

JN

MAGAZINE

今日天津

TIANJIN TODAY

2013/02



Goodbye
Christmas
Hello
Spring
Festival

ISSN 1004-826X



9 771004 826095

定价: 10元

Creative Minds
don't happen by accident.

At TIS we know that the fine arts go beyond the hard skills — music theory or being able to play a concerto flawlessly under the bright lights. That's why we have a highly trained fine arts staff that nurture and direct our students to new heights in creative expression and skill.

Call for your personalized tour today and come see for yourself how we are shaping the creative minds of tomorrow.

Test
Dates!

Now accepting applications
for the 2013-14 school year!

April 17 & 18
Registration for testing

April 20
Testing for grades 1-12

April 23
Interview for 4 & 5 year olds


Tianjin
International
School

LEARN WITH PURPOSE

web: www.tiseagles.com
email: admissions@tiseagles.com
phone: (86 22) 8371 0900 ext. 311
address: No. 4-1 Sishui Road, Hexi District
Tianjin, 300222, China
天津市河西区泗水道4号增1号



**INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL of TIANJIN**

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

新年快乐!

IST is...

A truly international learning environment where students from around the world learn about our extraordinary host country China, and reflect upon how different people in the world can learn from one another. Xīn Nián Kuài Lè!

IST is... fully accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS)
IST is... fully authorized as an International Baccalaureate World School (IB)
IST is... fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
IST is... a full member of the following China and Asia wide international school associations:
ACAMIS, ISAC, ISCOT and EARCOS



WEBSITE: WWW.ISTIANJIN.ORG EMAIL: INFO@ISTIANJIN.NET TEL: 86 22 28592001 FAX: 86 22 28592007
WEISHAN SOUTH ROAD, SHUANGGANG, JINNAO DISTRICT, TIANJIN 300350, P.R.CHINA

Tianjin Rego International School



Ambitious: they are self-confident and strive towards achieving their best.

Join us on 6th Feb.(9:00-11:00)to find out more about the exciting new opportunities available at TRIS. You' ll have the chance to learn about our small class sizes and highly-qualified teachers, our languages program featuring classes in Korean, Japanese, French, Spanish , German and English, our exceptional ESL program for students who do not yet speak English.

38 Huan Dao Xi Road, Mei Jiang Nan Residence Zone,Hexi District,Tianjin
Email: admissions@regoschool.com Tel: +86 22 8816 1180
www.regoschool.com

— 惠灵顿中国教育节 —
**THE FESTIVAL OF
EDUCATION
CHINA**
MARCH 8TH-9TH
WELLINGTON COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL TIANJIN



EDUCATION IS THE MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE WORLD

Nelson Mandela

This is the first educational forum of its kind in China. Join us at Wellington College for a series of inspirational workshops and presentations exploring all the vital elements that go into providing a rewarding and stimulating school education. Participation is free of charge, but places are limited and should be reserved in advance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

edfest@wellington-tianjin.cn

Tel: +86 22 8758 7199 / 138 2043 2170 / 187 2248 7836



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN



ARIVA

ARIVA TIANJIN No.36 SERVICED APARTMENT
招商·艾丽华36号服务公寓

Offering different type of studio apartments, Ariva Tianjin No. 36 Serviced Apartment provides guests with greater flexibility. Stylish and airy, the apartments are designed for blissful relaxation.

All the apartments are fully equipped with high quality facilities. For both short and long stay guests, our warm and friendly service is dedicated to ensure that your stay at Ariva Tianjin is both comfortable and enjoyable.

Ariva Tianjin No.36 Serviced Apartment, located in the prime area of Heping District, boasts a prestigious central business district address. Adjacent to the famous Five Avenue Area, Ariva Tianjin No.36 Serviced Apartment is an ideal business or leisure location for both business and leisure travellers, connecting easily to popular destinations such as Nanjing Road, Jiefang Road and Binjiang Road.

Opening Soon

Ariva Binhai Serviced Apartment



天津市河西区紫金山路35号
No. 35 Zi Jin Shan Road, Hexi District, Tianjin

Ariva Tianjin No.36 Serviced Apartment
No.36 Xikang Road, Heping District, Tianjin 300051 P.R China

招商·艾丽华 36号服务公寓
天津市和平区西康路 36号 300051
电话 : +86(022)2352 3636 传真 : +86(022)2352 3986
www.stayariva.com



OPEN FOR ENROLMENT

Give your child a head start to success

Little GEMS International (LGI) pre-schools are part of the GEMS Education network of award winning schools. LGI Tianjin caters for children from two years of age to the start of school. Our approach is based upon four pillars: quality care, quality education, quality staff and partnership with parents and the community.

Little GEMS International Curriculum

The Little GEMS International curriculum uses the English Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum as a framework combining it with key elements of the Chinese curriculum and specially written LGI programmes designed to promote cognitive development through movement, music, world languages and digital learning.

Our Learning Environment

Little GEMS International, Tianjin, is designed to promote the learning of young children within a safe and secure environment. Routines and a healthy approach to food and nutrition ensure that children are provided with the key elements needed for healthy growth and development.

Our team is highly trained, skilled and passionate about Early Childhood Education. We know how important it is to work in partnership with parents and for young children to have people who care about them and who want the best for them.

Choosing Little GEMS International means that, as well as being safe and happy, your child will have a head start to his or her education and life.

Spaces are limited.

For enrolment inquiries please contact us on
Tel: 86 22 66227888
Address: No. 312 HengFeng Road, Tianjin ECO-City,
Binhai New Area, Tianjin China 300467
Email: admissions@gemseducation.com
Website: www.littlegemsinternational.com/tianjin



Changing lives through education
The Varkey GEMS Foundation is a not for profit education Foundation. Its goal is to impact one hundred underprivileged children for every child enrolled in a GEMS school. 10 million will be impacted globally.





GEBA Japanese Restaurant (3F)

Seafood Hotpot
Seafood is now in season!
We recommend Seafood Hotpot, it is a perfect dish on a chilly day.

For more information, please call: 2627 8888 ext. 2258
(HRS: L 11:30-14:30, D 17:30-21:45)





Café Venice (2F)

"All You Can Eat" 'FAMILY CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY BUFFET'

The perfect place to celebrate Chinese New Year
Featuring Seafood Buffet such as baked oyster, baked spicy 'Sichuan style' fish, steam crab, Western and Asian Buffet (bigger spread of Chinese Food, Japanese Food, Southeast Asian, etc etc.)

Bring your dining experience truly memorable,
Chinese New Year RMB 198 net per person served with lots beverages included.



For more information, please call: 2627 8888 ext. 2271
(HRS: B 6:00-11:00, L 11:30-14:00, D 17:30-21:30)



天津海河假日酒店
Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside
Phoenix Shopping Mall, East Hahe Road, Hebei District, Tianjin
(Nearby Eye of Tianjin)
T: +86 (22) 2627 8888 F: +86 (22) 2627 6656



Riverside Chinese Restaurant (3F)

Lunar New Year

The Winter is coming to its end, Spring is around the corner. To mark the changing of Seasons, everybody joins to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside has prepared a wide variety of special traditional dishes for your choice.

Lunar New Year Set Dinner
Price is from 2880 per table (min. 12 persons)

Lunar New Year Set Dinner (Banquet)
Price is from 1688/set
(19 Cold dishes, 8 Hot dishes, 1 Soup, Main dish & Fruit)



For more information, please call: 2627 8888 ext. 2211
(HRS: L 11:30-14:00, D 17:00-22:00)



Eternity Love Buffet Dinner
February 14, 2013

Shower your loved one with candle light dinner, romantic buffet meal arrangement and bubbly wine for RMB 600 per couple. Ladies will receive a door gift. Over night stay in the hotel for additional 300 RMB.

Price subject to 15% service charge
PFC members enjoy 20% discount

Reservation: 8319-8888 Ext. 3570



No. 189 Nanjing Road, Tong Guan Road Entrance of The Exchange, Heping District, Tianjin, China
Tel: 8319 8888 Fax: 8319 2266
www.nikko-tianjin.com



Romantic Valentine's Day

Experience an enchanting Valentine's evening at **TANGLA HOTEL TIANJIN**

Forever Together — Lobster seafood buffet for couples inclusive two glasses of champagne, a rose and chocolates. RMB 1314 net / couple.

Sweet Times — Romantic set "Lovers Menu" for couples inclusive a bottle of champagne or wine RMB 1999 net / couple.

Passion for Love — Lobster seafood buffet for couples and one night stay in a Grand Room inclusive breakfast for two. RMB 2299 net / couple.

On February 14, 2013 5:30pm -9:30pm
For reservations, please call: **2321 5888**




TANGLA HOTEL TIANJIN
No. 219 Nanjing Road, Heping District
Tianjin 300051, China
Tel: (86-22) 2321 5888 Fax: (86-22) 2321 5868




天津易精品奢华酒店
YI BOUTIQUE LUXURY HOTEL TIANJIN

Valentine's Day

- ▶ Perfect flavor, comfortable environment, the personalized French romance
- ▶ Exquisite, "sweet" dishes, well-designed
- ▶ Makes you get a totally different warm feeling from the past

Date: Feb. 14th, 2013
PRICE:
Valentine's Day set menu 999RMB/2 persons (free superior red wine)
Valentine's Day Room 1888RMB/night (free rose and chocolate)

Please make reservation by calling 022-2445511

Add: No. 52-54, Minzu Road, Hebei, Tianjin

CONTENTS

People

28

Tips on a Happy Expatriation

快乐生活的秘诀

30

Business

Movin' On Up, And Out

自由迁徙



18

Feature

Goodbye Christmas, Hello Spring Festival

再见圣诞节！你好春节！

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

训养更加重要

Lifefeature

52

New Tianjin Location Starting November 4th at King Hall Hotel

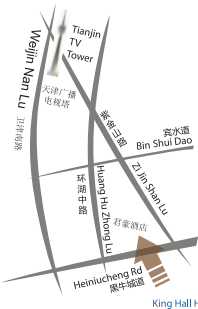
Address: No.22, Huan Hu Zhong Lu, Hexi District (河西区环湖中路22号)

Bus line: 1, 9, 705, 826, 953 stop nearby

www.TJIF.com

Please contact Scott Carlson with any questions:

- Phone: 8829 7772
 - Tianjin email: enquiry@tjif.com
 - TEDA email: enquiry@tedafellowship.com
- Open to foreign passport holders only.



King Hall Hotel
Address: No.22 Huanhu Zhong Lu
天津市河西区环湖中路22号

Support

Encouragement

People who share our goals and beliefs

All of these things help us to discover how we fit into the place that God has put us.

Join our fellowship
Sundays at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM in Tianjin or at 10:00AM in TEDA as we discover God and His great plan, together



INVESTMENT

It's about Dinner and Racists! 饭局和待人 32

EDUCATION

Generation Lack 代沟 40

CULTURE

Giving Gifts-A Veritable Minefield 送礼的学问 46

EXPATS HISTORY IN TIANJIN

Two Legendary Hearts Harts 两位传奇的Hart先生 48

SHOPPING

Shopping's Great Age Divide 科技改变消费习惯 54

DINING

Let's Talk about Festival and Food 节日与大餐 56

TRAVEL

Stone Village in Jin county 蓟县西井峪“石头村” 60

SPOTLIGHT ON BEIJING

Where to go in Beijing during the Spring Festival? 去北京过大年 62

PARTING SHOT

Taxi Tales 打车厄运 70

Ads Index

Hotel 酒店
Ascott Serviced Residence
Hotel Nikko Tianjin
Holiday Inn Binhai Tianjin

School 学校
Tianjin International School
Tianjin Rego International School
International School of Tianjin

International Relocation 国际搬家公司
REX Service

Real Estate 房地产
Joanna Real Estate

Restaurant 餐厅
DIN TAI FUNG
Trattoria Italiana
Bavarian Beer Keller
YY Beer House
Tapas Hank's

Others 其他
Logos Law Firm
Renew-Dental
SINOBO
Tianjin Magic Lily International Travel Agency

Jin Magazine Honorary Advisory Committee

《今日天津》杂志荣誉顾问委员会



Christoph Kaiser
General Manager from Turck (Tianjin) Technology Co., Ltd
图尔克(天津)传感器有限公司
总经理

David Cook
Master, Wellington College International Tianjin
天津惠灵顿国际学校校长



Debbie Cook
Director of Admissions and Marketing Wellington College International Tianjin
天津惠灵顿国际学校招生和市场部总监

Gabriele Castaldi
Chairman of The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin Chapter
中国欧盟商会天津分会主席



Mireille Wan
Managing Director from CBRE
世邦魏理仕天津董事总经理

Hank Martin
owner from Hank's Sports Bar & Grill
Hank's 餐厅总经理



Joseph Azmeh
Headmaster from TEDA International School
天津泰达国际学校校长

Michael Hart
Chairman from American Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin
美国商会天津分会主席



Michael Yeung
Chairman from Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin
香港商会天津分会主席

Raul Harri
Headmaster from Tianjin International School
天津国际学校校长



The names of the honorary advisors are listed according to the alphabetical order of the first name initial.
以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列，排列不分先后。

Letter from the Editor

Once every year the city's population drops by a third. It may mean that you can't buy your favorite guo tie because the seller has gone home to visit his family. This is Spring Festival which is China's biggest traditional festival. Of course, many expats just don't understand why the Chinese will try to get home by any means to celebrate Spring Festival with their family.

Naturally, you must have heard stories of people's long journey home, some are funny while some are sad. Last year, in the magazine's Spring Festival issue, we explored the many complexities of arranging the family reunion. Whether it is a long cold night spent queuing to buy train tickets, then huddling in the narrow and crowded aisle of a train for 20 hours, the Chinese people will endure any hardship to get home.

In 2013, we want to continue looking at Spring Festival and this year we want to draw attention to the people who have to celebrate the festival alone. The old Han couple featured in this issue are already well into their 80's and still live in a century-old cottage in an old alley. Although they have four sons and some grand children, none of them will be with them on Spring Festival Eve. The accompanying pictures can tell a much better story than the words alone. Make sure you check out the story of their Spring Festival.

We hope you won't be annoyed by any inconvenience caused by the mass migration of people during the festival. Perhaps, it will be a time for you to discover something unique in Chinese culture. Tianjin's Ancient Cultural Street and the Drum Tower are both wonderful places to visit and enjoy some folk art performances during the festival. Even if you don't like the noise of firecrackers, why not make some of your own noise and enjoy the fun?

每年的这个时候，你都会发现这座城市似乎少了1/3的人。你经常光顾的锅贴摊儿也关门了。因为他们都回老家过年了。很多外国人无法理解中国人在这一天要回家团聚的情愫。但你一定听说过一些令人哭笑不得的旅途故事。去年的《今日天津》就关注了那些回家的人。在狭窄的空间里蜷缩20个小时就是为了在除夕的那一列坐在家里的饭桌前，吃上热乎乎的年夜饭。

今年我们要关注的是一对空巢老人。他们已经八十多岁了，儿孙满堂却不能与之团聚。无论是老人还是他们的孩子都有各自的无奈。看他们的故事不免令人心酸。

Monica W

JOIN
THE JIN TEAM!

Got a passion for Tianjin?
Want to share your China experience?
Are you a veteran expat with tips and tricks of the trade?
In tune with the expat community?

JIN Magazine is looking for **freelance writers** to contribute articles to the magazine in all areas. If you are interested, please get in touch with editorial@jinmagazine.com.cn

JIN
MAGAZINE
今日天津

Responsible Institu
Tianjin International Culture Communication Association
Publisher
Jinwan Media Group
Editor-in-Chief
Tian Yilin
Vice Editor-in-Chief
Zhang Jian
Editors
Monica Wang, Chao Lee
Regular Contributors
Paula Taylor, Parker Barribal, Kyle Knutson, Jim Gibney, David Wong, Amy Chung
Design
Chen Jie, Sun Xiao, Yue Lu, Shaun Liu
Sales & Advertising
Yang Lizhi, Lu Huiqing, Chi Linrui, Candy Yang
Distribution
Chen Pengyu
Advertising
Tianjin Fenghua Advertising Co., Ltd.
Customer service
Zhang Yu

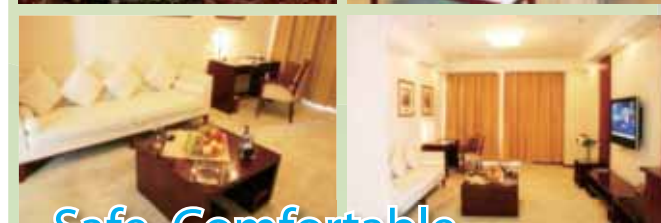
Tianjin Office
8F, Jinwan Media Building, 358 Nanjing Lu, Nankai District

Tel +86 22 2750 0877
Fax +86 22 2750 9201
E-mail editorial@jinmagazine.com.cn
Legal Consultants
Logos Law Firm
Korean Advertising Agency
Duoyun Advertising
Price ¥ 10

主办 今晚报社
承办 今日天津杂志社
总编 田毅林
副总编 张建
编辑 王宗元, 李超
美编 陈杰, 孙晓, 岳毅, 刘培亮

广告独家代理 天津市风华广告有限公司
固定形式印刷品广告登记证: 120103200482505027
地址 天津市南开区南京路358号今晚传媒大厦8楼
电话 +86 22 2750 0877
传真 +86 22 2750 9201
广告销售 杨礼志, 陆惠卿, 迟霖霖, 杨颖
市内客服 李鹤, 张玉
发行 陈鹏宇
E-mail service@jinmagazine.com.cn
法律顾问 道名律师事务所
韩国广告代理 天津市多芸广告有限公司

2013年2月刊
国内统一刊号: CN12-1262/Z
国际标准刊号: ISSN1004-826X
价格: 10元



Safe, Comfortable, Harmonious Serviced Apartment

Available room size: 50 m²; 60 m²; 70 m²

Facility: independent temperature controlled central air conditioner; international and domestically phone service; internet access; Plasma TV set with satellite TV channels; fully equipped kitchen ware (Refrigerator, cookers, kitchen ventilator, microwave oven, electromagnetic oven, electric cooker, electric pot, water cooler, tableware, wash machine, towel, toiletries)

Convenience: 24 hours reception service (morning call), laundry service, shuttle service in the airport, 24 hours security service; electronic room card

The 2013 wedding banquet reservation available now...

Add: No.135, Anshan Road, Heping District, Tianjin, China
Tel: 022-83311818 Fax: 022-27833588 www.tjjbhotel.com



What's hot on Weibo...

▶ Couple arrested for helping migrants buy online tickets.

A young couple are facing up to three years in prison over allegations of ticket scalping after they were caught with over 200 tickets worth over 35,000 yuan. Legal experts say the criminal charge should not be applied to the couple, as they acted as a purchasing agent.



▶ Authorities have banned Web applications that make it easier to buy train tickets online.

This kind of software allows users to cut ahead of others when buying train tickets by phone during the Spring Festival rush. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology banned the online software on 18th, after critics said it gave users an unfair advantage.



▶ Kindergarten wedding.

More than 100 5-year-olds in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, were married Friday in a mock group wedding organized by their kindergarten. The activity was also accompanied by early sex education on where babies come from. Parents have divided views on the activity.

▶ Heavy fog has been shrouding north China over January.

The air pollution was getting even worse as the fog could not be blown away. People started to wear mask to protect themselves from the dirty air.



Subscribe to Jin Magazine @jinmagazine on Sina Weibo for more interesting stories

Organic Vegetables Donated to Tianjin SOS Children's Village

■ 好宝有机庄园向天津国际SOS儿童村捐献有机蔬菜

1月16日,好宝有机庄园天津分公司向天津国际SOS儿童村捐献了70箱有机蔬菜。儿童村的院长助理姜春晖女士代表儿童村的15个家庭接受了捐赠并表示感谢。

好宝有机庄园天津分公司的代表说,积极参与公益事业是好宝的传统。这次捐赠仪式是天津分公司自去年12月成立以来的首次公益活动,今后还将有更多面向孤儿院和养老院的捐赠活动。

好宝有机庄园设在云南省海拔2000-2400米的高原。其农产品已连续十年通过OFDC有机认证。所有蔬菜都在当天采摘,从云南空运到全国各地。



On January 16, a donation ceremony was held at Tianjin SOS Children's Village. 70 boxes of organically grown vegetables were donated by Haobao Organic Farm from Yunnan Province. Mrs Jiang Chunhui, Director Assistant of Tianjin SOS Children's Village received the gift on behalf of the 15 families in the village and delivered a speech thanking Hao Bao.

According to Mr. Li, a representative of Haobao Organic Farm, it is an important part of the company's mission to actively participate in actions that help others. The event was the first benevolent action of the newly established Tianjin branch of the business. Mr. Li assured us that there will be more donations of this kind in the future to other orphanages and nursing homes.

In Yunnan Province, at an altitude of over 2000m, Hao Bao have their organic farms. Over the last ten years their produce has consistently earned the OFDC organic certification. All produce is directly delivered from Yunnan by air freight every day.

750 "Black Taxis" Cracked Down Last Year

■ 去年本市有750辆“黑出租”遭封车处罚

据市客管办介绍,2012年本市客运管理部门共查处无证经营的“黑出租”750辆,均给予封车罚款的处罚,有力地打击了“黑出租”扰乱客运市场秩序的不法行为。

According to a source from the Tianjin Passenger Transport Administration, 750 illegally run taxis, the so called "black taxis", were detected by the administration. As punishment, the owners received a fine and had their car sealed.

The inspectors took various measures to track, block and inspect the black taxis working around hotels, transport stations, shopping malls and residential communities, which are the illegal taxis' major operating areas.

In the last year, 1200 illegal actions of the black taxi drivers were investigated, as well as 32,479 complaints.

Three Hospitals in Tianjin Create Special Area for Expats

■ 三家医院成为首批涉外人员定点医院

1月7日,本市涉外人员就医定点医院正式揭牌,医大总医院、市一中心医院、和睦家医院三家医院成为首批本市涉外人员就医定点医院。

On January 7th, the General Hospital Affiliated to Tianjin Medical University, the Tianjin No.1 Central Hospital and the United Family Hospital announced they would be the first hospitals in Tianjin to establish special wards for expatriate patients.



At these hospitals, the green channel is now open exclusively for expats. It consists of a separate area of experienced doctors and nurses which will provide one-on-one medical services for expats. Inpatients will be treated in a special ward, where in-time treatment and the best medical care available will be guaranteed.

Tianjin Online Shoppers Spend an Average of 8,259 Yuan in 2012

■ 2012年本市市民网上购物年均花费8259元

根据中国最大的第三方支付平台支付宝的统计,2012年本市网民平均在网上购物平台花费8259元,在各大城市中排名第77位。



Tianjin online shoppers spent an average of 8,259 yuan (US\$ 1,328) in 2012, which ranks them 77th among Chinese cities, according to China's leading third-party online payment platform Alipay.

Residents in Eastern China's Hangzhou topped the list, spending an average of 38,478 yuan in 2012. They were followed by residents in Shanghai (24,024 yuan), Zhejiang's Yiwu (23,337 yuan), Beijing (21,879 yuan) and Shenzhen (17,421 yuan).

According to the official Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese spent more than one trillion yuan (US\$160 billion) on online shopping in 2012. Shoppers numbered 242 million, which is 42.9% of the country's 564 million netizens.

The provinces of Zhejiang (14.85%), Guangdong (14.05%), Shanghai, Beijing and Jiangsu took the top five spots for the largest online consumers.

Mobile internet users accounted for 74.5 percent of the nation's total internet population of 564 million, according to the China Daily report.

Tianjin's GDP grows 13.8 percent YoY to US\$207 billion in 2012

■ 2012年天津市GDP增长13.8%

记者从天津市政府新闻办公室举行的发布会上获悉,2012年全市上下贯彻落实中央各项宏观调控政策,主要经济指标增幅继续保持全国前列。经初步核算并经国家统计局评估审定,2012年全市生产总值12885.18亿元,按可比价格计算,比上年增长13.8%。

Tianjin's economy expanded by 13.8 percent in 2012 from a year earlier to RMB1.29 trillion yuan (US\$207 billion), while the CPI stood at 2.7 percent, according to the Tianjin Branch of the National Bureau of Statistics.

Tianjin leads China's major cities in last year's GDP growth, while southwest China's Chongqing Municipality took second place for a 13.6 percent increase.

The per capita disposable income of urban residents in Tianjin grew 10.1 percent to RMB 29,626 (US\$ 4,761).

Tianjin's consumer price index, the main gauge of inflation, rose 2.7 percent year-on-year in 2012, down 2.2 percent from the previous year.

The per capital household final consumption expenditure among urban residents reached RMB 20,024, up 8.7 percent from the year before.

Number of Internet Users in China Hit 546,000,000

■ 我国网民规模达到5.64亿

截止2012年12月底,我国网民规模达到5.64亿,互联网普及率为42.1%,保持低速增长。同时,我国手机网民数量快速增长,网民中使用手机上网的比例也继续提升。微博等网络应用继续呈现火热态势。

According to the China Internet Network Information Center, at the end of December 2012 the number of internet users in China had reached 546,000,000. The internet participation rate was 42.1%, which is a slow but steady growth rate.

The report put the number of new internet users in China at 50.9 million and the participation rate rose 3.8% compared to 2011 figures.

At the same time, the number of cell phone internet users grew rapidly. In 2012, the number of cell phone internet users was 420 million, a growth of 18.1% compared to 2011 figures. The popularity of cell phone apps, such as Weibo, has also been growing quickly. By the end of December 2012, there were 309 million Weibo users in China.



Tianjin car hire business sees 40% YoY growth in 2012

■ 津城租车业务同比增长4成

随着高速免费政策的实施,今年春节期间租车返乡的人数有明显增长,部分租车公司业务量几近饱和,总体租车行业近期业务量同比增长40%以上。部分全国性公司争相在天津增设分店,并在机场、火车站、汽车站布局服务网点,提供异地取车送车业务满足消费者需求。

Companies that provide car rental services nationwide have been rushing to launch more franchises in Tianjin in an attempt to get a piece of the booming business that saw growth of nearly 40 percent last year, local website enorth.com reported.

China Auto Rental, a leading car rental services provider in China, said it receives more than 20 orders a day. The company has six franchises in Tianjin.

Another company, eHi Car Service, said it has improved its services by allowing customers to return cars to coach terminals, car repairers and car washes. The company said its business is expected to peak by March.

Although Tianjin currently has more than 160 car rental companies, only eight of them own more than 100 cars.

The Tianjin Automobile Dealers Association said the smaller companies and those providing low quality service are likely to be marginalized due to the fierce competition. A manual transmission car costs about 200 yuan (\$33) per day to rent.

What is Chun Jie About?

By Jim Gibney

春节庆祝指南

中国人过年的传统开始于一种叫“年”的怪物。这个怪物每年第一天都会外出作乱，吃掉村子里的牲畜和庄稼。后来人们发现“年”很怕红色的东西，于是人们在那一天挂起红灯笼，在门框上贴红色对联。因为“年”还对响声敏感，所以有了放炮的习俗。

中国各地有不同的春节习俗，但通常人们都会扫房、贴吊钱，大年三十会全家团聚吃年夜饭，给晚辈派发红包，看中央台的春节联欢晚会。

As you would assume Chinese New Year or Spring Festival is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the year. As the Chinese traditionally operate on a lunar calendar, this date changes every year because the lunar months don't fit exactly into the Western calendar. This year Spring Festival is on February 10th, though you would have to be deaf, dumb and blind to miss it if you are anywhere in China.

This year will be the third year I have celebrated Chinese New Year in China. Over these three years I have picked up a few pointers about it all. So, if you want to celebrate New Year like the Chinese and have some understanding about what is going on and what to do, hopefully this will be a good guide. Let's start with history, and of course like any good tradition, it begins a long time ago with a scary monster.



The legend of the origin of Chinese New Year is very old. The story is, there was once a monster called the Nian, (年) of the same name and character as the Chinese for year, who was a much feared creature. He would appear on the first day of each year and cause havoc by eating the villagers' animals, crops and, horribly, even their children. To avoid the Nian the villagers would hide deep in the mountains.

As you can imagine, the monster was quite a disruption and many ways were tried to appease its appetite and leave them alone. A tradition began of leaving food outside the door of the village houses in the hope that this would sate the appetite of the monster. Maybe, it would not need more food and stop looking to eat the children. Unfortunately, this did not work, so the villagers continued to flee to the mountains.

On one occasion it was noticed that the Nian was scared away by a child dressed in red, though there are some variations on this story. The villagers realized that the Nian must be scared of red and so, to scare it away, they began to hang red lanterns and red candles outside their houses and pin red scrolls on the door. This proved effective and explains the predominance of the colour red at Chinese New Year.

They also discovered the Nian was scared of a bit of noise and so, they would also let off firecrackers, red firecrackers of course. This also proved effective and the Nian was eventually scared away never to return. To celebrate the Nian's demise, Chinese people repeat the things that scared it away. That is why every house is lit up like a Christmas tree and there is more firepower going off than in World War II.



Every region has their own little different ways in which they celebrate the New Year but some practices are common throughout China. All over the country it is a time of year when people will spend freely to decorate their house, buy new clothes and give gifts to their loved ones. It is also the time to give the house a thorough clean, a "spring clean" to get rid of any bad luck that may be lurking about.

The doors and windows are decorated with red paper with the characters for longevity, happiness, good fortune and wealth. These are prominently displayed to attract these qualities in the new year. On New Year's Eve there is a big family feast which is the most important meal of the year. After, if they are not outside letting off firecrackers, the family will sit around the TV to watch the CCTV variety extravaganza.

The next morning, the children receive red envelopes that contain money. In contrast to the money given at funerals which is an odd number, the money should be an even number with amounts like eight and six considered especially lucky. It is also a time to wear new clothes as a symbol of a new beginning. Red is considered best because it is the colour of which scares evil spirits and it is lucky.

So, to celebrate New Year like the Chinese, do the following: clean out the house, buy red posters to hang outside on the door, raise the red lantern, get some firecrackers and a new set of red clothes. As you won't be able to sleep because of the noise of the fireworks, curl up in front of the TV and watch the New Year's Eve special on CCTV. You can't miss it because it will be on every channel!

Happy New Year!

Best Spring Festival wishes from...



On behalf of Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel, I wish you and your family a Happy Chinese New Year, and hope you have a most prosperous New Year. May the joy and happiness always around you and your family!

Steven Yau
General Manager of Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

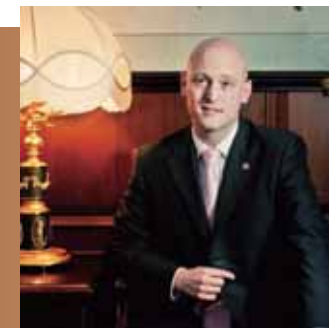


The year of the Dragon 2012 is coming to an end and I want to thank you all for your great support of our hotel the past years.

The last years had many surprises and changes waiting for us in Tianjin, China, the World and at The Astor Hotel. After an extensive refurbishment 2 years ago, becoming part of Starwood Hotels & Resort Luxury Collection brand and with all of your help, excellent support and love, The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin experienced an excellent year as the most Historic and Luxurious Hotel in Tianjin and in China.

This coming year our hotel will celebrate its 150 anniversary in the middle of July 2013. I am looking forward to experience and to celebrate this memorable moment with all of you together.

At last I would like to wish you and your families a happy new year of the "Snake" ahead of you, and I look forward to great year together with all of you at The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin.
Xin Nian Kuai Le!!



Christian Metzner
General Manager
The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel

It's that time of year again, the Spring Festival (or what I like to call it, Christmas 2) – a time of year where friends and family get together to eat, relax, be merry, and – most importantly – not work (that was a message to my boss).

One of the best places to go during the festival is where it's coldest (and dry): Harbin. Despite horrific temperatures (as low as -30 °C) wrap up warm and you'll do just fine. Each year Harbin puts on an amazing ice and snow sculpture festival, with sculpturists coming from all over the world to compete. The detail and scale of some of these sculptures is amazing, and the festival is defiantly worth a visit (once).

If you like to blow things up, you're in for a treat. Firework stalls crop up on every street corner throughout Spring Festival. Come midnight just before the New Year's Gala ends, the streets of China become a war zone as 1.3 billion people pour out of their high rise apartments to make stuff go bang. Happy Spring Festival!

Ben Kitirou



Flo team and myself wish you a Happy Chinese New Year. We will be pleased to celebrate this special event with you and give for the rest of the year the best of ourselves. Hope to see you at Flo soon.

Mr. Philippe, FLO GM

Goodbye Christmas Hello Spring Festival

By Paula Taylor

再见圣诞节！你好春节！

中国人过年的传统沿袭了几千年，今天仍然是最重要的节日。在外工作学习的人们历经千辛万苦也要赶回家过年。但是问到关于过年的感受，很多人都觉得那种期待的情绪比以前淡了很多。对于大部分人来说，过年的意义就是能和家人团聚，共享天伦并且可以拥有一个超长的假期。

到底人们还喜不喜欢春节？这个问题的答案似乎没有那么明确。很多人都表示无所谓喜欢不喜欢，这是传统，所以总是要过的。过年要准备的事情很多，扫房、订年夜饭、为亲朋好友选购礼物还要提前准备压岁钱。但很多人乐此不疲，认为一些传统的习俗能够拉近家人朋友的距离。

Now the Christmas and New Year's festivities are safely behind us until next year, we can look forward to the Spring Festival – or can we? I have very mixed feelings about being in China and having to face western festivals and also the Chinese ones. I am not the only one that detests the materialistic charade that Christmas has become. The British newspapers have been filled with tales of woe about people going crazy and getting into debt in order to be able to “buy” the perfect family Christmas. Then after Christmas are the sales, another opportunity to part people from their money. The British Government repeatedly advised people not to borrow money or get into debt just because of Christmas. Unfortunately many people did not listen and are now lamenting the fact that up until June of this year they will still be paying off the debts they incurred last Christmas. Maybe you are different, but nobody I know professes to actually like Christmas, everybody talks about the stress, the overeating, the materialism and selfishness etc.

I dislike Christmas and if I dare to tell my Chinese friends I don't particularly like Spring Festival either, they are aghast - Spring Festival is so important to Chinese people they cannot conceive that anybody would not like it.

Why So Important?

As you probably know Spring Festival is the time when practically the whole of China can be reunited with their families. Some people only get to go home once a year so it is a very precious time to them. There are many migrant workers that leave their children in the care of their own parents in their villages, whilst they come to the cities to find work. If you have children can you imagine only seeing them once a year? After having lived away from home all year, students get to go back



and be reunited with their loving parents, who no doubt wonder who has been taking care of their precious child all this time. No wonder Spring Festival is so important to them, it is also a welcome relief from the daily grind. My friends are always insulted at my indifference and in the face of their indignation, my issues with the Festival pale into insignificance. Maybe you have similar feelings to me, my family are in England but it is not necessary for me to go home during the holiday period, so the emotions behind it the festival are lost on me.

I thought surely there must be some bits about it that Chinese people do not like, but the answer would not appear to be so clear cut, it is not actually a question of whether people like it or not. Most people seem to love the festival, or rather if they don't love it, they don't actually hate it either. Even the problems of getting home do not faze them - being reunited with their friends and families makes up for everything. However it should also be said that apart from the obvious travel

problems, there are some other difficulties that have to be faced. For instance when I talk about the financial pressures of Christmas my friends tell me that Spring Festival is not like that, it is not about spending lots of money, but the fact of the matter is that there are many presents to be bought, train/plane/bus tickets to be acquired, arduous journeys to be made, relatives to be visited, fireworks to be let off and dumplings to be eaten. Let's see how some people view Spring Festival.

Chinese Sentiments

Mikey told me “When I was young, of course I liked celebrating the Spring Festival, I enjoyed letting off fireworks and eating all the good food that was around, especially the meat and fish. However when I started to grow up, in middle school I had so much pressure with exams etc. that I couldn't relax, not even at Spring Festival time. Once I left school and started work it started to become fun again, it's nice to be able to spend time with friends, just chatting and hanging out”.

Others I asked said that they also enjoyed the Festival, absolutely no-one categorically stated that they hated it, although one or two were lukewarm. The most important thing that most people wanted to stress was that going home to be with family was the priority for them. How many of you went back home for Christmas or Thanksgiving? Probably not many and this is because of several reasons I expect. Most of us when we are in our home countries do not just have once a year visits to our families, getting around is much easier and cheaper and the time we are given off work is also a lot longer, so therefore holidays and festivals are not the only opportunity we have to be with loved ones. Also our relationships are a lot more independent than those of Chinese families, for them the close ties are never severed and so people returning home at Spring Festival is almost mandatory.



FEATURE

Laura, who is in Tianjin studying, told her parents she wanted to stay here to do her part time job instead of returning home. To her surprise they agreed but then two weeks later phoned her and asked if she had purchased her ticket. She reminded them that they had agreed she need not return home. Her mother criticised her for over an hour saying that she was terrible for even thinking of not returning home. She said she had just been joking and of course Laura must come back. Every day several members of her family phoned to heap criticism upon her also. As time was passing, most people had already bought their tickets home so Laura told them it may not be possible to buy one at that late stage. Her mother said "If there are no train tickets you must buy a plane ticket and if there are no plane tickets you must buy a bus ticket. Whatever method you use, you must come home, even if you have to walk". Laura's home is 30 hours away by train. Moreover she comes from a family of extremely modest means and her own part time job nets her 7 yuan per hour, so the fact that they could even suggest buying an expensive plane ticket shows the seriousness of the matter.

One of the questions I asked my interviewees was "What are the downsides to the Spring Festival, is there anything you don't like?" Liu Yan said "No, it is really nice to celebrate the festival". Her comments reflected most people's view. Mikey only had this to say "There are no real problems but sometimes the holiday period conflicts with work responsibilities".

However Queen Zhai said "It is not a question of whether we like it or not". I think they found this question really strange and pointless and I guess the meaning is "There is no choice". We cannot change the fact that there is Christmas, but at least we have an opinion on it, we either love it or hate it. Surprisingly though, Queen went on to say "It's ok". What! Just ok, not good not bad - that in itself is an admission.

Even more surprisingly Candy Yang honestly said that she could not say that she really liked it, as the excitement when young seems to have vanished. I think we can all empathise with that feeling. When we go from

excited children receiving lots of presents from everybody, to stressed out adults forking out the money for said presents, of course our perspective changes.

Much has already written about the stress of Spring Festival travel so we don't need to discuss this aspect in detail here, but what I still don't understand is how Chinese people can be so pragmatic about it, they are able to accept what must be accepted, whereas we complain anyway. Complaining sometimes gets the results we want, but if our complaints get us nowhere, that makes us angry and frustrated. Occasionally I think maybe the Chinese way is better, at least acceptance brings a kind of peace. Our feelings of outrage and indignation when we feel we deserve better are sometimes a burden.

Festive Quarrels and 'Fireworks'

Once the Christmas spirit, and I use this word as in alcohol, has taken hold, many families have their Christmas ruined by the arguments that break out. Experts are all in agreement that this is a very pressured time. One of my most enduring Christmas memories is of my older brothers getting drunk, fighting, smashing their room up and being thrown out by my parents. By Boxing Day (the day after Christmas), all was forgiven – until the next year. Such happy memories! How about Chinese families, do they have the same problem or is it all sweetness and light? Yes they quarrel sometimes, although they are keen to stress that the problem is not so big,



can make families draw closer together. He said "After all apart from family what is there?" His meaning is obviously that family is everything.

As for the real fireworks, most people seem to love them, despite the fact that they go on all night and nobody gets any sleep. They don't expect to get any sleep anyway so they are prepared and they think it is a very lively and interesting time. These fireworks are spectacularly beautiful but they are expensive. There is also the cost to the environment. I hate fireworks, I hate the noise and the smell and I hate the damage they cause. At Spring Festival it seems as if the sky above the whole of China is on fire, the fireworks seem to go on forever not just for a few hours.

My Chinese friends tell me they also worry about pollution, but Spring Festival without all those fireworks would hardly be Spring Festival. Queen Zhai, uncharacteristically for a Chinese person, offered the opinion that there are too many fireworks let off and that they are noisy and dangerous. Actually in Beijing there are rules, people are not allowed to just let fireworks off when and where they choose. Most Tianjiners though are in agreement that not having these rules is better. They reason

after all a united front must be presented to the neighbours, nobody wants to lose face. Mikey says that as he has just got married so far he hasn't experienced this problem with his wife, but when he was young he remembers his parents arguing, although he is not sure of the reasons. A child probably wouldn't realise that the stress of getting everything ready can result in friction. However friction and getting drunk and smashing the place up are two different things. Maybe it is just my family that had these kinds of experiences! Ever the optimist, Mikey even thinks that quarrelling



that as it is only once a year the problems can be overlooked.

Bored to Tears

Christmas TV is characteristically awful, with war films, Westerns and repeats galore. Most people's opinion is that Spring Festival is not boring. Doing the endless rounds of visiting friends and family is an occasion for joy. Mikey said "It is great for everybody to get together, it is really interesting conversing and listening to everyone's opinions". David said that the only boring thing was the TV programmes. Surprisingly Queen Zhai said that she doesn't go to visit her relatives as she is not interested in what they have to say. However we should take this to mean her distant relatives and not her close relatives, as the vast majority of people will definitely visit parents at this time.

Celebrations Galore

If you like the fireworks and being able to enjoy a festival that has nothing to do with you, i.e. enjoyment without the commitment, financial outlay and stress, there are myriad events going on in the city, especially at tourist spots like Old Cultural Street, Gu Lou, the Drum

Tower, and the like.

At certain times you will find the streets deserted as most people will be at home with their families. At this time of year I find living here very comfortable as it seems that half the population leaves, although it has to be said that Tianjiners living away from home will return. However as this is a big city, many people come here to work rather locals leaving and going elsewhere.

Presents

Of course the biggest headache at Christmas is buying presents. Not a few people recoil in horror when the full extent of their spending is presented to them in the form of credit card bills. Although giving gifts is part and parcel, no pun intended, of Spring Festival, Chinese people are remarkably relaxed about it. They view the expense as necessary, so therefore there is no need to complain about it. I think that what probably takes the sting out of present buying, is that unlike at Christmas, they do not necessarily have to shop around for individual gifts for each person, rather, families are presented with traditional gifts. Everybody expects this kind of gift and everybody knows what the unwritten rules are. Popular Spring

Festival gifts include tea, cakes, fruit presentation packs, and Chinese wine.

I asked my interviewees if they had any post festival regrets about the amount of money they had spent and nobody had. Actually there was one person that was very honest about her feelings, she said "I don't particularly like Spring Festival, I don't have the same feelings that I did as a child, I don't feel it is such a happy occasion now, although I don't think it is inconvenient as at least we can have time off work. Sometimes I feel that this time is boring because most of the time we have to go to see the older members of our family and I feel that we have nothing in common but we still have to keep a smile on our face. It makes me feel tired. Of course when we go to see our family members we cannot go empty handed, we have to take presents and we have to give the children envelopes with money in. I always spend around 8000 yuan. Sometimes it is a financial burden but this is money that has to be spent so I don't have any regrets about it. I don't bother watching the Spring Festival TV programmes, I really don't have time".

Heightened Loneliness Story of the Old Han

By Paula Taylor

空巢老人的寂寞除夕

春节本是一年中最高兴、最喜庆、最火爆的日子，而韩爷爷和韩奶奶却要孤独地度过这一天。这对老夫妇已经年近90岁了，他们结婚66年，膝下有4个儿子，孙子、孙女也都已经上大学或工作，应该说已经享受了儿孙满堂的天伦之乐。但是4个儿子依然为生计而不停地奔波。虽然他们隔三差五过来看看，并经常送来好吃的好喝的，但一大家子人除夕之夜相聚在老韩夫妇身边却成了奢望。城市中出现的“空巢家庭”已经逐步演变为新的社会问题。

Naturally in China, some people are not able to go home for Spring Festival and some old people are left alone with one to celebrate with. One of the Chinese writers, Zhang Jian, wanted to write a different kind of Spring Festival article to highlight the story of one such lonely old couple. He visited them and shadowed them as they made their preparations for a special family meal, albeit that there would be no family to eat it.

Han Jing Xuan is 89 years old and his wife Zhou Ke Jing is 87 years old. They have been married for 66 years and live in a courtyard, in a house that has largely

survived modern development, hence their house is almost one of a kind. They have four children who have their own families so there are numerous grandchildren. Given that they have such a large extended family, Spring Festival should be a time of joy and celebration for them. However, just to keep existing on a daily basis, the family heads are all too busy to spend the Festival with their aged parents, hence for this old couple, the empty nest syndrome has had devastating effects. Once upon a time leaving elderly parents at this special time would have been unthinkable, but such is life, society is changing rapidly and China is no different.





1



2



3

1 Finally Spring Festival is almost here and grandpa and grandma are waiting for their eldest son to come and help them clean the house. The eldest son is the one with the most education, now in his 60s he still has two jobs in order to support his own child through university, but he will still help his parents do the housework in time for the Festival. Grandpa says "This house is too old and broken down, it is not worth cleaning", but Chinese tradition dictates that they should 'out with the old and in with the new', and if they don't agree to this arrangement they are afraid that in future the children will not come at all.

2 Today is a very important day, it is the day the god of the kitchen goes to heaven, and he has to be given a kind of candy made from malt sugar. Grandpa has to do two big things, the first one is paste the red stickers

on the walls and doors and the second thing is to worship the god of the kitchen and make the sacrifice of the candy. They put a table opposite the god of the kitchen's picture and Grandpa kneels down and prays and tells him his wishes for the future. No doubt they include the wish for family to come.

3 The night before the festival has arrived and Grandpa is very worried, the house looks happy but they are lonely as no-one is able to come to spend the time with them. It is getting dark and they start to eat, Grandma gives Grandpa a lot to eat. The whole family should be together sitting in a circle eating and staying up late together. Grandpa does not want to talk now, he has gone very quiet, reflecting on past happy times.



4



5

4 After they have eaten the special meal, the second son actually turns up and asks if they should light fireworks, Grandpa puts his hat on and tells Grandma to stand in front of the house and watch them the fireworks are not the important thing, the meal is, and it is already over.

5 The Spring Festival TV programme has not started yet, so Grandpa continues to read the newspaper. Grandma is warming herself by the coal stove. When the programme starts they watch it together. Grandpa says every year he sleeps after everything on TV is finished, but Grandma sleeps soon after 12. Grandpa has turned on all the lights which will stay on all night, at least it looks cheerful and welcoming.

This old couple have such a big family but at the happiest time of year for all Chinese families, their children are not here. They have not abandoned their parents and often come to bring food and drink for them - but not at Spring Festival. What will the neighbours think? It is a terrible shame!

I must admit that reading this article made me feel very sad for this old couple. However I would like to leave the last word with Li Yan who has something quite insightful to say, and which I think sheds light on the way Chinese people really do not have totally negative feelings about this time. "Spring Festival is the Chinese people's traditional festival, we need to protect China's traditional culture so that it can endure for a long time".



Tips on a Happy Expatriation

By Amy Chung

快乐生活的秘诀

Ann Bell 是天津和睦家医院的护理教员和顾问。她在去年4月初次随丈夫来天津的时候经历了痛苦的适应过程。直到她在四个月后找到了现在的工作，情况才慢慢有所好转。
现在Ann建立了一个外国人互助小组，每月有固定的聚会，会员们互相吐露自己的烦恼或分享新的经验。
对于如何让异国生活过得快乐，Ann给出的建议就是不断探索和发现你所生活的城市。学习一些中文，多认识点朋友，多了解这个地方。

Once a month, expats gather at Tianjin United Family Hospital to say what's on their mind.

Being in a country that's the complete opposite of home can be an exhilarating experience, but for some expats, the adjustment is a frustrating feat.

From the office to home, foreigners are thrown into the deep end of it all. Language and cultural barriers are just the beginning of a long list of stresses that come along with expatriation.

Ann Bell, UFH's nursing educator and counselor, has heard and experienced them all.

Bell, who fears flying, left North America for the first time with her husband and 14-year-old son from Pennsylvania, USA, to Tianjin in April 2012.

"I wanted to go home after the first day," said Bell, explaining how she was traumatized by the local medical tests required for her visa paperwork.

"For weeks, I'd say to my husband, 'you did this to me,'" she recalled, with a laugh. Her husband, Tim, was relocated for work with JLG Industries, prompting the trans-Pacific adventure for the family. Their daughter remains in the U.S., studying at the University of Massachusetts.

Before moving to China, Bell was part of a private counseling practice specializing in holistic and integrated psychiatry for two

years. Before that, she was a nurse.

But now, Bell says her initial feelings of wanting to flee China have waned after adjusting to life in Tianjin and starting her work at UFH last August.

"If you ask my husband now, he'd tell you I'd love to stay," she said, earnestly.

In December, Bell was also appointed Wellington College's school counselor.

Once a month, Bell moderates the expat support group, which runs every third Monday of the month. It's a confidential space for foreigners to voice their concerns, share advice, get support, and to meet other expats who are going through the same experiences.

Bell compares expatriation to immigration.

"You go through a grief and bereavement period for all that you lost at home and (having to) start anew," said Bell.

"You have to think of it as a new experience," she said, explaining how she advocates her patients to focus on not what they have lost but to focus on what they can learn and what they can do in China.

But arriving to that point is not easy.

Getting things done, even simple tasks like buying groceries could be a dizzying experience, lasting hours, she says.

"We become more dependent on everybody," said Bell.

"In the U.S., we decry co-dependency. And here, you will need it to survive. So we're

almost changing the way we think because we want to be independent, but we can't. It's an overwhelming feeling of: 'I just want to do it myself,'" she explained.

In the first weeks of her expatriation, Bell said she learned a lot about patience and the lack of it she had.

"My motto was always to let things roll off my back and I wasn't doing it," said Bell, adding, "I needed to step back and say, 'I'm either going to make it or break it.'"

After counseling expats for the past few months, Bell has identified three core groups in the community (non-workers, workers, children) and the common struggles they go through. She sheds some light on the dynamic of the three groups. Here's an abridged version of Bell's interview with JIN:

JIN: What has changed between the worker and non-worker relationship when they come to China?

ANN: The non-worker is feeling threatened by the worker having the ability to be a little more off on their own and there are certain things that can happen like extra-marital affairs or things of that nature. There's financial, emotional dependency.

The one staying at home is feeling very insecure because of [the worker's] ability to have affairs, the ability to do what they want to do and you're kind of stuck.

Some of these women and men were

working before [coming to China].

You almost lose a sense of yourself. You're becoming more dependent when you're so independent. You're angry, resentful, jealous, sad. The emotions are varied.

JIN: What is the percentage split of those you see who enjoy being here versus those who do not?

ANN: It's probably an equal split, but more towards positive. We do have some who are very negative, but most of them are in the positive side.

There's 30% to 40% [of patients] I've met are angry. And it's only until they find a purpose for themselves ... the minute they found a purpose, they move to the other end. [Life] can't necessarily revolve around the children or the spouse, it has to be directly for them.

JIN: How about the children? What are they going through?

ANN: The differences in education. For Americans, our education is different than here. Our kids are taught differently so the expectations are far higher here.

Kids are [coming] from different countries, with different educational backgrounds. The other thing is, the integration into the culture. They say it's easier for the kids, but sometimes it's not. The parents are more stressed than they were at home because of the expectations of them.

We need to look at something for the kids at a certain age. We have a TICC for the

adults, lets do a TICC for the kids and let them experience each other and do bowling and movie events and give them skills to interact because we need to learn to cope and deal.

Cutting – that's a big issue in the U.S., but it's happening here because they're so frustrated here, they cut to release endorphins.

For some, cutting's a coping mechanism, but for others, they see others doing it and they do it. Unfortunately, you have some that start it and it spreads like wildfire but then they can't stop it. We need to focus that these kids have the right coping skills.

The other thing is drugs and alcohol.

JIN: Are parents losing grip on their kids here versus back home?

ANN: The parenting styles are different here. If kids were expected to do things like chores back home, they should be expected to do it here because kids need that sense of consistency and normalcy. If we don't provide rules or boundaries, that's when they act out because they just don't know what to do with themselves.

Sometimes I've seen [parents] come here and they've changed the way they do things here. It's completely different from things back home – they kind of give in and just let [the kids] do whatever because they're too busy dealing with their own stuff. They're trying to be the martyr; they're caving when kids need the exact opposite. [Kids] need that consistency from home here because most of them do go home and you have to retrain

them all over again.

JIN: What tips do you have to offer for a happy expatriation?

ANN: Explore, explore, explore. Find neat little shops, go take a ride and look around. Slow down, meet and greet people. Learn Chinese, take the time to learn it. It's a frustrating language but at least try, make it fun. Get involved in the community – reach out. Find friends, learn where you live.

You got to make your own experience.

JIN: What advice do you have for the expats who are just counting down the days until their China days are over?

ANN: I'd say what are some of the positives? What are the good things that you remember from here? Because you don't want to walk away hating the whole thing. Think back about the things you really enjoyed and focus in on them. With any situation, lets not always focus on the negative because then you're always going to be negative.

In January, Bell started another support group for working expats.

The next expat support group is on Feb.

18.

Bell is keen on starting new support groups for anyone who is interested in a particular theme – smoking, diabetes, for example. For more information about these groups, or to pitch one, please contact Ann Bell at: ann.bell@ufh.com.cn



Movin' On Up, And Out

by Parker Barriball



自由迁徙

受过高等教育，在国内有五年以上工作经验，有良好教养，社会地位体面，收入可观，这是新一代中国技术移民的共性。相比二十出头出国留学、毕业后留下来工作的留学型移民，这部分人移民时年龄已处在30至40岁之间，选择余地与竞争力都较小。大量技术移民在国外的生活虽然平稳却远不如国内光鲜。在遥远的异国他乡，他们中的大多数需要褪去在国内“成功人士”的光环，回归到普通平淡的生活。

如今，中国人正在更加理性地进行人口迁徙，选择自己想要的生活方式。中国的留学移民市场经过二十七年的发展，从上个世纪70年代末的劳务输出、80年代末的洋插队和出国留学定居，到现在的投资移民，从数量上来看，申请人数在逐年递增，但和之前相比，很多人都对人生有很清晰的规划，移民海外的吸引力主要希望发达社会能提供的公平机会更多，也更能满足他们对于财富稳定的期许。

如今我们更多的在谈论移民是否导致精英外流或中国能否留住人才。其实从香港1997移民潮回流就可以看出，个人身份与中国未来发展的认同已经相对独立。而且，人们能够自由迁徙，这也是社会进步和文明的体现。

As the ranks of China's wealthy grow, more and more of them immigrate abroad. They do so in enough numbers, and bring enough money with them that it's a phenomenon worth examining. Immigration is a funny thing. People have left their homelands for other places for varying reasons since people had homelands to leave. But what are the motivations for China's new rich, and what does this exodus mean to traditional family dynamics, and the relationship between China's wealthy and poor?

A survey of China's wealthy individuals (worth 1.6 million USD), many of whom could be considered nouveau riche, found that 16% of individuals have already emigrated, and projections show that 44% may soon follow, many coming to the US and other parts of the West. A China Merchant's Bank survey of a similar demographic, those with assets above 1.5 million USD, revealed that 60% of respondents plan to leave China. Part of this exodus is due to the drop in real estate prices in the US, making foreign property all the more attractive, as well as favorable immigration policies toward immigrants who

are willing to bring their assets with them. However, the above issues are pull factors, why one should come to a new place. But the push factors, or the reasons to leave China, are quite different. There are two kinds of push factors driving the wealthy from China, and they are not as obvious as one might think.

The more obvious factors are material. A good education system, clean air, food safety, and a certain investment atmosphere are a few examples. These are all things that people the world over desire, and are more or less tangible. For some Chinese they find these things lacking at home. Many developing countries experience a similar shortage in these areas of life, but because China's wealthy have the means to leave and attain them abroad, they do so, and at increasingly high numbers. In a country that values their progeny so highly, it is not surprising that some of the first to be sent abroad are actually students, the children of wealthy families. Whether they leave with the intention of returning home, or are expecting their parents to eventually join them is unclear. However, the fact is that according to Fujian's Huaqiao University, Chinese that

study abroad only have a 30% return rate. That is not just a recent trend; it is the return rate for all Chinese students who have gone abroad since 1978. Also, since the government has begun trying to cool the real estate bubble and avoid a burst, investment policy and lack of incentives have provided little encouragement to invest in real estate domestically. Issues like the environment may not seem like a good enough reason to leave your homeland, but with the recent smog emergencies in Beijing, one has to wonder how much is too much. Food safety is another issue that affects people daily, regardless of economic standing. According to the International Herald Tribune a Chinese immigrant to Canada reported that she left China because of the Sanlu (toxic baby milk) case, and also because of the "hatred against the rich."

The woman's reasons are telling of another set of factors pushing the rich from their homeland, that is, a sense of well-being and safety, both personal, and for financial assets. Depression rates in China are on the rise. It is estimated that China has one of the ten highest suicide rates in the world.



Spectacular Scene of Migration

Depression among the older generation in Beijing is near 15%, while Beijing's university students have a clinical depression rate of 25%. A recent Gallop Wellbeing Survey revealed that most Chinese feel depressed, which is different from clinical depression, but shows overall dissatisfaction among a huge populous. The survey asked Chinese respondents to choose between "thriving," "struggling," and "suffering" to describe their general situation, 12% think of themselves as "thriving," while 17% describe themselves as "suffering," and 71% "struggling." The number of respondents choosing struggling was similar to those in Haiti and Nepal. While it is undeniable that China has seen a meteoric economic rise, the last thirty years in China have seen growth rates that are only a dream in the West; but if the old adage, "money cannot buy happiness" is to be believed, China may be the poster child for such a sentiment.

One should also remember an expanding GDP does not give an accurate picture of wealth distribution, which in China is already quite unequal. The gini index, commonly applied to national wealth distribution, is based on a 100 point scale where 100 represents perfect inequality and 0

represents perfect equality. China's gini coefficient is 48, 27th in the world. By comparison the US and UK score 45 and 35 respectively. In a country where collectivized farms and zero private property are still within living memory the flaunting and growing wealth of a few is cause for despair and even anger among the many who have little benefit from China's economic success story. Income disparity is a simple reality of a market economy. Perhaps the rub felt by many Chinese is not the existence of economic inequality per se, but rather a feeling that the playing field is not level and that those that come from privilege are the beneficiaries of ill-gotten gain. To compound these feelings, the poor observe China's new rich amassing wealth, and then leaving the society that allowed for that accumulation.

The US has already become the destination of choice for many rich Chinese, both private businessmen and former officials alike. And whether that wealth is legitimate or made through illegal means, it does not change the fact that in the past 25 years, 123 billion USD worth of assets have left the country with Chinese emigrants, according to a report by the People's Bank of China. Western countries are welcoming rich

immigrants with open arms, as long as they do not come empty handed.

It's easy to see that those with the means to leave do so, and that many of those without the means would leave if they could. But for those who leave the country, I wonder about the change to family dynamics. China's population is rapidly ageing, and cultural norms and tradition dictates that the younger generation cares for the older one. How is this possible with oceans of separation between the two? Care facilities in the West are quite developed and there is little stigma involved with an older loved one spending their twilight years in such a facility, in fact it has become more and more common recently. In China however, the social infrastructure is not there. The care facilities for the aged are insufficient and even if they were, it would mean a change in the basic structure of the Chinese family. I wonder how such a conservative society will change with the times when ageing and becoming wealthy coincide. It will be an interesting thing to watch as the new rich decide where to live and how to care for the older generation.

It's about Dinner and Racists!

饭局和待人

本月的专栏文章我想说两件事。一是商务饭局，这是中国商务人士社交活动的主要内容。学会餐桌上的礼仪，做一个得体的客人或周到的主人会在你的客户面前赢得不少印象分。

第二个问题是平等待人。作为公司的管理人员，你要确定你所提拔的人选能够服众。你要让所有人明白你决策的理由，不要以出身来判断一个人的人品和能力。打个比方，世界顶尖的足球俱乐部从来都不会只招募本国球员，有些俱乐部的球员甚至来自十多个国家。所以，我们只要记得在适当的时候传球给同伴就可以了，而不用考虑他们来自哪里。

Last month we stopped at meeting etiquette and leadership hierarchy in China. So you've had a good meeting and now you're presenting a gift to the guest/host team/delegation. How do you do that?

If you're presenting a gift, try to let your Chinese colleagues choose it (or at least ask their opinion) since there are items with symbolic meanings that you would want to avoid. Sharp items like letter openers (omen of cutting relationships), four items of anything (resembling death) and white objects (white -not black- is common for funerals here!) are some of the gifts that should be avoided.

Once meetings and gifts are out of the way, now comes the feasting – and I mean literally feasting. Business meals in China are large and very social gatherings. Get used to not being served your own plate. Instead the food revolves on a banquet table and you have to serve yourself from the rotating main dishes. It might be physically and personally uncomfortable but you'll get used to it before you know it.

Sometimes the revolving table can be stopped with an attached revolving ring below that you can press with your foot to

stop the rotating top. In these cases you can do it or you'll find that most hosts will do it for you once they notice you trying to catch some food. In all cases, you can use your hand to stop rotation while picking the food with the other hand.

If you find something that you don't like, try to just ignore it and if invited to it by your host, you can give a polite "no" with a smile



and maybe a simple explanation like "I like this other one over there". They will usually understand. If they don't, just pick some of it and place it in your plate and leave it there so they know you're not shy or anything but just prefer not to eat it.

The most common drink over business meetings with foreigners is beer. Sometimes an all Chinese banquet will have strong spirits but lately it's been a custom to serve beer and red wine to accommodate foreigners. If you don't drink alcohol at all, you can ask for tea or even warm water. If you choose to go for the beer, watch your amount since the Chinese can be heavy drinkers and you might find yourself swaying out of your league if you match them bottle for bottle.

If the host says "ganbei" then you're

expected to raise that glass and lower it when it's empty. "Bottoms-up" if you will. However, don't drink more than you're capable of and signal with your hand that you've had enough if they try to refill your glass. Or you can leave it full and just give a polite "no, I drank enough" apology.

This is especially important if you're having lunch and will have to continue work after the meal. You don't want to be inebriated while discussing an important business deal or development project. You also have to note that all this pressure on you to eat and drink is only happening because your host cares about you and wants to show it.

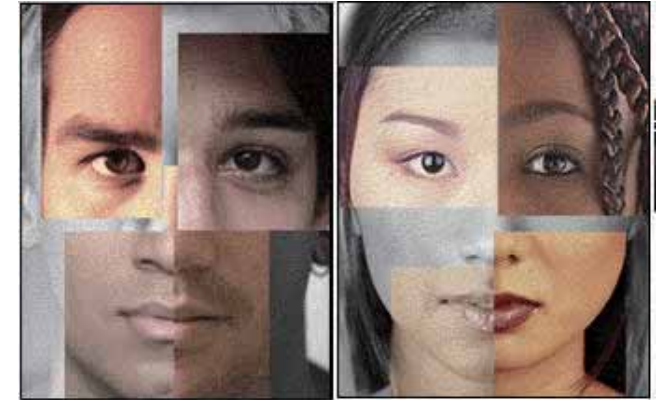
After the meetings, meals and gifts are over; you can expect that the host will almost-always drive the guest to their destination or at least to the airport or train station. If you're the host, you have to make sure that you have suitable transportation waiting for your guests at the airport, train station or picking them up from their offices if they can't easily arrive on their own. Don't let them take a taxi if you can at all help it.

This is all fine and pretty much agreeable, but there are also un-pleasantries. They are always there and in China might even be a little tenser than you're accustomed to. Issues like voice raising, quarrels and unfortunately racism – as in every other country – do exist in China.

Now we all know that things in life don't always go the way we planned. Your journey from your terminal of arrival into China to your first job and meetings might sometimes take a turn for worse. There are always these misunderstandings and troubled times that we have to go through. This is true in every country around the world, and it's true in China.

Differences in opinion can cause conflicts at the workplace and may lead to quarrels, fights, team fractures and in the worst cases, violence. Everybody is different and you should learn that in China, variety might be a more integral way of life than in many western societies. This diversity can lead to the ugly and most unfortunate racism.

This is a touchy, sensitive and ugly subject but I'd like to tackle it because reading this might help you resolve some conflicts. First, don't let your personal relationship with one person cloud your judgment. For example, if you give one person a raise or a promotion, make sure he/she deserves it and make sure you treat the rest of the team equally. China has a very high turn over rate



and it's very easy for you to lose your team because you've built tension between them. Be fair!

Provide clarity and ensure that everybody knows the reason for your choices and decisions. If you have a team with Chinese and expat members, be 110% fair to the Chinese colleagues. DO NOT make assumptions based on national origin. The Chinese members are the backbone of your organization and you can't function without them. If you favor an expat over a Chinese with no justification, the Chinese members WILL be sensitive and you'll spread the seed of racism in your company.

OK, racism exists in China between the Chinese themselves (on basis of city of origin, financial status and sometimes religion). It's not rampant but it's there. Then there's nationalism. Unfortunately, it exists both ways. I hear from many Chinese colleagues that expats are tense when dealing with them and the Chinese even sometimes feel humiliated by the way expats deal with them. I say to expats who really do this that they are way out of line and that they should be thankful for the courtesy their Chinese hosts have provided. For those who don't really mean to act in such a way, I say that they need to try harder at understanding the Chinese culture and to avoid those actions that make their Chinese peers uncomfortable.

On the other hand, I have also heard -and witnessed myself- about some racist encounters by the Chinese towards expats. Expats are sometimes seen as unwelcome guests who occupy the land and compete with the land owners for jobs and business opportunities. To those I say that we are all here for development opportunities and that

those early colonial days are over.

I always give one example to both sides that carries the solution to this heated issue. When you look at sports teams (Real Madrid is especially popular in China), you don't see the team hiring players from home country only! They have players from around the world. Some clubs have players from ten or more countries and they are just 22 players. Imagine what you can do with a whole country of international teams.

As a team member and manager in the workplace, remind your peers about this. Tell them that each of them has an advantage and we need to use all their skills to get the job done. When the economy slows down, it does for all of us and when we sign a business deal, it means bonuses for all of us. When you've delivered this message to your team and you all abide by it, you'll have fantastic productivity levels in your company. You just need to learn when to "pass the ball" from a "player" to the next without thinking where they come from. As I said months ago, we need the complete palette of skills to survive in this globalized world.

Now that you've passed the first test of Chinese workplace and getting more familiar with China, would you think of starting your own business? How would you do that? What business suits you? 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



Tianjin University

—an International MBA Centre

by Paula Taylor

天津大学-国际MBA项目的中心

随着中国成为世界第二大经济体，选择中国作为发展事业成为明智的选择。而天津也不再是北京的穷亲戚，她已经逐渐走出这个阴影，成为适宜工作和学习的理想目的地。

对于企业来说，最宝贵的资源就是人才，所以很多老板都不惜血本培养他们认定的可造之材。IMM的MBA项目发起于美国，至今已有20年历史。天津大学被IMM选中成为大中华区唯一合作伙伴。适合高管的弹性日程IMM项目为期二十个月。其特色在于精心设计的五个国家的教学模块，每个模块是为期两周封闭学习，在全球各合作院校集各校精英师资全球移动授课。

Being in the right place at the right time is crucial, it can be life changing. With China's status as a super economy already established, now is the right time to be here and now is a great time to be in Tianjin. No longer is Tianjin the poor relation to Beijing, it is coming out from under the shadow and is emerging as a viable option to work and study.

Businesses are waking up and realising that good training is essential to fast development. Bosses are willing to invest in their most precious commodity - their staff. Good Managers need on-going training in order to better fulfil their own potential and that of their subordinates. As discussed in a previous article, it is not necessarily essential for Chinese students to go abroad to get a good education as they can obtain it here, but for foreign students looking for a good MBA programme, Tianjin also has good opportunities.

Tianjin University has been chosen as the latest partner of the IMM MBA Project, which has been described by the Financial Times as "one of the world's most senior international MBAs". This is truly an international collaboration, as seven leading business schools worldwide participate in this programme. A unique factor of joining the programme is that a student obtains not one, but two degrees, a Purdue University MBA and an MBA from Tianjin University.

Having been started at Purdue University in the US 20 years ago, the IMM program is not a new concept, it is well established and respected. Tianjin University's Professor Wei Zhang gave us some background information. Professor Zhang really believes in this course and has confidence in the myriad benefits to be had. The IMM Program spans a 20-month period. It is distinctive in that the subsequent instructional sessions are concentrated into five two-week residential periods. This schedule makes it possible for participants to be drawn from around the world, and it eliminates the problem of potential interruptions in their education for participants who experience job transfers during the program.

The mandate of the course is learning through experience. In a normal work situation Managers would only generally have a short time to resolve issues and then maybe they would hastily make a wrong decision. Enrolling on this programme means the students, who are mostly already managers,

will have a chance to have brainstorming sessions with other like-minded managers and will be able to solve problems in real time. Imagine having the opportunity to pick the brains of the best in the business!

Sounds good so far but still I wanted to know why someone should choose this programme rather than any other. It is competitively priced and even cheaper than some programmes as everything is included, books, tuition, and accommodation. The only thing that is not included is the international air fare, so at 55,000 euros it really is a feasible option.

Apart from the reasonable cost there are other sound reasons to join this programme. Students will only be in a foreign environment for two weeks of the course, so the usual problems associated with a new environment will not really be felt. Everything is done to make the students' lives easy so that they can study with no distraction. Enrolling on this course will really give the students an international experience, as apart from living away from their own country, they will also be able to mix with students of many other nationalities. As already stated this programme was set up 20 years ago in the US with Europe as a partner, but now China, Brazil and Hungary have also been added as partners.

As far as learning in the classroom is concerned, this is just one aspect of the course, but another important part is being given access to business people in different places and seeing how they do things. Also as the student body is made up of students from four continents, they all have very different perspectives. Another benefit is that this is not a full time MBA course, it is broken down into five instalments so students will be able to keep their jobs as well as studying.

This programme is as good as anything else offered elsewhere in the world, in part because of its longevity and good reputation, hence although there are different branches, the quality of teaching has been maintained. As it is an international programme at the moment the school is recruiting Chinese students to take part. There are more than 1,000 top business people that have already attended this programme. The beauty of it is that it connects business people together with other people who can advance their business interests. In China connections are everything, the valuable relationships that are formed on the course will have long lasting benefits.

Extensive teamwork is mandatory and there are case studies to be examined which must be their own experience, real problems that they will face. They can talk about these problems, analyse them and can find ways to solve them, so this experience is very valuable. It is a perfect opportunity to enhance their critical thinking ability. In the real world sometimes Managers don't get enough time to think of a perfect fix, but on this programme it can be part of their study.

As they are only here for a short time Professor Zhang and his team do not anticipate participants will face any real problems, but in any event there is a sufficient support network in place. Naturally the course allows for a little time to sample local culture.

Professor Zhang says "It is a good time to come to China to study as we live in a changing world, if you want to be a global leader you cannot ignore this part of the economy. Now is the right time to be in China and get on board before it is too late". Students do not have to worry about speaking Chinese as all the classes are in English.

Tianjin University would like to develop greater collaboration with more schools, at the moment it is affiliated with a number of them including Purdue University, University of Arizona, Plymouth and Portsmouth Universities in the UK, Hong Kong University and Taiwan University among others.

Students who enrol on this programme will also find that the value of it includes global vision and international networking, which will bring them to new heights. Training local talent is also very important. More and more companies are willing to pay for this extra training for their staff, so many students are either fully or partially supported by their companies. This programme also helps Chinese entrepreneurs.

Professor Zhang went on to say "The change of leadership will bring new ways of thinking and development. I also teach an entrepreneur's class so I know their mind set. This course will help Chinese people compete in the international market and get them to understand the international standards".

It definitely looks as though Tianjin University is a viable option for any potential Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerbergs out there who want to achieve their highest potential. China may not be the first choice for anyone wanting to undertake a course like this, but the smart person will not dismiss the idea without giving it careful consideration.

Hard work, persistence, and loyalty

by Chao Lee

Recently Mr. Clive Murray has been appointed as the General Manager of Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin. Clive was formerly Managing Director of the west region of Japan Ishin Hotels Group. Prior to that he was General Manager of the Stamford Grand North Ryde, and Resident Manager of Prince Hotel Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. He has 24 years of hospitality experience and has also served in various positions at 8 properties of Intercontinental hotel Groups in Sydney and Melbourne, hence he is fully qualified in the hotel industry globally, and no doubt will bring more innovations to the market in Tianjin in the future.



CHINA STATION of Radisson Blu

努力, 坚持, 专心

来自澳洲的马瑞先生目前担任天津天诚丽笙世嘉酒店总经理一职。此前，曾经是日本Ishin酒店集团西部区域常务董事。也曾先后担任马来西亚吉隆坡王子酒店及度假村驻店经理和北莱斯坦福酒店总经理。马瑞先生拥有24年旅游业和服务业工作经验，还曾在悉尼和墨尔本的8家洲际酒店集团旗下的酒店任职。相信工作经验丰富的马瑞先生必将带领天津天诚丽笙世嘉酒店迈上新的台阶。

Before you took the job in Tianjin, you spent many years working in other countries, what's your impression of Tianjin and have you been enjoying your life here so far?

It is the first time for me to come to Tianjin and also to China. It is really fascinating to see not only Tianjin but also China. From a personal perspective, China is a large country with so many diversities and Tianjin is quite a beautiful city with such good location to Beijing

Lately I've been out to many bars and restaurants but it is so cold now. Honestly, I have probably never lived in an environment this cold. Right now it is summer in my hometown back in Australia so I can definitely say that my life here is very different.

What's your major task here at Radisson now? What's the plan or strategy to generate more revenue in this competitive market?

I have to ensure that apart from maintaining the business level we also continue to expand it, as well as drive a high quality standard through the business. Last year, the hotel was re-branded as Radisson Blu, the platinum product for Radisson. So we have to ensure that we make the brand standard and deliver the high quality that is expected of it.

Although the hotel industry in Tianjin is a little bit over supplied, we are the closest 5-star hotel to Tianjin Train Station. We benefit from the leisure business and conference business from Beijing because we are only 5 minutes away from the station. What's more, we do a lot of marketing. We really need to drive continuous occupancy to maximize the revenues and that involves cooperating with the leisure business.

Another thing I want to say to our customers is that there is a really nice Chinese restaurant, China Station, people really need to check it out.

We will be launching some exciting



Beancurd Skin Roll with Soya Bean Sauce

promotions in the Japanese restaurant in March and will continue to do promotions in the Chinese restaurant, especially during Spring Festival. Also we have just launched a new menu in our western restaurant, Cafe 66. Therefore, constant innovation and constant promotion is part of our strategy.

What's the advantage or most attractive part of the hotel to your guests?

The first thing I should say is the location to the station. Although there are many nice hotels, our location is exceptional and the night view over the river around this area is very beautiful. What's more, we are also the only open 5 star hotel in the Hedong District at the moment. Although as previously stated the Tianjin market is a little bit over-supplied now, there is still enough business to go around.

What do you think about the development of Tianjin hotel industry?

As an industrial city, Tianjin is still growing but the occupancy is not at the level it should be, however it is also not dropping. New industries are coming in and there are a lot of international companies in Tianjin already. Therefore, looking forward to the future, I do believe that Tianjin will be a positive market soon.

What would you like to say to those young people who intend to start their career in the hotel industry in the future?

Certainly, it is an exciting industry but no doubt, hard work is waiting. For those who are interested in joining the hotel industry, I would like to say you are going to meet a diverse range of people. It is very exciting so I really love my younger, hardworking days.

If you can think about China as a huge market, Chinese people are going to travel, so we need hotels and well trained hotel employees. So it is a quite a promising industry. Also it could be a good opportunity to explore the world because there are a lot of job opportunities internationally.

You really need hard work, persistence, loyalty. However, even people who majored in accounting, marketing, or business are also welcome because we have many different departments requiring skills, which we say is the engine



Clive Murray
General Manager

room behind the scenes.

Do you have anything to say to our readers who might be your potential guests?

Yes, please come to Hedong and look around in our hotel when you are on spring festival holiday. If your friends come to town, we are so close to the station and also downtown. It is really a good place to stay and a convenient area with a new open shopping mall and a hypermarket across the road. It is even very close to the airport on the side of city without facing the traffic to get into the city.

People who want to come to the restaurants in our hotel for dinner and lunch, please make a reservation in advance, because we will be very busy shortly. We will be open all the time for the whole Spring Festival holiday and are ready to prepare reunion dinners for families and also lovers. So come around and have a relaxing day in our hotel.

All in all, I wish everyone a wonderful Chinese New Year, happiness and prosperity.

The Most Familiar Faces in Expats Community

外籍社区最熟悉的面孔

By Parker Barriball

现在很多餐饮企业都在抱怨招人难、留人难，但是粤园泰餐厅的老板李文中却有几位忠诚的员工，一直陪他和这家餐厅走过了18个年头。李文中把这归结为自己的运气。作为老板，他承认员工对餐厅的付出要多于他自己。

粤园的老面孔Jimmy和Cindy分别在这里工作了18年和10年。他们对待常来的熟客像自己的朋友一样。每个人的喜好他们都烂熟于心，根本不需要按菜单点菜。老板给予的信任和自由以及这里大家庭式的气氛是他们一直留在这里的原因。

One endemic problem of the restaurant industry in Tianjin is high turnover rates of staff. The old saying is true, it's hard to find good help these days. However, one favorite expat hang out has done well in keeping customers and employees alike around long term.

YY Beer House has nearly a half dozen staff, from chefs, to servers who have been with the restaurant for over a decade. That's no small feat in any industry. We stopped by to figure out how Li Wenzhong, the owner of YY, has been so successful in keeping quality staff.

"A big part of the success of my business has been luck, but to be honest I feel that the staff I have now, especially the ones who have been around for so long, contribute more to this place than I do. At first I was scared to leave town, I would call constantly to get updates. I've realized that my staff can take care of things and now I travel all over with a real peace of mind that they can keep things going while I am away. We have been open 18 years, but it was not always a Thai restaurant, originally we were a Cantonese style restaurant. Some of my employees have been with me from the very beginning. I am lucky to have them with me after so many years."

It was easy to see the boss's appreciation for his loyal staff. After spending an afternoon in the restaurant, we soon discovered that a family atmosphere is the modus operandi at YY.

Many of the regulars are so well taken care of that they don't even ask for a menu, the staff sees them enter and starts their order. As foreigners, it is easy to appreciate having a place so familiar and warm while abroad. Regulars and staff are on a first name basis. We



had a chat with a few of the YY veterans on our visit.

Jimmy, who has been with the restaurant all 18 years, told us that he values the freedom to operate in his own style. After almost two decades of service at the restaurant he told us that the family atmosphere is a real draw. Each year the staff takes a vacation to different locations all over China which only helps to reinforce that family bond.

Cindy, a ten year veteran of YY, told us that she started working part time while at language school. Jenny told us that while she was still in school she was given ample time and flexibility to prepare for exams, which was very important to her. She says, like Jimmy, that the freedom and flexibility keeps her around. Also, in her experience guests who have been away for years will occasionally come back looking for their old friends on

staff at YY.

While the people at YY are both inviting and dependable, the food should not be forgotten. There is a reason it is consistently voted Tianjin's best Thai restaurant. Their Chef, who was trained by the chef to the Thai royal family, has been in Tianjin since 2002 and prepares excellent Thai cuisine like the Tom Yum Koong Soup, which is exceedingly difficult to make. Mr. Li explained that this dish shows the level of the chef who prepares it. I can personally attest to its deliciousness and therefore the chef who prepared it.

To really understand the magic mix that makes YY a place that people enjoying being a part of, consider Mr. Li's observation of the staff: "Our customers don't necessarily know who I am, but they know all our staff by name!" he says with a warm glint in his eyes.

Apple headed for 1st profit decline in 9 years?

The iPhone and iPad maker is slated to report its fiscal-first quarter earnings on January 23 and estimates are all over the board. The consensus view is for a 3% year-over-year decline. But the so-called consensus is hardly that. It's merely the average of all the estimates.

And those estimates run the gamut from a nearly 14% decline in earnings to a 12% increase, according to Thomson Reuters. Other professional investors are a bit more bullish than Wall Street analysts. According to crowdsourcing site Estimize, which publishes forecasts from hedge fund managers and other so-called buy side analysts, Apple's earnings should rise by nearly 4%.

Still, Wall Street analysts have been ratcheting down their expectations for months, and if Apple does report a drop in profit, it will mark its first decline in nine years.

The consensus back in October was for an 11% rise in earnings, according to Thomson Reuters. That was before Apple warned that its profit margins would come down significantly during the final three months of the year due to higher costs tied to all of its new products, including the iPhone 5 and the iPad mini. On top of that, Apple cut the price of the iPhone 4S and iPhone 4, which should also cut into profit margins.

Intel profit sinks 27% on dreadful PC sales

The world's largest chipmaker reported a quarterly profit on Thursday that fell 27% from year-ago results, dragged down by slumping PC chip sales. Intel sold 6% fewer PC chips in the fourth quarter -- its biggest business, and one that accounts for nearly two-thirds of its overall revenue.

The results weren't unexpected. Worldwide PC shipments fell by 5% in the fourth quarter and 3.5% for 2012, according to Gartner. It was the first time since the dot-com bust of 2001 that PC shipments fell from one year to the next. The quarter "played out largely as expected," Paul Otellini, Intel's outgoing CEO, said in a prepared statement. He called the current business climate "challenging."

Intel's net income fell to \$2.5 billion, or 48 cents per share, in the fourth quarter. Sales for the Santa Clara, Calif.-based company fell 3% to \$13.5 billion. For the current quarter, Intel expects revenue of between \$12.2 billion and \$13.2 billion, roughly in line with Wall Street analysts' expectations. For 2013, Intel predicts sales will increase by a percentage in the low single digits, also matching with analysts' forecasts.

Source: money.cnn.com

A man is not old as long as he is seeking something. A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams.

只要一个人还有所追求，他就没有老。直到后悔取代了梦想，他才算老。
—约翰·巴里穆尔 (John Barrymore, 美国电影演员)

Anyone who's worth talking to is worth listening to.

值得与之交谈的人，同样值得倾听。
—大卫·博伊斯 (David Boies, 美国Boies Schiller & Flexner律师事务所创始人)

I just love it when people say I can't do it, there's nothing that makes me feel better because all my life, people have said that I wasn't going to make it.

我就喜欢做别人说我不行的事儿，因为在我的一生中，总是会有人来说，我干不了这个干不了那个。而当我真正做成了，这种感觉就太棒了。
—泰德·特纳 (Ted Turner, 美国有线电视新闻网创始人)

If your business isn't the best quality, it will not succeed.

如果你的公司不具备最优秀的品质，就别想成功。
—特雷西·瑞斯 (Tracy Reese, 时装设计师)

In today's world, talent is so critical to the success of what you're doing—their core competencies and how well they fit into your office culture.

在如今的世界，人才对于你成功实现目标至关重要，这与他们的核心能力，以及他们在多大程度上融入你的企业文化息息相关。
—明迪·格罗斯曼 (Mindy Grossman, 美国HSN公司CEO)

Source: Fortune China

Generation Lack

by Paula Taylor

代沟

最近，我在百度上看到一则新闻：一个年轻女孩儿坐在街边乞讨，地上写的一段话表明现在急需360元现金回老家，因为已经被男朋友抛弃的她现在已经怀孕好几个月了。大批路人纷纷驻足围观，并且有不少人慷慨解囊，捐钱捐物。这件事甚至惊动到当地电视台，特派记者和摄制组快速赶往现场，准备报道这则有关社会爱心传递的感人故事。出人意料的是，当摄制组一出现，这名女孩儿便急匆匆的收拾起东西，瞬间消失在人群中。转天，女孩儿又出现在另外一条街乞讨。经由警方的介入，终于真相大白：女孩儿根本没有怀孕，也没有要赶回老家，她只是想骗点钱而已。这次的乞讨行骗事件再一次把中国90后子女教育问题推上风口浪尖，成为社会焦点问题之一。但是，我认为单纯指责90后并不公平，年轻父母们的言行和子女价值观的灌输也同样值得深刻思考和反省。

Just recently I discovered a very interesting news story on Baidu. It was about a young girl who was sitting in the street, essentially begging. She was heavily pregnant and had written a sign that said her boyfriend had abandoned her and she needed 360 yuan to get back to her home town. Passers-by were extremely worried and soon a great crowd had gathered, so much so that the local TV station sent a crew to cover this human interest story. Many people donated money, but at the appearance of the TV cameras, the girl got up and left. Understandably she was embarrassed that her plight would be broadcast on TV. However the next day the same thing happened, the girl went to another street to beg and once again a crowd and the TV crew appeared.

Also amongst those offering help was an organisation specially appointed to help those in distress, and the representative asked her why she had not taken up his offer to drive her right to her home town, and instead

preferred to beg in the street. Once again the girl got up and tried to leave saying that she did not need help, whereupon the representative said that he would take her to the hospital to check her physical condition. When the police turned up she admitted it was all a lie and she was not pregnant. This report surprised me, not because it was a scam, but because the report was preceded by the words "Jiu Ling Hou (90后)", which means that the girl was born between 1990 and 1999. I checked and there were many such reports of criminals, scammers and antisocial activity, and the one thing they had in common was that the perpetrators were all of that generation.

Consequently I desired to know why the year they were born was important, and upon speaking to my friends they all had the same thing to say, the people born in this generation have a bad reputation. Criticisms involved selfishness, disobedience to parents, just treating their parents as open wallets, strange behaviour, spending large amounts of time on the internet, wearing strange clothes



and hairstyles, their parents unable to communicate with them, amongst others.

I pointed out that this described most teenagers. Parents of teenagers everywhere all lament the same thing, so I felt it a little excessive to blame all the ills in society on a whole generation of youngsters. However one friend had this to say; "I was born in the 80s and the 90s generation is definitely different. I would not think of disobeying my parents when I was younger and even now if they disapprove of something I do, it is a source of pain to me. When I was a student we didn't have the internet so freely available, so we would have to go to an internet bar, wasting valuable study time and money. The 90s generation spend far too much time playing games and connecting with people. The also love to learn about the lives of famous people and imitate them. My generation do not like to waste our family's money but the 90s generation feel that their parents should be responsible for everything even when they grow up. Their parents cannot deal with them".

This is the generation when one of the results of the one child policy can be clearly seen. Chinese people all agree that there is no choice as there are too many people here, it would be a disaster if this was not in place. However because they only have one child, many people have spoiled that child to death,

so it is this and not the policy itself that is the problem. So whose fault is it, the parents and grandparents, or the child? Reports say that 90s generation children are isolated and lonely and seek to find friends. However being an only child shouldn't mean that he/she will automatically grow up to be a social misfit, as the 80s generation are also only children.

The media tell us that this generation causes and has many problems, for instance there was another report that said "90s generation unmarried mother gives birth to premature triplets". I expect what they wanted to emphasise was that she was unmarried and no wonder as she is a product of the 90s generation - being an unmarried mother still carries great social stigma here. Here are some of the commonly held beliefs that people have about this generation; "Because their parents have paid for them to have extra lessons, they all have some kind of skill, like being able to play a musical instrument. They have no self-confidence and are very sensitive. Adults are not able to understand their strange hobbies. From childhood they understand and have knowledge of things that only adults should know. They are realists and understand what is popular in Chinese society. They are not team players and always compare what they have got to what others have. They are

up-to-date with all the latest developments and news but their hearts are empty." There was a lot more besides this but I think you get the picture.

I still thought it was a shame that so many people hold these views and I wanted to know how some of that generation actually felt. I found these thoughts and comments on the internet:-

"It is the parents who should be responsible for everything. We shouldn't have to worry about money".

"Don't worry about getting married, just have as many boyfriends as you like".

There were many more that are unprintable, but there is so much false information on the internet, these comments may well be false.

Many of the current crop of children born after this are going the right way to overtake the 90s generation when it comes to selfishness, as they are even more cosseted and doted upon. If you find this article strange, ask your Chinese friends about it, they are sure to confirm they have a fixed view about 90s children. However as for me, I think all people everywhere are a product of the times we live in, it is too simplistic to blame children for the way they turn out, surely the adults all have to bear a responsibility for that.

If parents feel that their children are



wayward, lazy and selfish, they need to think about the values they themselves have instilled in their children. Of course parents cannot always be blamed when a child goes wrong, even exemplary parents have had suffered pain from their children's behaviour. However if parents have really done their best and their children turn out to be no good, at least they don't have to blame themselves. Children's greatest role models are their parents, if they lead by example they are sure to get a good result. Excessively spoiling them will only result in the greatest harm in the long run. The 90s generation children will no doubt turn around and blame their parents for any difficulties they face, maybe sometimes they are right. The word "No" is very effective, "No" to giving children everything they want, "No" to bad behaviour.





寒冷的冬天里，小朋友们要加强体育锻炼来确保身体健康哦！华兰国际幼稚园最小的贝贝班小朋友也不甘示弱。别看我们只有一岁半但在老师的带领下，开展了冬季运动，提高了孩子们大肌肉的协调发展。他们爬过草地，钻过小山，迈过障碍，个个英勇强健。下面就来看看这些运动小健将的风采吧！



Even in the cold weather of winter children still need outdoor exercise and physical training to make sure that their body will get stronger. Led by the teachers, the youngest children from Beibei class of Hopeland International Kindergarten also attended the "Winter Sports" activity in order to improve their larger muscle group coordination. Most of them are under two years old but they were very brave to climb over the lawn, get over the hills, and straddle the obstacles.



WORLD CLASS PRE SCHOOL LAUNCHED IN TIANJIN ECO-CITY

Combined International and Chinese curriculum

Wednesday, January 16 – 2013. The world's largest Kindergarten to grade 12 private education provider, GEMS Education, has opened its first, world class pre-school in China today in Tianjin – Eco City.

The Group Senior Director and Board Member of GEMS Education, Dino Varkey said GEMS was delighted to be supporting Tianjin – Eco City, the vision of both the governments of China and Singapore to jointly develop a socially harmonious, environmentally friendly and resource-conserving city in China.

Mr. Varkey said, "I would like to thank all those who have supported us in making this project possible and acknowledge Tianjin Education Committee, Tianjin Foreign Expert Bureau, Tianjin Foreign Affairs Office, Tianjin Public Security Bureau Entry & Exit Administration, ECO-City Administration Committee and officials from the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City Investment and Development Co., Ltd (SSTEC).



Mr. Varkey said, "GEMS Education is very excited about opening its first pre-school in China and is proud to be providing education options to the families of Tianjin Eco-City and surrounds. We will harness the full range of educational resources across the GEMS global network to make this pre-school one of the very best in the region because a quality education impacts not only the child receiving that education, but the child's family and the broader community".

The pre-school, which is part of the larger school campus of GEMS World Academy – Tianjin Eco City will cater for children from two years of age to the start of school.

The pre-school, known as Little GEMS International, will offer the English Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum as a framework combining it with key elements of the Chinese curriculum and specially written Little GEMS International programmes designed to promote cognitive development through movement, music, world languages and digital learning.



CHINA WEEK

China Week at the International School of Tianjin (IST) is a week-long celebration of Chinese culture. Organized by a committee of teachers, experts on dough figurines and kite making visited all elementary classes to introduce these traditional folk arts. Students also had a great time making dumplings in the brand new elementary kitchen. All the elementary children greatly enjoyed learning Chinese culture. During the Elementary China Week traditional Chinese music, a variety of Chinese art forms, Chinese New Year stories and kung fu were also woven into specialists' classes. It is a wonderful week with a lot of fun.



Secondary students from the Chinese department will celebrate the Chinese Culture Weeks. The first week will feature Chinese calligraphy. They have the chance to learn to appreciate and practice traditional Chinese calligraphy arts and finish their own works for a



Chinese calligraphy competition. This will be followed by two weeks of Peking Opera. Students will be divided into groups to do a project of lian pu, Peking Opera facial designs. By the end of

the project, they will be able to understand the unique symbolism of different lian pu and have the chance to paint them as well as to present their projects to others.

The highlight of the Chinese New Year celebrations at IST was a whole-school assembly, attended by our whole community. We then went outside to set off fireworks and welcome the Year of the Snake with a BANG!

IST Grade 10 student Lawrence Lin talked about IST China week



Every year at the International School of Tianjin (IST), there is a China week right before the Chinese New Year. During the week, we are introduced to many great Chinese traditional activities. In the previous years we have done Chinese calligraphy, Peking Opera, and Kong Fu. As a Chinese student, these activities is a really great way for me to understand some of the cultures that I may not have

a chance to learn about in my daily life, and they are introduced to me right in my school community. As the year of the snake approaches, I'm looking forward to the activities that are being planned out this year, which are Chinese calligraphy, and Peking Opera. Of course, I'm also looking forward to activities that I will be part of to contribute to my school community, Happy New Year.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE

Every school year, beginning in February and going through to May, the once-monthly Thursday Night Live performance showcases a tremendous variety of student talent at the International School of Tianjin (IST). Performances include short drama, orchestral performance, dance, comedy, jazz, instrumental soloists and more.



Wellington College Exchange Programme

For one group of pupils from Wellington College International Tianjin, Chinese New Year will be celebrated not here in China, but in England as they become the fourth group to visit Wellington's partner school, the highly prestigious Wellington College in Berkshire. The exchange group will spend a week participating in lessons and activities – those in Year 9 and above at Wellington



College UK itself, and those in Years 7 and 8 at Eagle House, Wellington College's junior school, situated nearby. The pupils will stay either in boarding accommodation in the schools, or with host families.

The visit will culminate in a two-night stay in London, giving the students a chance to see the sights in one of the world's most famous capital cities – not least the statue of the Duke of Wellington himself close to Buckingham Palace, home of the Queen. In April a group of Year 10 pupils from Wellington UK will come to Tianjin.

Education



On 22nd January, a PTSA meeting was held in Tianjin Rego International School. It was delivered by Ms. Bailey, who is the school's university and careers counselor. In the meeting, she gave advice and guidance to parents to help and support students studying AS/A2 qualifications. Parents were given in depth advice on applying to higher education in Europe, Asia and the USA; as well as invaluable insight into all aspects of the application procedure.

Now, Let us learn why TRIS has had so many years of continuing success:

Over the past decade, Tianjin Rego International School has been committed to providing secure and vibrant educational opportunities, inspiring academic excellence, celebrating diversity, and promoting lifelong learning.

Founded in 2000, Tianjin Rego International School (TRIS) provides an all-round education in the English language to international students. In the school, British educational courses and examinations are offered to students aged fifteen to eighteen so that graduates may choose between reputable universities around the world. The school is authorized by Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel. Students typically take British IGCSE exams at age 16. For students age 16-18 the school offers two distinct university preparation programs:

1: British AS and A2 Levels:

This course is a specialized course. A full time student in Year 12 is expected to study 5 subjects at AS level (including English) and a Year 13 student is expected to specialize in 3 subjects at A2 level.

2: TRIS Diploma Program.

The course encompasses a wide variety of subjects: English, Math, Art, Science, Graphics, Sociology, Psychology, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Foreign Languages, Business English, and Physical Education. All subjects are taught by specialists. Courses are assessed through examination and course work. Students are also encouraged to build on their leadership skills and take part in volunteer and Charity work. Graduates from this course can be expected to have knowledge and experience in all areas of study, to have taken on additional responsibility and to have experience and understanding of other cultures.

This year, due to popular demand, Tianjin Rego International School has introduced a new German program recently. 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. 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.

REGO PTSA Meeting

At the end of the meeting students were asked which of our alumni had most inspired them:



"When my friend Jessie got A*, A*, A, A in her A level exams she got offer from top universities like UCL UK and ANU Australia. I was so inspired to emulate her success so I have been working really hard this year." -- Jessica



"Myung Gyun was last year's Head Boy. He has now got into Korea University, one of the best universities in Korea. His efforts and success have motivated me to try my best to enter a good university." -- Yoo Joo Hun



"Minoru and Yu got into Sophia University in Tokyo. This is one of the best universities in Japan. They both put so much effort into their studies. I will keep studying hard and I want to get into a good university like them." -- Ai



Graduates from Tianjin Rego International School classes of 2009-2012 have been offered admission to leading academic institutions worldwide including:

United Kingdom University of Hull University of Manchester Brunel University University of Leeds University of Essex University of Greenwich University of Durham University of Bradford University of Sheffield Spain Univ. of Navarra, Pamplona University of Vigo	Korea Korea University Sungshin Women's University Sung Gyun University Yonsei University Sung Kyun Kwan University Hankuk University of For. Stud. Han Yang University Hong Ik University Sookmyung Women's University Kon Kuk University Dong Guk University Pusan National University Kyungpook National University Korea National University of Arts	Japan Chiba University Chukyo University Chuo University Sophia University Aichi University China Nankai University, Tianjin Switzerland Glon Institute of Higher Ed. Australia Bond University
--	---	--

To find out more about achieving excellent results and worldwide educational opportunities why not visit TRIS for our Open Day on Saturday 6th Feb 9:00 to 11:00.

For general admissions enquiries contact:
 +(86)22 8816 1180
 admissions@regoschool.com

家族历史十万余年
领地最长达一千七百公里
至今仅剩一千余位成员
谁是最没落的贵族

为保护珍稀的江豚
WWF在行动
 更多详情请见: www.wwfchina.org

洞庭湖种群数量
 (年) 2006 2012 (头) 100 200

鄱阳湖种群数量
 (年) 2006 2012 (头) 200 400

Giving Gifts – A Veritable Minefield

送礼的学问

by Paula Taylor

每逢佳节，人们都忙着四处送礼。很多中国人都非常重视礼品的包装，所以你会发现商家们往往是在包装的创新和制作上进行竞争。包装越是华丽精美，价格就越昂贵。哪怕里面的东西你不喜欢，你也会不舍得把那个漂亮的包装盒扔掉。

在送礼的时候，你必须考虑到对方的年龄和地位。如果你拿不准的话，可以送一盒高档茶叶。对方一定会珍藏起来，并乐于向他的朋友展示这件礼物。

现在中国人越来越重视健康和养生，所以有保健功效的食品，比如有机鸡蛋和营养牛奶也是不错的选择。

Who does not like to give and receive gifts? Like most people you probably delight in giving your friends a gift, and before buying it, you doubtless have given it much thought. Will he or she like it? Will they find it useful or beautiful, or both? Will they treasure it as they realise you have gone to a lot of trouble to find the perfect present? Will they realise how much they mean to you? If you are giving gifts to Chinese friends there is also something else you have to consider, how beautiful is the box containing the gift? The way something looks is very important. You will notice that at special times, for instance Moon Festival, shops will compete with each other over their presentation boxes of moon cakes. Some of them are spectacular and are obviously extremely expensive.

I have spent a lot of time discussing this with my friends and they have made me understand that looks are everything. Sometimes the contents of the box are not important but the box itself must be very

beautiful. I have tried telling them that if somebody gives me a beautiful box I will feel cheated if inside is something cheap – actually the cheapness wouldn't be a problem if the gift itself was useful, for instance if I had just broken my can opener and somebody had got me a new one. One friend told me about her grandparents who had been married for 60 years, and the grandfather presented a beautiful box to his wife saying "In 60 years I have never bought you anything, so today I bought you this necklace". His wife was very moved and in view of the appearance of the box said "Oh you shouldn't have spent so much money", whereupon her husband said "I didn't, this necklace only cost 10 yuan". Instead of getting angry, she examined the box in detail and said "I will keep the box, it is better than the necklace".

Buying a present for a Chinese friend needs a lot of thought. I wanted to buy some chocolates for a friend but someone told me that "an older woman (45 years old!) would not appreciate them as old people do not like

sweet things, also she would be worried about putting on weight". Instead I bought her some face packs and she was utterly delighted.

Chinese people like to give gifts of food, especially the speciality of the area. In case you don't know, if you go to visit someone in another place, you should take Tianjin's speciality, mahua. These are hard, crispy and sweet twisted dough sticks. I have found that a lot of local delicacies that my friends bring from other places are not to my taste, also they are quite expensive so I want to tell them not to waste their money, but they would be offended. It is definitely the thought that counts with them so I sometimes have to grit my teeth and try to eat what they bring. Just recently a friend brought some "things" from a far place. They were interestingly boxed up and even the paper was beautiful so we were quite excited. She slowly unwrapped them and by their appearance I already knew I wasn't going to like them. They were strange tasting hard dry biscuits that were far too

crumbly and sweet, in fact they were not biscuits but I am at a loss to describe them. Before I could say anything, she said "Oh, they are really horrible". I was relieved as that meant I could spit them out. "How can they taste so horrible, they were so expensive?" she wailed, she was so disappointed I felt sorry for her. "Didn't you know what they tasted like before you bought them?" I asked. Another friend said "These things are so expensive, we don't eat them ourselves, we buy them for friends". That made me feel even worse. I quickly said "It's the thought that counts, at least we know now what they taste like". Had I known that they were expensive I would have forced myself to eat them. I get the feeling that this kind of gift is just to let the person know their friend was thinking about them, even though they were travelling to a far place, the taste itself is not important. I still have a lot to learn about Chinese culture and every time I mess up, I wonder when I am going to get it right.

When buying for a Chinese friend, apart from age, you also have to consider their status in life as that should influence how much you spend. As it is difficult to find suitable gifts, a fail-safe option is expensive and beautifully packaged tea. It should be something that the recipient can be proud to display to his friends. Speaking of tea, I was in a tea shop and a man wanted to buy a present for his friend. The tea was presented in a beautiful gift box but the seller did not have a matching bag. She tried, foolishly I thought, to persuade him to accept another bag. It was quite expensive tea, 200 yuan, and the seller was keen to make a sale. However the man rejected it as he could not give an oddly matched box and bag. I thought the result was obvious and had I been her, would not have even attempted to make him buy it.

If you are buying a gift for a woman who has just given birth, you can think about giving eggs. Eggs also come impressively packaged and are labelled according to their

usefulness. If you are not sure what type to give, ask the sales assistant, who will ask you all sorts of questions, including the gender of the baby as this will influence the type of eggs that should be given.

If you are buying for an elderly person, beautifully boxed cartons of speciality milk is something that is sure to be a big hit. Everybody knows these are expensive as they have added vitamins and nutrients so they will go down well, no pun intended.

If you are simply going to a friend's house for dinner, don't go empty handed, take a gift. It doesn't have to be expensive, fruit is always a popular choice if you can't think of anything else, or a cake in a beautiful box will also be appreciated. Of course if money is no object than something with a famous name will always be welcome, although it would be best not to attempt to buy clothes or shoes, as what you think looks good is guaranteed not to be a hit with Chinese friends.



Two Legendary Hearts Harts.

By Andrea Klopfer

两位传奇的Hart先生

二月份将迎来情人节，当然“heart”这个词会被无数提及。我们不妨演变一下，说说两位姓“Hart”的人。他们当年在华北地区都是很有影响力的人物。一位名叫Robert Hart，爱尔兰人。曾经被清政府任命为海关总检察长，并建立了中国最初的邮政服务体系。当年的海关邮政局现在被改造成邮政博物馆。

另一位人物名叫Samuel Lavington Hart，英国人。他在1892年作为传教志愿者来到中国，1894年搬到天津，管理一所教会学校。1902年，天津新学书院成立，Hart任校长。这就是天津十七中的前身，但这栋楼现在已经不在了。

This being the month of Valentine, it seemed appropriate to consider ‘hearts’- in this case, a variation! During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the mention of the name ‘Hart’ in North China would have evoked one of two characters who each evoked legends in their own way – in education and in the customs services. Both men desired to make a contribution to China as it came into increasing contact with the wider outside world.

Sir Robert Hart

Robert was born in Portadown, County Armagh, Northern Ireland on February 20, 1835 (some 178 years this month!). At age 10, he went to school in Taunton, Somerset where his subjects included Latin, Arithmetic, Interest and Fractions. He then had several years at the Wesleyan Connexional School in Dublin where his subjects were broadened with Greek, French, Hebrew and Scripture History. In 1851, he matriculated from Queen's College, Belfast (where extensive Hart archival material is now held). He went on to gain a Bachelor of Arts and was awarded gold medals for Literature, Logic and Metaphysics. In 1854, he began what was to become a lifetime in China, as he was accepted into the British Foreign Office serving as a supernumerary interpreter at the British Consulate in Ningbo. Four years later he was promoted to interpreter and sent to Canton. During this period, he took a Chinese concubine by whom he had three children. On receiving an invitation to join the Chinese



Robert Hart in 1887 (by Morse c.1918)

Following the 1865 Treaty of Tientsin, the Customs was entrusted with carrying mail for the foreign Treaty powers which ultimately led to the formation of the Customs Postal service. The postal service was under the

Imperial Maritime Customs, he resigned from the Foreign Office and by 1861, was Acting Inspector General when Horatio Lay had to return to England after being seriously wounded in an attack. In the years 1862-3, Hart travelled extensively through China, including Tientsin, and established new offices to extend the Chinese Imperial Maritime Custom Service of which he was made Inspector General.

Tientsin Customs Office and was directed by Gustav ‘George’ Detring who was to become a prominent Tientsin expat figure. Suitably located on the corner of Victoria Road (now Jie Fang Bei Lu) and Bristow Road (now Ying Kou Dao), just down the road from the Custom's Office in Tianjin beside the Hai He River, is one of China's earliest post offices dating from this time (It is now a museum). Among Harts many other achievements which included founding a Chinese Lighthouse service, was setting up a talented staff drawn from many quarters and establishing a uniform customs procedure based on Shanghai. One of his requirements was that staff acquire a good working level of Chinese and he later set up an Interpreters' School which provided good translations of much Western literature as well as educating China's first diplomats. He created an international civil service of high standing and by 1898, was producing a third of the entire revenue of the Chinese government. He subscribed to a very nineteenth century British concept of progress and desired to introduce reforms which would lift China into the modern age. He was however in a somewhat invidious position. He attained great power in Chinese government circles and yet was decidedly British and not entirely trusted by some. Spence observes:

“He was a man caught between two cultures, having to balance both at once, to keep them in proper perspective in his mind” (2002: 120).



“Chinese Customs” Hart as caricatured in Vanity Fair, December 1894. This shows some of the anomaly of his position.

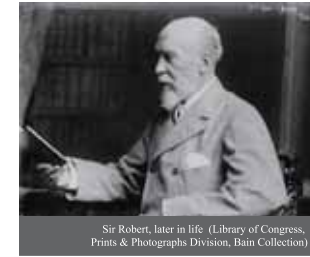
He was a workaholic, very methodical and often unable or unwilling to delegate. Among his shortcomings, was a failure to adequately train up an honest and efficient local staff (Spence 2002: 116). He did train up one of China's first brass bands, sponsoring a Portuguese bandmaster to teach some twenty Chinese youths to play Western instruments. Hart himself would almost daily practise the cello and violin. On one of his two return visits to Europe in 1866, he fell in love with and married Hester Jane, the daughter of a doctor in his home town. Their home in the Peking Legation became a social centre with weekly garden parties and regular formal dinners, however Mrs Hart returned permanently to England in 1882 taking their three children who were to grow up barely knowing their father. His home was subsequently burnt to the ground, along with all Hart's papers, diaries and possessions during the Boxer siege of the Legation in 1900 (The same happened to Detring's home in Tientsin, with the loss of much valuable historical material). More than anything, this must have caused Hart to question much for which he had worked so tirelessly, with such ill effect on his strength and health. Not long after an Imperial edict of 1906 placed the customs under more direct Chinese control, he left China after 54 years. He became Pro-Chancellor of his alma mater Queen's University, Belfast. He died on 20 September 1911, just three weeks before the overthrow of the dynasty he had served. He was posthumously awarded the last of many Chinese honorific titles, the Brevet Title of Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent. He had been awarded a baronetcy and other awards by Britain in recognition for his contributions.

An epitaph on a statue of Hart that once stood on the Shanghai Bund (1914-1943 – suffered a similar fate to that of some of Tianjin's

statues), considered his achievements and noted:

“True friend of the Chinese People. Modest, Patient, Sagacious and Resolute. He overcame Formidable Obstacles, and Accomplished a work of Great Beneficence for China and the World.”

However his role may now be viewed, he must be seen as a man of the times whose power and patronage extended to many parts of China, and not least, Tianjin.

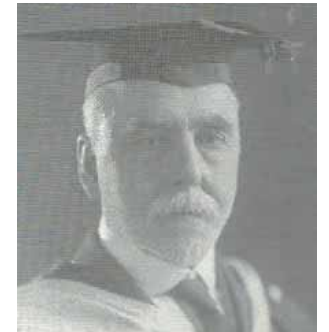


Sir Robert, later in life (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Bain Collection)

Another Hart in the next generation, but no relative, was Samuel Lavington Hart 赫立德。He similarly sought to see China develop by investing in the lives of young Chinese through education.

Samuel Lavington Hart was born on 19 December, 1858 in Tregony, Cornwall, England to Thomas and Fanny Hart. His father was a Congregationalist minister in Paris, France, so his early schooling was all there and later in Mill Hill. He went to university at St John's College, Cambridge in 1877 and received his BA in 1881 and went on to be a Fellow and lecturer in Physics, achieving his MA in 1884. In December 1888, he married Elsie (Elizabeth) Peake, daughter of a Winchester saddle manufacturer. They initially lived in Cambridge, attending the Victoria Road Congregational Church and supporting the work of the London Missionary Society (LMS). As missionary enthusiasm across the nation grew, the Lavington Harts volunteered to go to China and in October 1892, set sail for Shanghai. For the first three years, they were involved in educational work in Wuchang and Hankou, both parts of Wuhan. In 1894, they moved to Tientsin where Lavington Hart was to help run a small theological school. They happened to be back in England at the time of the Boxer Uprising but returned convinced that a school for training up potential Chinese leaders shaped by Christian principles would be of greater value. On 5 February 1902, the Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College (affectionately known

as TACC) or ‘Hall of New Learning’ in Chinese, opened with Lavington Hart as principal. He adapted the English Public School system to Chinese life but imported very English architecture for the buildings which were modelled on his alma mater, St John's College. It was located on Taku Road/Rue de Pasteur - the buildings no longer exist but are a building site on Dagou Lu opposite the Kou Chang Hospital. Over the years they had a loyal, talented staff (including Eric Liddell see JIN 08/2012) and the school became very popular. Many of the students went on to study further in American and British universities, and came to occupy important positions in China and in the chief business hongs/companies (Rasmussen 1924: 252).



Lavington Hart was supported by his wife but life in North China began to take its toll and she returned to England in poor health, dying in Cambridge on 4 February 1913. Some three years later in 1916, Lavington Hart remarried. His new wife was Edith Kenwick who had been working at the Peking Union Medical College. They were to have two daughters. Tientsin remained their home until Hart's retirement in 1930 when he went to live in Worthing, Sussex. He died on 7 March 1951, leaving a reputation as:

“A man of vast faith, benevolence and enterprise, who has done much to convey to the mind of China the highest ideals of Western Education and to prepare a native [sic.] leadership for the Chinese Christian Church.”

These men worked unremittingly to contribute to China in their different spheres and could not have given the greater parts of their lives if this country and her people had not in some way won their hearts!

Bibliography:
Spence, Jonathan (2002) *To Change China*. Chapter 4
Lee, Paul
<http://filatelist.tripod.com/hart.html>



“Treasure Chariot” Parade on January 16 of the Chinese Lunar Year

正月十六宝辇出巡

据说十六这天为接驾日，传说中的娘娘省亲返宫，辇会进入鼎沸的高潮，各辇各会尽兴一乐，通宵达旦，气氛热烈。辇会主要有设摆、接驾、送驾三个环节，紧紧围绕迎送娘娘这个中心精心安排，以求“神人共乐”。

宝辇会主要活动区域在天津市津南区的葛沽镇，它是葛沽人民在长期渔、盐劳作和漕运影响下，在独特的地域文化孕育下形成的以娱神、娱人为内容，以民间花会为载体，含有历史、民俗、艺术、信仰、商贸等诸多文化内容的传统民间文化活动。是北方大型的妈祖祭祀活动，是古镇特有的文化遗产表现形式。

宝辇由一人掌舵，还有前后把持各2人、辇脚垫凳4人、执日伞1人，计15人一副杠。每驾辇前都有一幅仪仗，称为鸾驾。一般有金瓜钺斧、朝天蹬、玉棍、龙凤扇，以及节度鞭、提灯、提炉、黄罗伞、开道锣等。近几年，每逢正月十六这天，葛沽又出现了昔日狂欢的场面，人们都要进行花会表演和跑辇表演。2003年，葛沽镇被文化部命名为“中国民间艺术之乡”。



It is said that the legendary godmother returns her palace on January 16 of the Chinese Lunar Year. The treasure chariot parade event will be buzzing and the exciting atmosphere will continue throughout the whole night. There are actually three processes attached to sending godmother back to her palace. The main theme is about pleasing the god and make

her happy.

The treasure chariot parade will be held in Gegu of Jin Nan District of Tianjin. It was developed during the long term fishing work and shipping transportation and gradually formed a unique cultural background. The parade contains history, popular customs, art, religion, trade, and other traditional cultural activities. It is now a special cultural heritage

form from an ancient town like Gegu.

In recent years, on the 16th day of lunar year, the traditional event came back again with even larger scale scenes. People carry on the performance and run the flower show. Therefore, Gegu was already named as “Chinese Folk Art Town” by the culture ministry in 2003. If you have time, please go and check out.

目前仅开发约百分之十七
未来四十年之内
有望提升至
百分之九十五
谁是最具潜力的
宝藏
为持续发展可再生能源
WWF在行动
更多相关资讯: www.wwfchina.org

2050年可再生能源
有望增至95%

2010年可再生能源
所占比率约17%

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

by Paula Taylor



I think the Chinese have a very strange relationship with dogs. There are many people that eat them and some that would not eat them, of course we know that, but what puzzles me is that there are some that eat them and also have them as pets. They say that the dogs they eat are a different type, they are bred to be eaten, I have also heard other Asian people say the same. I would never eat dogs, and whilst I accept that I am not in my own country and things are different, I have also warned my friends not to discuss with me the fact that they think dogs are delicious. For me, the idea of eating a dog is abhorrent, they are family members.

Every year in England people die trying to rescue their dogs from the sea or from a river that has iced over, the ice is thin and the dogs fall through so their owners go in after them. I have read many comments on newspaper articles and most people say they would also risk their lives to save their dogs. To illustrate how we feel about dogs there was a comedy programme in which the host would go out disguised and trick members of the public. Once he went to the seaside and stood gazing out to sea. He spoke to two old ladies and said "I like to look out to sea, my

训养更加重要

从新石器时代，中国人就开始养狗。据甲骨文记载，最初养狗有3种用途：一是狩猎，二是专供食用，三是祭祀陪葬。因此在新石器、夏、商、周等各个时代的古墓里都发现过狗的遗骨。而且，在中国传统文学中，与“狗”一词相关的都是略带贬义的词语。虽然，中国人过去并不太爱狗，但是当下的爱狗思潮却是越来越浓，狗也逐渐成为家庭里面的一份子。

几年前，中国的城市开始允许居民养狗。宠物犬的数量激增，由此引发的问题也日益凸显。办一张养犬证要花1000元，主人有义务给自己办了养犬证的狗注射狂犬病疫苗，但是许多登记在册的狗并未注射疫苗。养狗还导致新的噪音污染，因为大多数养犬者没训练过自己的狗，所以狗总是在不合时宜的时候叫个不停。物业部门接到的相关投诉越来越多。

小动物保护协会的一位负责人说，中国的城市居民找到了自己对动物的爱，却不知道该怎么养它们。例如，大多数养犬人不愿花钱给狗做绝育手术，因此狗的数量正以令人难以想象的规模增加，许多小狗被人遗弃。动物保护者要求宠物饲养者接受培训。不养宠物的人则希望狗受到更好的训练。特别是春节假期临近，家家户户燃放鞭炮，如何让宠物避免受到惊吓，平安过节是每个主人应该尽的责任。

wife is out there. We went out in a boat and it capsized so she drowned". The two ladies comforted him by saying "Oh that's too bad but you are young you can find another wife". He then said "My dog drowned too", whereupon the old ladies screamed "Oh no, that's terrible, oh my goodness, how sad" and went away too distressed to comfort him further". We found this funny because we know that for some, dogs are sometimes

seemingly more important than family members.

I am constantly distressed by the state of the poor stray dogs here, and at the same time baffled at the spoilt, fat little bad tempered pooches wearing fashionable doggy clothes, there seems to be a contradiction. I have seen such heart breaking sights involving animals, that I have been reduced to tears in the street and have

been unable to sleep. If I had to pinpoint one thing that I hate here, it is the way that animals are treated. However, it is also a fact that many Chinese people love animals. Once I saw a dog run away from its owner, it took off so fast she could not catch it. She was screaming and crying so I decided to help her, and also gave chase in another direction. I eventually found it on a housing estate and told the caretakers to keep hold of it whilst I went to find the owner. She was walking along sobbing her heart out. When I told her the good news she was beside herself with joy and told me if her dog was lost or died she did not want to live. She then went on to explain in detail how much time and money she spent on it and that it was her baby.

This was the first time I had heard a Chinese person vocalise their love for their dog. Since then I have seen many examples that have restored my faith that not all Chinese people are cruel to animals. I have regularly seen people put down food for the stray dogs and cats near to where I live. I have always wondered why there are so many strays, why more people don't give a home to them, and why they do not neuter their own dogs. I recently found out the answers to all these questions. My friend Xiao Hong was followed home by a little stray dog so she decided to keep it and named her Fifi. Xiao Hong is on an extremely limited budget so I offered to help to pay for the vet's bills. We had Fifi inoculated against disease and she also had a few other problems. The total cost for this would have meant Xiao Hong spending a month's wages. I told her we should also get Fifi neutered, which she balked at, largely out of sentimentality that "women should have babies". I recently saw a stray dog that was little more than a skeleton and which had obviously recently had pups. I was really distressed and asked about it and was told she had had 11 pups, so no matter how much the mother was fed, the babies were sucking all the life out of her. An old lady also told me she had 11 dogs as they keep having babies and she could barely afford to feed them. I told Xiao Hong that it didn't make sense, as of course they would keep having babies therefore it would be cheaper in the long run to get the females neutered. She told me a few homes truths, the price for neutering is out of many people's reach, so the consequence naturally is that dogs will just keep producing. I also found out that keeping a dog here requires a licence, the first year's fee is 1000 rmb and thereafter 500 rmb

per year. This may not seem like a lot of money to us, but to some people it is an absolute fortune. Xiao Hong was recently given a present by her grandmother – her life savings which amounted to 10,000 rmb. Xiao Hong was so moved that she vowed not to touch a penny of it. So all things considered, picking up strays and taking them home for most people is more trouble than it is worth.

Another experience that I had recently and that left me profoundly moved was that we went to a large veterinary hospital for a consultation about Fifi. I was astounded at the sight before me. There were many people with their dogs that had just been operated on, and they were clearly very worried. One man was severely disabled, he had no legs, but he was on the floor by his huge dog, he didn't look as if he could look after himself, let

alone a dog, but he was actually praying out loud for it to get better. Another man accompanied by his wife told me his German Shepherd dog had stomach problems and so they had brought him all the way from Tanggu as they thought the vets at that hospital were the best. "Look at my dog, isn't he handsome?" he asked me. When I confirmed that indeed it was a good looking dog, he was really pleased.

So I have learned that sometimes it is not cruelty that makes some people indifferent to animals here, sometimes it is ignorance and economic restraints. I am so glad that I had the chance to find these things out, because to tell the truth, sometimes after seeing too many pitiful animals, after realising that I really have no way to help them, I just want to go home.



Shopping's Great Age Divide

科技改变消费习惯

每年临近春节时，中国家家户户总是要疯狂地进行大采购，他们会在自家不大的阳台上堆放各种零食和饮料。但近些年来，家长和孩子对待一年一度血拼的方式却越来越不相同，凸显出零售商们在技术变革逐渐改变国人购买习惯时面临的挑战。科技在两代人的这种购物习惯分化中起到了越来越重要的作用。年轻一代接受新技术的速度是上一代人的2.5倍，对于零售商而言这是判断未来购物主要趋势的一个重要信号。甚至说，年轻一代比上一代人更有可能在社交网络上查看品牌信息（比例分别为53%和37%），也更愿意在购物时使用移动服务查看产品评论、研究产品以及对比价格（比例分别为50%和21%）。

Every Chinese family has always approached Spring Festival shopping on overdrive, piling dozens of types of food and drink on the small balcony. However it seems parents and children handle the annual extravaganza in different ways, underscoring the challenge facing retailers, as technological changes transform Chinese buying rituals.

During a recent holiday shopping trip, Mrs. Wu, a 54-year-old teacher and her husband Tong, a 56-year-old retired high-school administrator, happily wandered around the hypermarket in the suburban Xiqing District. Mr. and Mrs. Wu say they are shopping more and more in retail stores because they can arm themselves with money saving coupons.

However, their children are a different matter, ranging from age 18 to 23, the offspring mostly ignore the holiday decor, and instead peer into their smartphones or iPads surfing the net comparing prices, looking for deals and seeking friends' advice about potential purchases.

Mr. and Mrs. Wu's daughter, Ling, 23 years old, has worked in an advertising company for 1 year. She prefers to go Taobao online and find everything she needs, even

including food and beverages. Another daughter, Lu, 18 years old school girl, uses her rhinestone-encased iPhone to post photos of potential purchases as she shops, while polling her friends with a Wechat app to get opinions on which clothes to wear to school the next day.

Retail chains are struggling to know as to how to respond to families like the Wu, hoping to capture the attention of the so-called Millennial generation, ages 16 to 34, but fearful that moving too fast will alienate their parents or grandparents.

At one famous department store on Nanjing Road, Mrs. Wu dug through her purse for a 20% off coupon to buy a pair of boots. Although she couldn't find the coupon, she successfully persuaded the saleswoman to give her the discount anyway. The boots joined two shopping bags of loot. The bags were crammed with jeans, sweaters and a sparkly blue makeup case Mrs. Wu had bought using a 50%-off coupon.

Her nephew, Dong, a 26-year-old employee, who is also a loyal customer to this department store, said that he prefers to shop online and search for coupon codes rather than keep track of offers in the mail. He didn't buy anything at the mall but picked out a Timex watch and plans to buy it in their online shop.

Nowadays retailers, including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and many other famous clothing brands, are trying to target younger consumers this holiday season by offering some of their in-store deals online, while others such as Herborist (佰草集), Chinese cosmetics, are launching new brands and websites that cater to a younger generation.

Technology plays an increasing role in the generational shopping split. Younger generations are 2½ times more likely to be early adopters of technology than older generations, serving as a leading indicator for retailers that it is an idea of what is likely to become mainstream. Even those who were born after 1999 are more likely than older shoppers to check out brands on social networks (53% versus 37%) and use mobile devices to read reviews, research products and compare prices while shopping (50% versus 21%), according to a recent report.



Isetan Binhai New Area shop opening now.



Gourmet Club of ISETAN

Bunt
Japanese food

Häagen-Dazs
Ice cream

和幸
Signature Fried Pork

Anna Muffers
American pie

DELIGHT
Western food

The points could be increased to 1.5 times.

Members with an I Card not only can enjoy the original favorable conditions, but also the special favorable conditions of "I Gourmet Club" in the restaurants, coffee houses, dessert shops and the supermarket! The points accumulated can be increased to 1.5 times. No need to register or pay any fee, you can join us! We have a grand feast and food of good value exclusively for I Card members.

*The above are advertorial pictures.

Celebration of ISETAN'S 20th Anniversary Celebrating the opening of ISETAN Binhai shop



1 Special Favorable conditions for joining I Card Club

Date: starting from January 10th, 2013 (Thursday)

The conditions of joining without extra favorable conditions	Special conditions of joining (available for both Nanjing Road Shop and Binhai Shop)
Joining Silver Membership Card	Accumulative 1000 RMB purchase in one day Accumulative 3000 RMB purchase in one year
Joining Gold Membership Card	Accumulative 10000 RMB purchase in one day Accumulate 10000 points in the silver member card in one year
	Accumulative 500 RMB purchase in one day Accumulative 1500 RMB purchase in one year
	Accumulative 5000 RMB purchase in one day Accumulate 5000 points in the silver member card in one year

* Join in the membership with the receipt/invoice and your ID card.

2 What are the favorable conditions for ISETAN membership card?

basically for common card → **5% off**

basically for VIP card → **5-10% off**

Special discount twice per year for ordinary or VIP card → **20% off**

*The above promotions only applied to selected goods of normal price.

For details of the activity in accumulating points to exchange gift of VIP CARD, please refer to the I Card Club.

For detailed information, please inquire I Card Club.
ISETAN Nanjing-road Shop ☎ 2722-1111
ISETAN Binhai SHOP ☎ 6527-1111

Tianjin Isetan Membership Card Get registered in Expats Club Validity: 2013, February 1st to 28th

Let's Talk about Festivals and Food

节日与大餐

年夜饭的重要性不亚于这个节日本身。以前，很多家庭都要等到大年夜才能吃上一顿丰盛的大餐。现在，人们已经可以随时随地大快朵颐，而无须苦盼一整年。但是，小时候对年夜饭的那种憧憬仍然还在。每个人都能讲出几个关于年夜饭的故事。我们也采访了五位不同国籍的朋友，他们也谈了自己国家最重要的节日和节日必吃的美味。



Soonkee Kwon, Canadian Korean
Assistant Director of Sales, Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

1. What is the most important festival in your country?
Lunar New Year's Day of course. Christmas is the most important festival in Canada, but I think a lot of Canadians with Asian backgrounds still celebrate Lunar New Year as the biggest festival

2. Is there any special food for the festival?
On the New Year's morning, we eat rice cake soup called "ddeokguk".

3. What is your favorite food for the festival?
I have to say "bulgogi" which is a grilled meat...yummy!



Sebastien Dalle, French/Australian
F&B Director, Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe

1. What is the most important festival in your country?
I am part French and Australian. Because I love great wine, one of my favorite festivals is the Bordeaux Fête le Vin (the Bordeaux Wine Festival). You have people coming from everywhere: Bordeaux, its neighboring cities, the rest of France and from abroad. It's an amazing experience

2. Is there any special food for the festival?
The main focus of the festival is to visit the different wineries but there is also some great food on offer like cured local meats, cheese and the most amazing bread.

3. What is your favorite food for the festival?
It would have to be a classic soft cheese with bread - a great moist Pont Leveque or a fresh Saint Marcellin and a great local red wine!

4. Is there any interesting stories between you and the food?
One year I was at the festival and I came across a small boutique vineyard called Hebrard. They make beautiful whites and some



sublime but temperamental reds. It was so great that the more I tried, the better it got. When I came to China I forgot about the red until one day a supplier came by and showed me his portfolio! I was astounded to see it was included and now have it on my wine list. Talk about a small world!



Mahendra Pal Singh, Indian
Executive Sous Chef, Tianjin Saixiang Hotel

1. What is the most important festival in your country?
There are three national holidays that are celebrated by everyone in all states and union territories of India. These include Independence and Republic Days, as well as Gandhi Jayanti. Gandhi Jayanti is a day to honor Mahatma Gandhi who is considered the "Father of the Nation". It is celebrated on his birthday, October 2nd. The day is one of prayer service and tributes all over India, especially at Raj Ghat, Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi. Popular celebrations include prayer meetings, honorary ceremonies and sessions designed to educate the young about Gandhi and his life.

The Hindu celebrations of Diwali, Holi, Pongal and Dussehra are the most popular religious holidays in India and are public holidays. This means that all children and most employees have the day off from school or work. Diwali is a major Hindu festival more commonly known as the "Festival of Lights". It is a day to celebrate the victory of good over evil with celebrations focusing on lights and more recently, fireworks.

The annual Hindu spring festival is called Holi, or the "Festival of Colors". Holi takes place in late March or early April and lasts for five days. The holiday is meant to honor the death of Holika who died to save Prahlad. Pongal is a celebrated to give thanks for the harvest. It is traditionally celebrated at the time of harvesting of the crops and is a celebration of their success.



2. Is there any special food for the festival?
Yes, we have special food. That is fry kabab. Like harabhara kabab, aloo ki tikki, fish amritshari, chicken pakpoda, palak anar dane ki tikki, aloo tuck. I like Kebab & Biryani best.



Jim Gibney, Australian
English Teacher

1. What is the most important festival in your country?
In Australia Christmas is the most important. It is similar to Spring festival because families get together and children get presents.

2. Is there any special food for the festival?
Yes. Turkey, roast vegetables and plum

pudding are the traditional Christmas food with wine and beer. There is also a Christmas cake.

3. What is your favorite food for the festival?
I love the roast vegetables especially the potatoes and creamed cauliflower and tomato crumb.

4. Is there any interesting stories between you and the food?

Our family puts money in the Christmas pudding. One year no one found the coin so someone must have eaten it. Another year the dog ate the Christmas cake and was sick. My mother was very upset.



William Tan, Malaysian
Executive Chef, Hotel Nikko Tianjin

1. What is the most important festival in your country?
Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, Deepavali

2. Is there any special food for the festival?
During Chinese New Year people love to have "Lao Sheng" 捞生. Everybody sits around the table and tosses their dishes up in the air. Whoever tosses the dishes highest will have the best luck in the New Year. It means they will have prosperity and good luck for the year. On Hari Raya, we normally have satay which is grilled chicken on a skewer and ketupat which is coconut palm leaves wrapped around rice. On Deepavali, the first thing that comes to mind is sweets, such as gulab jamun, kufi and others.

3. What is your favorite food for the festival?
My favorite festival food is definitely the "Lao Sheng" 捞生. It is a simple dish that helps the family and friends become closer. I've been working abroad and this is the best time to be with the family or friends, sharing what has happened in the last year. It always brings out a lot of laughs and surprises! Finally, we toss the plates to predict our luck for the coming year.

4. Is there any interesting stories between you and the food?
How I learned to use chopsticks! When I was young, I liked to use a fork and spoon, but every year during "Lao Sheng", we had to use chopsticks. It taught me how to use chopsticks so that I could eat like the others.



The Spring Festival dinner is the most important family dinner of the year. It is where we say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. After a busy year, everybody wishes to be with their families and raise a toast for a better future, while the beautiful fireworks announce the new year outside the window. Naturally, authentic Chinese food is a must for this traditional festival.

To celebrate Spring Festival, Shanghai Min restaurant has designed four set menus which are available from Feb 8th to Feb 24th. They will ensure that you and your family will have a harmonious and happy time on Spring Festival Eve.

The dishes in the four menus have proved popular among our guests. Each set menu has something special to offer: some include free drinks while others have bonus dishes. Of course, there is the famous

modern dining environment that ensures you will enjoy our excellent food along with our individualized service.

One of our recommended selections is the Gluten with Black Fungus, Lily Flower and Peanut and Bell Pepper with Black Fungus in Wild Wasabi Sauce. As fish is a symbol and precursor of an affluent year ahead, we have Steamed Herring. If that is not enough we also have Chicken Soup with Bamboo Shoot and Sautéed Supreme Beef in XO Sauce. This is, of course, accompanied with Rice Dumpling in Sweet Lotus Soup that symbolize that we will all be back together soon.



Spring Festival Banquet at Shanghai Min



Gluten with Black Fungus, Lily Flower and Peanut
This is a traditional Shanghai-style cold dish that is refreshing and tasty.



Bell Pepper with Black Fungus in Wild Wasabi Sauce
Selective quality fungi with a tender taste. It is said that fungi helps stops aging and it is best to eat in the cold seasons.



Steamed Herring
Freshly caught wild Hilsa herring steamed with a secret sauce and served whole with scales intact and edible. When presented to the guests, the dish permeates great fragrance of the Chinese rice wine, it tastes wonderfully delicious and fresh.



Sautéed Supreme Beef in XO Sauce
Highest-grade beef, cubed and sautéed in a savoury XO Sauce.



Chicken Soup with Bamboo Shoot
One of the must-tries of Shanghai Min. A hen slowly cooked to give an eye-catching golden colour effect with mouth watering aromas.



Rice Dumpling in Sweet Lotus Soup
A delicate dessert of mini rice dumplings filled with black sesame in a pure sweet lotus soup.

团圆套餐 Reunion Set Menu RMB 2888/10 people 锦绣套餐 Splendid Set Menu RMB 5888/10 people
如意套餐 Good Wish Set Menu RMB 3888/10 people 臻享套餐 Supreme Set Menu RMB 8888/10 people

Spring Festival dinner booking hotline: 400 820 9777



Join SwissCham NOW!

中国瑞士商会

swisscham.org

Because Connections Matter

SwissCham is your necessary partner to your business in China. We understand and represent our members' interests within the business community and towards governmental authorities.

Events:

- Meet and network with other business people and chamber members
- Be informed about current business issues
- Join our events to give your company exposure as a speaker or member and share your knowledge

Exposure & Sponsorship:

- Enjoy free subscriptions to "The Bridge" magazine
- Expose your company during events
- Use our communication platforms (newsletter, email signatures, announcements, website)
- Receive a free membership directory

Services:

- Key contacts and networking opportunities
- Benefit from exclusive discounts and preferential treatments in hotels, restaurants, shops, spas and airlines with our membership card
- Translation and interpretation
- Event consulting and venues search

Contact the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce:

SwissCham Beijing
Address: Room 1028, Kursha Center, Building No. 1, 30 Wuyiwan, Chaoyang District, Beijing
Tel: +86 10 6540 3087
Email: info@swisscham.org

SwissCham Shanghai
Address: Room 1028, Kursha Silver Center, No. 2088 North Siping Road, Shanghai
Tel: +86 21 6144 3037
Email: info@swisscham.org

SwissCham Guangzhou
Address: 2106 First Guard Tower, No. 208 Tianhe Road, Guangzhou
Tel: +86 755 8588 8200
Email: info@swisscham.org

SwissCham Hong Kong
C/O Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong
Address: Suite 606-01 Central Plaza North Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2524 0393
Email: info@swisscham.org

Best wishes in 2013 Spring Festival

2013的春节，爱你一生的福寿喜

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

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

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

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

268RMB/Set Value for money!

Till Feb.24, 2013, limited availability, and hand-made manufacture takes time, so please book in advance for two sets or more.

Stone Village in Ji County

by chao Lee

蓟县西井峪“石头村”

百年以前，它依山而建，因四面环山似在井中而得名“西井峪”。不论是房屋、院落，还是道路、鸡舍，这里的所有建筑均取材自脚下最普通的石头，又被称为“石头村”。山路曲折蜿蜒，仅有一“穿云洞”与外世相连……就是这样一个“与世隔绝”的小村庄，去年被列为第五批中国历史文化名村，不仅吸引了一群群游人前去探秘，更有不少热爱摄影的摄影人常年在村里驻扎。走进半山腰的一座农家院，典型的北方院落。穿过前院步入正房，一张白色幕布悬在房间正中，一张条形桌架摆在幕布前方，成了观赏者们的座位。这间便是“皮影坊”。每逢节日或游客来到村子里体验民俗，便有机会到这里看到最地道的皮影戏。游客到来，皮影坊主人便从他的箱子里翻出影人，表演一番。

Jixian is a county approximately 100 kilometers south of Tianjin downtown. One hundred years ago, this village was built according to the shape of mountains. It is surrounded by mountains so looks like a well from the outside view and that's the reason why it is named "West Well Valley". The whole facilities, houses, yards, roads and even the henhouses are built with ordinary stones and it is called the "Stone Village". The winding mountain road is the only connection the village has with the outside so it is kind of

isolated from modern civilization even now.

Recently it has been drawing so much attention from the public because was named as the 5th group of famous Chinese historical and cultural villages in China last year. Therefore, those that love photography are hiking and exploring this unknown place in Tianjin.

The village is really unique, you may have seen many ancient villages or townships in Beijing, Shanxi or Yunnan. The "old China" life & customs in the village have been kept



Natural Playground

intact, and the old village is famous for its various ancient facilities of stone and Chinese Shadow Puppet Play that is a very ancient and traditional amusement.

Stone houses, stone walls, stone steps and stone bridges are still well-preserved here after a history of more than 100 years. Residents in this stone village lead a different life now as local economy develops. However, most of them prefer to living in traditional stone houses, which are warm in winter and cool in summer.

According to the introduction of the village head, the village has kept the traditional language and customs. People pay attention to traditional folk festival ritual activities. Beside the Chinese Shadow Puppet Play, some of the villagers also maintain the

manual weaving skills and still use the stone mill to grind cereal. So this place is full of traditional folk characteristics. There are many special workshops, such as shadow puppet house, weaving house, stitching house, grind house, clay house, Tofu making house, pancake making house, and steamed bun making house. Some of the old manual skills are hard to see in other places.

"In order to guarantee the village folk flavor not being affected, limiting the number of guests is quite necessary," Village head said. They not only have a protection plan for the village, but also restrict the capacity to 670 visitor one time.

The family names of people from the stone village are also of interest. The village has a round square in the central area with a

stone paved ground. On the left side of the square, there is a typical farmhouse built along the winding street. The magnolia flowers are blooming in the middle of the stone yard and some of them are even coming out of the stone wall. When you push open the yard door, you will see the farmer is holding a big basket and feeding his hens.

The standard of "the big three bedrooms" for houses in the village is the most typical layout. Usually, the houses are more than three bedrooms with one separate kitchen, two or three guest rooms, and storage room in the back yard. All the materials are stone. Although most of them look a little bit broken, naturally with the flavor of the primitive simplicity.

"During the big earthquake, other

houses collapsed but our stone houses didn't fall." The village head said very proudly. Talking about the most beautiful place in the village, he prefers to focus on the firmness of his house. According to his memory, the influence to Ji County of the Tang Shan earthquake in 1976 was huge. He even saw the giant fire balls in the sky and felt the shaking of the ground. However when the earthquake was over, the stone houses in the village were still standing firmly. After some many years of wars and disasters, these stone houses seem to have escaped modernisation and are standing quietly among mountains.



Chinese shadow Puppet Play

Where to go in Beijing, during the Spring Festival?

By David Wong

去北京过大年

每到新年，北京各地都会举办大大小小的庙会，成为市民春节期间的重要娱乐活动。庙会最初是佛教和道教组织用来传教的活动。很多民间艺人逐渐加入这样的活动，增加了庙会的娱乐性。现在的庙会上除了卖小玩意儿的，还有各种民间表演、游戏，参与性很强。每年的庙会都是人山人海，所以你一定要有心理准备。今年是蛇年，所以会有很多与蛇相关的商品。



This is a scene from the Temple Fair at the Temple of Earth 地坛 DiTan, red lanterns are common decorations used at Temple Fairs.

The traditional spots to visit during The Spring Festival 春节 are joining the thousands at the numerous Temple Fairs 庙会 throughout the city.

There are four temples in Beijing: Temple of Heaven 天坛 TianTan (featured in January Jin Magazine), Temple of Sun 日坛 and Temple of the Moon 月坛 YueTan

Temple fairs were originally an activity entertaining the people by the Buddhism and Taoism organizations in order to transmit the tenet and increase votary, with the attractive recreation performance such as dances, drama and inspection tour, etc. When the festival ceremonies were held by these organizations, various kinds of the folk organizations came there to add to the fun. In this way, the Buddhist temples and the Taoist temples were gradually becoming the sites for mass gathering for the religions activities.

Owing to the development of the economy and the need of goods circulation for the people, the business activities during the temple fair had increased. As time passed, temple fair has become the main trading market for the people to purchase daily necessities, and has become an important kind of Chinese fair.

With the secularization of the religious activities, the temple fair activities have been popularized and become active. The custom of holding regular temple fair can be found everywhere. And the contents of the temple fairs are slightly different in different places with their own features. Many large temple fairs are uncommonly busy, and there are many local operas playing besides the trading activities. Even in some smaller temple fairs, there are small drama shows such as shadow play and storytelling.

Be prepared for huge crowds at the larger venues. You will find many different activities and plenty of snacks at food stalls and merchandise and trinkets being sold. Being the year of the Snake, most items will reference this animal but there will be fish since the word in Chinese sound like abundance or prosperity. There will also be posters and Chinese idioms that can be hung by your entrance to attract good luck and fortune in the coming year.

Especially during the Spring Festival, the temple fairs in some important temples are hugely crowded with people who take the opportunity to burn incense and worship the Buddha and wish a good luck in a new year. This is the year of the snake or the "Little Dragon" which will start with New Year's Eve on February 9th.

Aside from the Temple Fairs, one of my favourite spots in Beijing is the 小关市场 Xiao Guan Market which is at the convergence of Xin Dong Road and the 3rd Ring and Airport Express. It is comprised of a large indoor market and surrounded by a large park where you will find all kinds of activities.

This is the area where you can find all types of prepared foods, dumplings, steamed buns and noodles. The indoor market is about 50 meters east.

The indoor market features the freshest fruits and vegetables and has a decent selection of fish and meats. It even has other basic housewares and clothing. No bargaining, but you will find the prices very reasonable.

There is not much English spoken here, but the vendors are used to foreigners as it is near the TaYuan Diplomatic Compound on Xin Dong Road. Just remember that it is a morning market opening at 6-7AM and closes by 1PM. Each vendor has an electronic scale in front of their goods and as long as you can count to ten in Chinese you should be fine. Most items will have the prices written on a card, you need to learn the characters for Jin 斤 which is 500 grams or just over a lb (454 grams) and Mao 毛 which is 1/10th of one RMB 元 Yuan.

Many foreigners are confused with RMB, Yuan and Kuai – they all mean a Chinese unit of money. RMB is short for RenMinBi 人民币 or People's Money; Yuan 元 is Dollar in



There are usually similar activities in the larger parks in Beijing, such as ChaoYang Park 朝阳公园 and Beihai Park 北海公园.



Photo by Ben Kitirou

Chinese measurement and Kuai 块 is similar to our slang for "buck".

The Melons are 1 RMB 元 per斤 and the white cabbage is 7 Mao 毛 or .70 RMB per Jin

Green Food labeled pulses and honey. (Remember the January article)

Other places that would be fun to visit during the coming holiday, is Lady Street NvRenJie 女人街. It is located near the new US Embassy and beside it is a large flower market.

There are hundreds of individual stalls indoors selling local brand women's and children's clothing and accessories and a large

mobile phone market. Sorry guys, but there are very few men's offerings, thus the name Lady Street.

The flower market adjacent to Lady Street, to the north is very extensive and has all kinds of green plants, flowers and also artificial decorations. In the basement are several stalls that sell china and cutlery.

There is limited bargaining unlike stores such as Silk Market, Yashou and Pearl Market but we will save that for another article. Have fun and good luck with the new year of the Little Dragon.



Direct flights to Sri Lanka and Maldives to begin March 9

Starting March 9, Korean Air will expand its network to Southwest Asia with the launch of a direct service from Seoul/Incheon to Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The direct service will be offered three times a week, flying from Seoul/Incheon first to Colombo in Sri Lanka and then on to Male in the Maldives. The flights will operate every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Flight KE 473 will depart Seoul/Incheon at 10:40 p.m. and arrive in Colombo at 4:10 a.m. the next day, then continue its journey departing from Colombo at 5:40 a.m. and arriving in Male at 6:40 a.m. the same day. On the return, flight KE 474 will depart from Male at 3:30 p.m. and arrive in Colombo at 5:30 p.m., then depart from Colombo at 6:50 p.m. and arrive in Seoul/Incheon at 6:10 a.m. the next day.

Korean Air's new Seoul/Incheon- Colombo-Male route will be operated with an Airbus 330-300, seating 276 passengers and equipped with Korean Air's premium seats. First Class has 6 Sleeper Seats, 180 degree full-flat beds with 83-inch pitch and 20.6-inch width guaranteeing comfort and freedom during the flight. The Prestige (business) Class has 18 full-flat sleepers with 74-inch pitch and extra-large seat partitions offering comfort and privacy. Passengers in all classes can enjoy the new AVOD (Audio & Video on Demand) system that offers upgraded in-flight entertainment in high resolution and with top processing

speed.

The new Korean Air route ensures travelers from the Americas, Japan, China and other Asian countries hasslefree journeys to Colombo and Male via Incheon International Airport, allowing them to enjoy the various tourist resources in Southwest Asia.

By offering direct flights from Korea to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Korean Air expects demand for both business and leisure travel to increase.



Flight Number	Days of Operation	Route	Departure	Arrival
KE473	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday	Incheon (ICN) ~ Colombo(CMB)	22:40	04:10+1
		Colombo(CMB) ~ Male (MLE)	05:40+1	06:40+1
KE474	Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday	Male(MLE) ~ Colombo(CMB)	15:30	17:30+1
		Colimbo ~ Incheon(ICN)	18:50	06:10+1

Korean Air wins A380 'Top Operational Excellence' award at Airbus Symposium

Korean Air received the A380 Top Operational Excellence award for the first time in the world at the Airbus Technical Symposium held in Dubai, UAE, Dec. 3-6. Previously, Korean Air had received seven consecutive A330 Operational Excellence awards and six Operational Excellence awards for A300-600.

The Airbus Technical Symposium is held every two years for each aircraft type and the Top Operational Excellence awards are considered the most prestigious for operators of Airbus aircraft. The winners are determined by a thorough evaluation of the overall performance of the shortlisted airlines, including operational reliability (on-time operation rate) and aircraft utilization.

Korean Air acquired its first A380 in June 2011 and was the first airline in Korea to operate the aircraft; the airline has recorded an impressive operational reliability of 99.5%, which means only 0.5% of flights were delayed or cancelled. The record is outstanding compared to the global average of 1.9% and illustrates Korean Air's high maintenance performance.

Operational reliability is an international index that measures the accuracy of flight operations due to delays or defects, by the calculation of flights operated within 15 minutes from STD (scheduled time of departure). A higher measurement verifies the better operating capability of the airline and reflects

the priority given to maintenance and safety management.

Configured in a three class layout with just 407 seats, the lowest configuration of any A380 operator so far, Korean Air's double-decker A380s feature unique amenities with 12 First Class Kosmo Suites and 301 Economy Class seats on the main deck and 94 fully lieflat Prestige Sleeper seats in Prestige Class (business class) on the upper deck. Its ultra-luxurious and unique in-flight facilities like the world's first Duty Free Showcase and three bars and lounges, offer a new and highly enjoyable in-flight experience.



Xiamen Airlines of China Joins SkyTeam alliance



Xiamen Airlines of China has joined SkyTeam, a global alliance of airlines led by Korean Air, opening wider the skies of China for travelers.

A ceremony was held in Xiamen on Nov. 21 to mark the occasion with representatives of SkyTeam member airlines attending. They included Cho Yang-ho, chairman of the Hanjin Group, the mother company of Korean Air; Chi Chang-hoon, president of Korean Air; and Che Shanglun, president of Xiamen Airlines.

Established in July 1984, Xiamen Airlines is China's fifth largest carrier and has its main operational bases in Xiamen, Fuzhou and Hangzhou. It operates to more than 210 routes and over 50 cities, including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. The airline started to offer services to South Korea in 2002 and now flies the

Incheon/Seoul- Xiamen route five times a week. Xiamen and Korean Air also jointly operate flights.

As the newest member of SkyTeam, Xiamen Airlines will cooperate in various ways with other member companies, including joint operation of flights, redemption of Frequent Flyer Miles, and lounge services. Xiamen's extensive network in China will help SkyTeam members provide more convenient flight schedules in Greater China to their customers.

The addition of Xiamen Airlines has brought the number of SkyTeam members to 19. This makes SkyTeam the world's largest alliance of airline companies with a global network covering 1,000 destinations in 187 countries, offering 15,465 services a day. The SkyTeam members together transport 552 million passengers a year.

SkyTeam will continue to expand the alliance through invitation of new members, which will allow more convenient and diverse flight schedules for passengers.

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.

LOCAL EVENTS

Appointed hospital for foreigners in Tianjin

The grand opening ceremony of the first appointed hospital for expats in Tianjin was launched at the lobby of Tianjin Medical University General Hospital on January 10th, 2013. The Mayor of Tianjin, officers from the local Public Health Bureau, and the manager from Tianjin United Family Hospital (TJU) all attended. The whole medical team is made up of Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, Municipal First Center Hospital and TJU.



007: SKYFALL is proud to be brought to you by 15 years collaborations between Heineken and James Bond.

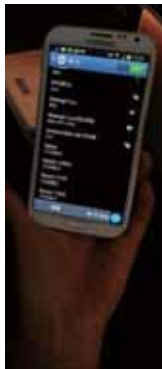
As the 007 series surpassed its Golden Jubilee, Heineken and James Bond are proud to bring you the latest Bond movie: SKYFALL. It has been 15 years since Heineken and James Bond work together to bring excitement to the consumers. As part of collaboration, Heineken had recently excites the consumer with IMAX movie tickets and other premiums through its promotion.



SHANGRI-LA HOTELS AND RESORTS KEEPS GUESTS CONNECTED WITH FREE WI-FI ACCESS AT ALL PROPERTIES AND IN HOTEL LIMOUSINES

In paradise there would be no data roaming charges. Here on earth, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts offers travellers the next best thing: free Wi-Fi access in the group's 78 hotels. In addition, nearly all hotels, including those under the spirited Kerry Hotels and Traders Hotels brands, now offer complimentary Wi-Fi service in limousines so that guests can access the Internet using their mobile devices from the hotels' chauffeured cars.

In 2009, Shangri-La was the first international luxury hotel group to provide free Internet access at all its properties, and it continues to be at the forefront of customising technology to keep guests connected, even while they are on the move.



The first Gold Key honor at The Astor Hotel, A luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin

Mr. Wang Bob, the chief concierge of The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin got the Golden Key honor recently, which is the top level of the concierge career path. Since the year 1994 joined hotel industry and started his career in concierge department, he has insisted to make the service perfect all the time: patient, considerable and careful to every guest. The service tenet of him is to solve all difficulties for the guests under the laws & morality, and provide personalized service as the final goal. This is the first staff to win this great honor at hotel.



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin greets the famous film star Ms. Wang Luo Dan



The famous actress Ms Wang Luo Dan came for the cover story shooting for the Top Travel magazine in the Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin recently. The shooting venues include 1863 Bistro & Terrace, the old Otis elevator made in 1924, Victorian Lounge and corridors of Astor Wing. The Marketing Communications manager Joyce Li represented the management team to give the warmest greeting to Ms.Wang Luo Dan and took photos with her.

Opening ceremony of bilingual social alliance

Along with the crystal ball rotating, the bilingual social alliance for the elite from famous companies in Tianjin was officially opened by Mr. Sun Huimin, the director of Learnon Education Group, Miss Sun Jinyao, CEO of Lucky International English and other two representatives from the alliance. The orientation of the social alliance is to provide a platform and access for employees to develop their social life, get to know more about office culture, and learn the professional skills. After the ceremony, the officers from the alliance also introduced the operation conditions and upcoming events.



New Restaurant & Bar in Town

Located at the North Gate of Tianjin Olympic Center Stadium, Binshui West Road, HEBE, integrating a stylish restaurant, a classy lounge club that can compete internationally and a fashion show room into one, is a sophisticated dining and recreation venue that is bound to sweep the city with some fresh air and a brand new style. For further details, please contact 18622291068.



Antonio Teijeiro is appointed as Resident Manager, Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel



Mr. Teijeiro is recently transferred to the Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel as Resident Manager. As a customer-focused, result-driven and well-organized manager, Mr. Teijeiro previously served with Marriott International for more than 7 years. Having 11 years of sales experience in hotel management industry through out Europe, Asia (China) and Middle East (Dubai), Mr. Teijeiro is a confident, experienced professional. The Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel is honored to have Antonio Teijeiro on board.

MEDIA APPRECIATION PARTY BEIJING & TIANJIN MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL

On the night of 10th of January, the Marriott International Beijing and Tianjin Cluster hold its annual media appreciation party at the newly opened Imperial Mansion Marriott Executive Apartments next to the famous shopping district of Wang Fu Jing. Almost 100 media friends joined the party, and enjoyed the night full of fun and happiness. Under the theme of "Time Jumper", the guests dressed up for the event through the ancient and modern time, and the live music and laser dance also helps to build the Time Jumper theme as well. It was an intriguing event that Beijing and Tianjin Marriott International Hotels not only showed our appreciation and gratitude for collaborating with us, but also introduced the new Imperial Mansion Marriott Executive Apartments to the media.



Wedding Show at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

On January 13th, a wedding show was held at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel. The lobby lounge was decorated with candies of romance, which were designed and made by the bakery chef of the hotel. The show is a co-organized by two other partners, Nice Wedding Planning and Yumi Katsura. Nice Wedding presented the latest 4D animation projection technology that created a dream-like atmosphere for the wedding venue. Yumi Katsura also displayed its classic wedding dress designs to soon-to-be couples.



Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe wins Voyage "Worth Expecting Hotel" award for 2012

Tianjin, China (15 January 2013) - Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe was named "Worth Expecting Hotel" at Voyage magazine's 2012 Hotel and Resort Best Value Awards in Beijing on 15 January 2013.

Ringo Poon, the General Manager of the hotel, attended the award ceremony. "We very much appreciate the endorsement from our honored guests, readers and industry friends and we will continue to welcome more and more travelers to explore our neighborhood stories, enjoy our inspired service and fresh design", Ringo said.

As a leading high end travel magazine in China, Voyage magazine targets the leading class with the greatest traveling affordability-the business travel elites, the middle class people and the wealthy group. Elegancy, profundity and responsibility are the notions that Voyage magazine advocates. The "2012 Voyage Hotel & Resort Best Value Awards" campaign lasted about several months, after a collection of thorough inspections and reviews including an audition as well as internet and postal voting. Meanwhile, "Voyage" Magazine employed hotel connoisseurs especially for this campaign to ensure the awards were just and fair.



'Lang Lang 30' Appreciation Party was held successfully at the Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe

The 'Lang Lang 30' 2013 Tianjin New Year Concert was staged perfectly on 30 December, 2012 at the Tianjin Sports Centre. After the show, Lang Lang attended the appreciation party at Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe. As the official reception hotel, Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe specifically made a 'Lang Lang 30' cake to wish Lang Lang good luck in reaching another career peak. Shi Yangzhou, Deputy Managing Director of Tianjin Haihe Historical Reservation Construction Co., Ltd. cut the cake with Lang Lang. People all toasted to welcome Lang Lang back Tianjin again.



The Hearing Procedures in a Labor Dispute Arbitration

---From Logos Law Firm (experienced local Chinese lawyers)

劳动仲裁中的审理

To make awards of labor dispute cases, labor dispute arbitration commissions shall adopt the arbitral tribunal system. The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators, with one serving as chief arbitrator. And the cases may be solely arbitrated by one arbitrator if the they are simple.

The labor dispute arbitration commission shall, within five days from the date it accepts an application for arbitration, make a notification to the parties concerning to the composition of the arbitral tribunal in written to the parties.

An arbitrator shall withdraw, and the parties is entitled to apply for his withdrawal orally or in written, under one of the circumstances sent out following:

- (i) He/She is a party to the case in question or a close relative of a party or its agents;
- (ii) He has interest relations to the case;;
- (iii) He has other relations with a party to the case or its agent, which may affect impartial award; or
- (iv) He meets with a party or its agent without authorization or accepts invitation to dinner or gifts therefrom.

The labor dispute arbitration commission shall, in a timely manner, make a decision on the application for withdrawal and notify the parties of the decision orally or in written.

The arbitral tribunal shall notify both parties to the date and place of the hearing five days before the hearing is held. A party who has justifiable reasons may request for postponing the hearing three days before the hearing is held. The labor dispute arbitration shall decide whether the request is approved.

In the course of arbitration, the parties is entitled to examine and cross examine and debate. When the examination and cross examination and debating is ended, the arbitrator shall solicit the final opinions to the parties.

Where the evidence provided by a party is substantiated upon verification, the arbitral tribunal shall confirm the facts on ground of such evidence.

Where a worker fails to provide the evidence which is kept and controlled by the employing unit and is relevant to his arbitration claim, the arbitral tribunal may require the employing unit to provide such evidence within a specified time limit. Where the employing unit fails to do so, it shall bear the

unfavorable consequences.

The arbitral tribunal shall make a written record of the hearing. Where the parties or the other participants in the arbitration believe that there are omissions or errors in their recorded statements, they shall have the right to apply for supplementation or correction. If the tribunal refuses to do so, the application shall be recorded.

The written record shall be signed or sealed by the arbitrators, recording clerks, the parties and other participants in the arbitration.

After applying for arbitration of their labor dispute, the party may reach a settlement on their own. Where a settlement agreement is reached, the arbitration application may be withdrawn.

The arbitral tribunal shall mediate before making an award. When an agreement is reached through mediation, a statement of mediation shall be prepared by the arbitral tribunal.

Where mediation fails to or before the statement of mediation is served, one party goes back on the agreement reached, the arbitral tribunal shall make an award in a timely manner.



Tianjin Networking Club at St. Regis Hotel

The first session of TNC event, also known as Biz Socializer, in 2013 was held at the Diamond Ballroom, 18F of The St. Regis Tianjin. Over 100 professionals and entrepreneurs attended the event. The event is organized by Jin Magazine, and co-organized by American Chamber of Commerce, European Chamber of Commerce, German Chamber of Commerce, Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

We were excited to see some new faces that day. Some of them were new comers to Tianjin and were eager to know about the local business environment and look for opportunities. TNC is definitely the best platform for people like this. The spirit of TNC is about mutual help and mutual benefit. We were also glad to welcome members from Swiss Chamber, German Business Circle Tianjin, Benelux Chamber of Commerce because it was their first time to participate in the event as a co-organizer.

The event proved to be another great success. TNC social event has become the most important and influential business event in Tianjin and we look forward to seeing you in the next session.

For more information, please log on: www.tjnetworkclub.org or email: marketing@rexgroup.net



★ Confidentiality 保密 ★ Commitment 承诺 ★ Professional 专业 ★ Teamwork 团队 ★



We can help you in the following area of litigation, arbitration and non litigation affairs:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Foreign Investment | 外商投资 |
| Financing (banking, security, insurance) | 金融 |
| Real Estate | 房地产 |
| Incorporation, corporate restructuring | 公司合并、重组 |
| Infrastructure Construction | 基础设施建设 |
| Protection of Intellectual Property Rights | 知识产权保护 |
| International and Domestic Trades | 国际国内贸易 |
| Maritime Affairs | 海事海商 |
| Corporate Governance | 公司内部结构治理 |
| Relations between Employer and Staff | 劳资关系处理 |
| Translation for Business Negotiation and Legal Affairs | 商务谈判口笔译 |
| Registration, Transferring of shares and Opening account of BVI Company | BVI公司的设立、股权转让、开设账户 |
| Establishment of Foreign-Funded Enterprises | 外资企业设立 |
| Legal Knowledge Training/Professional Ethics Training/Team Faith Training | 法律知识培训、职业操守培训、团队信仰培训 |

It's time to find a more efficient management method.

简便高效的管理路径?

HR-WDO SERVICE

人力资源整体部门外包

LOGOS COLLEGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTING CO.LTD
道名管理顾问有限公司

天津新技术产业园区榕苑路4号天发科技园2-2-301
2-2-301, Tianfajiejuyuan, No.4 Rongyuan Road, Tianjin Hi-tech Industry Park, 300384, PRC
Telephone: 86-22-83715256 83713771 Facsimile: 86-22-83715257
Email: Logoslawfirm@yahoo.com.cn Website: www.logoslawfirm.com Fax: +86 22 83715257

+86 22 83715256
+86 22 83713771

Parting Shot



Taxi Tales

by Paula Taylor

Will someone please tell me what I have to do in order to have a successful taxi journey. What am I doing wrong? Many of you have nothing but good experiences when taking taxis, but I have to grit my teeth each time, in anticipation of the trouble that is sure to come my way. Do I have some kind of personality disorder, or do I have an invisible sign on my forehead that says "Miscreant taxi drivers please stop for me"?

With the recent bad weather the drivers really had a field day. It was freezing cold and

snowing heavily so naturally many people wanted to take a taxi. Many drivers refused to take one person and waited until they had four passengers and only then would they drive off. They also inflated their prices. A favourite trick is to insist that their meter is broken and they will then give you a price – their price.

The drivers I hate the most are the ones at the stations. At Tianjin railway station there are scores of them lining up outside. My advice is never to get into these taxis, and instead go under the station and join the

打车厄运

谁能告诉我怎么做才能让我的打车经历顺利一些？自问我没有做过什么错事，但为什么每次我都那么倒霉碰到无良司机？我经历过的倒霉事数不胜数：边开车边抽烟、漫天要价、拒载、多绕路、半路搭载陌生人、坚持拼车凑够人才走、凌晨在高速路上打瞌睡...

也许这些对你们来说只是及其个别的现象，但我几乎每次打车都会遇到。也许我脑门上写着什么字，让司机很讨厌我。还好现在地铁线路变多了，让我可以减少打车数量了。

queue at the taxi rank. The drivers outside know that most people want to avoid queuing, and so it is their chance to give false prices. There is also another more sinister reason why some of them do not want to wait in the taxi rank line. A driver took me to Tianjin station and insisted that I get off outside. I asked her to drive right into the station and she refused. She told me that the taxi was not hers, she did not have a taxi licence and if she went into the station they would notice the fact that she was not displaying a badge and she would be fined. As she was not the licensed driver what she was doing was illegal and she was worried about the consequences. Although it may be a nuisance to join the queue it is still better than taking your chances with a possible rogue driver. Either that or go outside the station and get a cab there.

Space is too limited to list all my taxi horror stories, but they include the driver picking up other passengers en route, thus slowing my journey down and compelling me against my will to share with strangers, throwing me out when I insist on them using the meter, falling asleep three times whilst driving on the highway at 2.30 a.m. thereby forcing me to get out with my luggage and continue the rest of my journey on foot as I did not want to be killed, smoking even though it has been illegal for a while here, setting off in the opposite direction despite me giving clear directions, and insisting that they need to use the motorway unnecessarily, thereby once again leaving me with no other choice but to get out. The drivers at Tianjin station only have 4 phrases in their vocabulary, "Where are you going?" "My meter is broken so it will cost 40 yuan" "There is a traffic jam in that road so we have to use the motorway" and "No I won't go there".

I am unable to fathom the mentality of a lot of the drivers here. However many of you have good experiences with drivers, so congratulations, that is not my fate it seems. Tianjin's Taxi Drivers really are my *bête noir* but thankfully the new metro line means I can largely avoid them.



INTRODUCING A NEW LEVEL OF HOME COMFORT
SOMERSET SERVICED RESIDENCE



Somerset International Building Tianjin
No 75 Nanjing Road, Heping District
86-22-2330 6666



Somerset Olympic Tower Tianjin
No 126 Chengdu Road, Heping District
86-22-2335 5888



Somerset Youyi Tianjin
No 35 Youyi Road, Hexi District
86-22-2810 7888



Ascott China has 3 Serviced Residences in Tianjin. With a total of 540 fully furnished and equipped studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom serviced residence units and a wide array of recreational facilities, you can surely find your home away from home whether for long term residence, business travel or leisure travel. **Because life is about living.**

For further information and reservations, please visit www.ascottchina.com or call 400 820 1028

Somerset Serviced Residence is managed by The Ascott Limited, a member of CapitalLand. It is the largest global serviced residence owner-operator in Asia Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region, managing the Ascott, Citadines and Somerset brands in over 70 cities across more than 20 countries.





www.koreanair.com



Experience service on a whole new scale

Korean Air provides quality service that surpasses even your highest expectations. Indulge yourself in the Korean Air experience for life on a whole new scale.

Origin	Destination	Flight	Departure	Arrival	Day
Incheon	Tampa	KE301	10:11	11:30	Daily
Tampa	Incheon	KE302	12:10	13:21	Daily

Excellence in Flight
KOREAN AIR 
 Korean Air Service Center: 40065-8888