freestyle time swimming this in 35.71 seconds. This however was faster than her 50m swim in the whole of her previous year of swimming.

Christmas Celebration

Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony of Sheraton Tianjin Binhai Hotel was held in Dec. 7, 2012. The 10 meters high Christmas tree at the gate of the hotel was decorated beautifully. Moreover, the gingerbread house, Santa Claus, and angels brought the strong festival atmosphere to everyone that night.



KOREAN AIR RESTARTS SERVICE TO SAUDI ARABIA In Response to the ‘New Middle East Boom’



Korean Air has expanded its network to the Middle East with the announcement that a direct service between Korea and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the largest Arab state in Western Asia, will begin on 9 November 2012.

Korean Air will commence the direct service three times a week, flying from Seoul/Incheon first to Riyadh and then onto Jeddah. The Seoul/Incheon-Riyadh-Jeddah flights will operate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. KE961 departs at 21:55 and will arrive in Riyadh at 03:10 the next day. The flight continues its journey departing from Riyadh at 04:20, arriving Jeddah at 06:15. On the return KE962 departs from Jeddah at 11:00 and arrives in Riyadh at 12:35. The flight departs from Riyadh at 13:55 and arrives Seoul/Incheon at 05:00 next day.

The Seoul/Incheon – Riyadh – Jeddah route will be operated with an Airbus 330-200, seating 218 passengers and equipped with Korean Air’s premium seats. First Class has 6 Kosmo suites; the 180-degree full-flat beds have been widened by 15cm (6 inch) to 67.3 cm (26.5 inch) to provide passengers with added comfort. The Business Class, called Prestige Class, has 24 full-flat sleepers with 188cm (74 inches) between seats and extra large seat partitions offering comfort and privacy. Passengers in all classes can enjoy the new AVOD system that offers upgraded in-flight entertainment in high resolution and with top processing speed.

Located in the Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia is one of the major Middle Eastern countries, possessing one-fourth of the world’s oil reserves. Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital, is the largest city in the

country. Jeddah is situated on the Red Sea coast and is an important commercial hub and home to the Kingdom’s largest port. Jeddah is also the principal gateway to Mecca, Islam’s holiest city

Historically Saudi Arabia and Korea have had commercial connections. In the 1970s and 1980s, the time known as the ‘Middle East Boom’ years, Korean companies won many valuable construction contracts, contributing greatly to Korea’s economic progress. In order to facilitate travel between the nations Korean Air operated flights to Jeddah and Dhahran, the biggest markets in the region at that time. The demand for plant construction in Saudi Arabia has once more increased and again Korean construction companies are part of the new ‘Boom’ with Korean Air expecting the demand for passenger traffic in the region to increase with high growth potential.

With its new Seoul/Incheon-Riyadh and Jeddah service, Korean Air aims to attract business travelers visiting Saudi Arabia and will develop the market, which has a great potential for growth. The service will also be of interest to transit passengers from neighboring countries to Korea, including Japan and China, who will travel to Saudi Arabia via Korean Air’s hub in Seoul, the award winning Incheon International Airport.

Working in partnership with Saudi Arabian Airlines, which is a new member of the airline alliance SkyTeam, of which Korean Air is also a member, will enable Korean Air to expand its network across the Middle East region and also serve as a catalyst to expand exchange between Saudi Arabia and Korea.

| Flight Number | Days of Operation | Route | Departure | Arrival |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| KE961 | Mon, Wed, Fri | Incheon (ICN) ~ Riyadh (RUH) | 21:55 | 03:10+1 |
| KE961 | | Incheon (ICN) ~ Jeddah (JED) | 21:55 | 06:15+1 |
| KE962 | Tue, Thu, Sat | Jeddah (JED) ~ Incheon (ICN) | 11:00 | 05:00+1 |
| KE962 | | Riyadh (RUH) ~ Incheon (ICN) | 13:55 | 05:00+1 |

Korean Air Launches Inaugural A380 Services



Korean Air has ordered ten A380 aircraft with the first five to be delivered by the end of 2011 and the remaining five by 2014. The airline will gradually expand its A380 service to popular short-haul routes in Asia, such as Bangkok in July, followed by long-haul routes to glitzy destinations in Europe and North America, such as New York in August, Paris in September and Los Angeles in October 2011.

Being the first A380 operator in Northeast Asia and the sixth operator worldwide, Korean Air takes pride in the fact that it will operate one of the most spacious A380s in the industry. Configured in a three-class layout with merely 407 seats in total, the lowest configuration of any A380 operator thus far, Korean Air’s double-decker A380s feature unique, top-of-the-line amenities with 12 ultra luxurious First Class Kosmo Suites and 301 Economy Class seats on the main lower deck, and 94 fully flat-lying Prestige Sleeper seats in Prestige Class (business class) on the upper deck. Korean Air has also taken the bold step of being the first carrier globally to devote an entire deck of this giant aircraft to a single class. Moreover, in line with the airline’s

dedication to maintaining “Excellence in Flight”, all seats are installed with AVOD, Korean Air’s much-praised inflight entertainment system.

In addition, Korean Air will be the first airline in the industry to have a ‘Duty Free Showcase’ on its new A380 aircraft. Featuring a great variety of duty-free products, such as cosmetics, perfumes, liquor and accessories, with a dedicated cabin crew member on hand to assist and advise passengers with all their shopping needs, the Duty Free Showcase is designed to offer a brand new and sure to be highly enjoyable in-flight shopping experience for Korean Air travelers.

A stylish and comfy onboard bar and lounge area with an interior design mode fitting that of this classy, new aircraft is also installed in the airline’s A380, where passengers can fully relax while sampling Korean Air’s selection of exclusive cocktails during their flight.



Prestige sleeper seats in prestige class

The introduction of this super jumbo aircraft and its pioneering, spacious layout is expected to even further strengthen Korean Air’s competitiveness in the premium aviation industry as a leading global carrier. By entering a thrilling, new era with its new A380 fleet, Korean Air continues with its heartfelt pledge to remain fully committed in providing excellence in flight and service, and environmental protection of the highest standards, all while going far beyond the expectations of its customers.

About Korean Air

Korean Air, with a fleet of 148 aircraft, is one of the world’s top 20 airlines, and operates more than 400 flights per day to 122 cities in 42 countries. It is a founding member of the SkyTeam alliance, which together with its 18 members, offers its 506 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 15,000 daily flights covering 993 destinations in 186 countries.

In 2011, Business Traveler named Korean Air the best Asian airline for the fifth consecutive year, while Global Traveler awarded the airline with best airline in northern Asia and best airport staff/gate agent. The carrier won the 2010 global travel catering distinction award by Pax International magazine while World Traveler magazine rated it as having the world’s best inflight service. Travel & Leisure magazine readers say it is one of the world’s top 10 international airlines and readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine voted Korean Air one of the world’s top ten global airlines.

More on Korean Air’s programmes, routes, frequencies and partners is available at www.koreanair.com.

Road Warrior Wong's Top Ten Lessons for Hotels

By David Wong

入住酒店的十大注意事项

有报告显示，中国酒店房间数量正在以每年10%的速度增长，但是入住率却只有60%。这说明在中国发展的这些国际酒店品牌面临着更大的竞争压力来吸引游客和商旅人士。这对经常要到中国出差的人来说是件好事。作为一个资深酒店房客，我总结了在中国入住酒店的10个注意事项，希望对你有帮助。

A recent report showed that the number of hotel rooms in China is growing at an annual rate of 10% but occupancy rates are only 60% compared to international rates of 80%. This means that international hotels in China must be very competitive to attract tourists and business clients. This should be good for those of us that travel in China. Here are some lessons from a road warrior:

1. English Names - If you need to get in touch with the Front Desk or Bellhop, disregard their English names, ask for their Chinese name. No one in the hotel will know them by their English names, so don't bother to tell the operator you were talking to "Jeff" the Bellman but rather Mr. Zhou, the tall one with glasses.

2. VIP Cards - if you travel to the same place often, or use the same hotel chain, ask for a VIP card. Most hotels will have this and will provide you with a discount or accumulate points for redeeming prizes at the end of the year. You may need to check with the manager or food and beverage director if it is a smaller hotel. You may also consider this for hotels within your city; you would be surprised about the specials in low-season

and during Chinese festivals and holidays and more recently Western events such as Valentines, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

3. Light Switches - this one is always a puzzle to me, where all the switches are located. You can bet that when you are in bed and ready to sleep, there will be a light remaining on with no clue how to turn it off. If it is the closet light, try making sure the closet door is fully closed.

4. Ask for 2 keys - most hotels now have a master switch that uses your key to be inserted for all the lights and air conditioning to work. If you leave the room and take your key, the air conditioning will turn off and your computer and other electrical devices will stop charging.

5. Fitness rooms - it is always difficult to keep in shape while travelling but most hotels have pools and gyms that are well equipped. Some allow 24hour access, which make them very convenient. If you need access outside of regular hours, it can probably be arranged. Bring your own earphones as the hotel ones is not the best and if after hours, they may not be available.

6. If you are light sleeper, ask for a room away from the elevators and away from the front, which is usually on a busy street.

7. Frequent Flyer points - most hotels are members of airline awards. No harm in asking and "double dipping" with hotel points and the airlines.

8. Internet - most hotels have Internet but for some reason, not many have Wi-Fi in the rooms and still require a cable connection. Bring your own cable if possible, last two times I had problems and it was because of a faulty cable. Don't forget to pack your cell phone charger when you leave. If you did not bring a charger, ask the hotel; you will be surprised how many people forgot theirs.

9. Checking out - mornings are the busiest times for guests checking out. To save yourself some time, ask to check your bill the night before to verify the costs. If you have access to the hotel Executive Lounge, you can check out there while you have your breakfast, just make sure to bring your credit card, as they will likely need it.

10. Credit Card Deposits - most hotels will ask for your credit card when you check in and record a deposit of about double the room rate. You should ask that it be cancelled when you check out and they will either destroy the original slip or provide you with a credit. Trust me, if they do process the deposit, it will be complicated to correct this after you check out.



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- Minimum eight years of work experience; People can apply for a master's degree in business administration from Purdue University if meet five years, less than eight years of work experience.
- Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) score of at least 520 (this can be waived if you have substantial work experience)
- Successful performance on one of the following if English is not your first language:
 - The Pearson Test of English
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Personal interview

● STANDARD OF TUITION

Tuition is 55,000 Euro. Costs to include lecture, textbooks, thesis guidance, and accommodation fees. Other expenses are not contained.



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巴西

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