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MAGAZINE

今日天津

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TIANJIN TODAY 2013/05

梦

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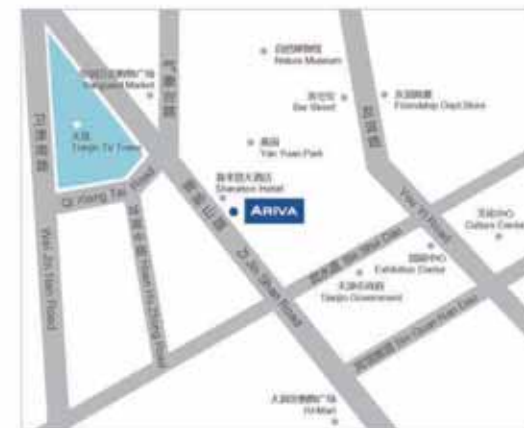


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CONTENTS

People

Young Professionals Tianjin:
Fresh Look at Networking in
Tianjin

专属于有志青年的沙龙

26



20

Feature
Chinese Dreams
中国梦

28

Business
Maternity Leave:
What's a girl to do?
新手妈妈重回职场?

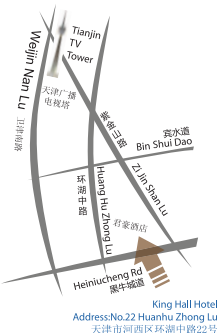
52

Lifefeature
Exercise: Why it hurts so good?
运动：痛并快乐着

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INVESTMENT

Fighting Back! 32
有力的回击!

EDUCATION

What's An MOOC: Changing the Online
Learning Landscape. 40
网络教学新气象

CULTURE

Why Do You 42
你怎能这样?

FOLK

Miniature carving on olive pit 48
核雕再小也有神

EXPATS HISTORY IN TIANJIN

Two 'hommes de lettres' 54
曾经与天津擦肩而过的两位法国作家

TRAVEL

Fenghuang: The Phoenix Village 56
湘西凤凰古城

SPOTLIGHT ON BEIJING

Huairou-a relaxing and quiet getaway
outside of Beijing 58
怀柔踏青

PARTING SHOT

Safety First 66
安全第一

Ads Index

Real Estate 房地产
Joanna Real Estate

Restaurant 餐厅

YY Beer House
Tapas Hank's
Din Tai Fung
Subway
HEAVEN
UOMAN
SEVEN DAYS GROUP
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以上荣誉顾问按姓名首个字母顺序排列, 排列不分先后。

Letter from the Editor

Everyone has a dream and many believe it is important to live out our dreams. The new leadership team in China, led by President Xi Jinping, has called on the Chinese people to embrace the Chinese Dream, which is to work together to accomplish the further rise and prosperity of China. Many Chinese believe that the realization of their dreams is directly related to the fate of the country.

As I write this, Sichuan Province in Southwest China is suffering from another disastrous earthquake after the one back in 2008. In situations like this, it is always the impressive effort of our relief workers and the whole country that comes to the fore. It is a fact that the Chinese dream cannot come true while any part of the country is in trouble. Let's help in any way we can.

For us, it is important to always remember our dream and to never lose our focus. Of course, many have more than just one dream. There are realistic and achievable dreams, such as the dreams associated with our career, family and our happiness, while others may be a bit far-fetched. A person that works hard to realize their achievable dreams is considered a respectable role model, while one that pursues their wildest dream, at any expense, is often seen as crazy.

I'm a pragmatic person and I believe that my dreams can be achieved with a bit of effort and a bit of luck. Sometimes I have beautiful dreams that will only ever remain dreams though to think about them gives me great pleasure. I won't be sorry they will never come true. They are like remote shiny stars that I can always see, but never touch, though they can still give me strength.

In this issue, we want to ask expats in Tianjin about their dreams and how living in Tianjin can help them realize their dreams. We hope to hear that living in Tianjin is one way that is helping their dreams come true. Maybe for some, Tianjin has become part of their dream. From these stories, we have learned again that people are not that different despite their different backgrounds. All of us have basic needs, both materialistic and spiritual. We all know the often great gulf that lies between dreams and reality.

每个人都有梦想，梦想是支持我们前进的动力。习近平主席在上任后提出了“中国梦”，号召人们共同努力，实现中国的伟大复兴。很多国人也相信个人梦想的实现与国家的命运息息相关。

在我写这篇文章的时候，四川芦山刚刚经历了7.0级大地震，紧张的救援工作正在进行中。每当有大灾出现，中国就会出现全民一心救灾的感人场面。因为人们希望中国的每一个地方都是幸福和安宁的，这样才是中国梦的实现。如果一个地区出现灾祸，全国人民都会伸出援助之手，在通往梦想的路上，我们不要任何人掉队。

我们的杂志是关注外籍社区的杂志，所以我们也想问问外国人有什么梦想。我们希望在天津生活的日子从某种程度上帮助他们实现了梦想。从他们的故事中，我们认识到虽然大家来自不同国家，我们之间的差异其实并没有想象的那么大。人们的基本需求都大同小异。但是真正的鸿沟在于理想与现实的差距。

Monica W

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Second China-US Governors Forum held in Tianjin

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The second China-US Governors Forum was held in Tianjin on April 16, 2013 to provide Chinese governors and their US counterparts the opportunity to discuss economic and trade cooperation and environmental management. The forum was co-hosted by Li Xiaolin, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), and Iowa Governor Terry Branstad. The mayor of Tianjin Huang Xingguo delivered speeches during the discussions on topics including The Challenges and Opportunities for China, US to Invest in Each Other and The Current Situation and Possible Solutions for Environmental Governance. On the Chinese side, Hebei governor Zhang Qingwei, Heilongjiang's acting governor Lu Hao, Fujian governor Su Shulin and Guangxi's acting chairman Chen Wu were able to attend the forum. The US delegation included Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Reta Jo Lewis, Secretary of State John Kerry's special representative for global intergovernmental affairs.

Tianjin's Q1 GDP growth hits 12.5 percent

■ 天津一季度GDP同比增长12.5%

4月18日,市统计局召开新闻发布会透露,一季度天津经济保持平稳较快增长,创新能力持续增强。初步核算并经国家统计局评估审定,一季度全市生产总值2915.85亿元,按可比价格计算,同比增长12.5%。

Tianjin's first-quarter gross domestic product grew 12.5% on a year-to-year basis to 291.5 billion yuan, according to the Tianjin Statistics Bureau.

From January to March, the hi-tech industry achieved 175.6 billion yuan as the total value of industrial output, accounting for 28.1% of large industrial enterprises.

The per capita disposable income of Tianjin's urban residents increased 11.5 percent to 8,510 yuan and that of the city's rural residents increased 13.3 percent to 5,235 yuan.

The city's consumer prices in Q1 went up by 2.5% compared with Q4, 2012, but fell by 1.6% year-on-year and fell by 0.2% compared with average prices last year.

The total retail sales of consumer goods increased by 13% to 106 billion yuan and the total investment in fixed assets went up by 18.6% to 161 billion yuan.

The general budget revenues grew by 18.2% to 48.7 billion yuan and the tax revenue increased by 10.3% to 31.1 billion yuan.

Samaranch memorial museum to open in Tianjin on April 21

■ 全球唯一萨马兰奇纪念馆在天津市建成开放

坐落在天津市静海县内的全球唯一一座萨马兰奇纪念馆,于4月21日萨马兰奇逝世三周年纪念日向公众开放。4月21日是萨马兰奇先生逝世三周年的纪念日,为此,纪念馆也选在了这一天向公众开馆运营。国际奥委会主席罗格、国际奥委会执行委员吴经国、国家体育总局等相关领导嘉宾出席了开幕式。



The world's first memorial museum dedicated to former IOC Chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch in Tianjin's Jinghai County is slated to open on April 21st, 2013, the third anniversary of his death. 140 volunteers from the Tianjin Foreign Studies University have been trained for the opening ceremony, which will include a lesson from Mr. Wu Ching-kuo, the president of the International Boxing Association and founder of the museum. The construction of the museum, which is located at the Health Industrial Park in Tuanbo New Town, was completed in March. It will house more than 16,000 items owned by or connected to the former president of the Olympic Games' governing body from 1980 to 2001. Jacques Rogge, the current IOC president, Wu Ching-kuo and Liu Peng, the president of the Chinese Olympic Committee have confirmed their attendance at the opening ceremony.

Wanda Vista Tianjin launches mass recruitment

■ 万达文华酒店大型招聘活动成功启动

天津万达文华酒店2013大型招聘活动于4月20日和21日两天在意大利风情区举行。本次招聘活动共有200多个岗位面向社会进行招募。万达酒店及度假村管理有限公司市场营销副总裁Ilja Poepper先生和天津万达文华酒店总经理陆德曼先生亲临会场并向本地媒体介绍了酒店开业筹备和招聘的情况。



Wanda Vista Tianjin has launched its mass recruitment from 20 to 21 April 2013 aiming at attracting the best talents through this Recruiting Drive in preparation of its opening on 30 August 2013. Wanda Vista Tianjin is the first Wanda Vista brand hotel to open in North China. With its reputation for exclusive service and artistry, it will set a new standard for Tianjin's hotel industry.

Through this recruitment campaign, Wanda Vista Tianjin expected to fill more than 200 different positions and 400 job opportunities ranging from entry level to senior management. During the Wanda Vista Tianjin Recruitment Days, interested candidates attended several presentations about the Wanda Hotels and Resorts Corporate Culture, Wanda Vista brand features and hotel introduction followed by media interviews with the Vice President of Sales & Marketing of Wanda Hotels and Resorts Mr. Ilja Poepper and the hotel's General Manager Mr. Maged Louis. At the end of the event, Wanda Vista Tianjin received almost more than 1600 job applications and interviewed almost 1000 candidates.

Wanda Vista Tianjin is located on the banks of Haihe River in Hedong District. It is estimated to open in August, 2013.



中国(天津)人力资源服务业展示会暨第二届人力资源供应商大会
China (Tianjin) Human Resource Service Industry Exhibition & the 2nd Human Resource Supplier Assembly

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Opening soon and invite you to visit

地点: 中国(天津)人力资源发展促进中心三层(天津市河东区九经路25号)
Address: Floor 3, HR Development Promotion Center of Tianjin, China (No. 25, Jiujing Road, Hedong District, Tianjin)

时间: 5月10日-11日
Date: May 10th-11st

主办单位: 天津市人力资源和社会保障局
Sponsor: Tianjin Human Resource and Social Security Administration
中国人力资源协会
Human Resource Communication Association of China

协办单位: 中国北方人才市场
Co-organizer: North Talent Market of China
中国(天津)人力资源发展促进中心
Human Resource Development and Promotion Center of China (Tianjin)

百家来自北京、上海、天津的各行业优选人力资源供应商参展,诚邀各企业人力资源、行政、采购、工会负责人免费入场参观。天津外企协会、人力资源经理俱乐部HR CLUB、欧盟商会、美国商会、德国商会、企业联合会、开发区工会会员单位相关负责人可直接致电组委会索取入场券,其它企业负责人参会请提前致电组委会,预约领取入场券。

参观报名: 展会官网: www.tj-hrclub.org
Official website: www.tj-hrclub.org
报名电话: 86-22-24236220, 15022322275
Calls for Entries: 86-22-24236220, 15022322275
联系人: 张女士 lisa_hrclub@126.com 孟女士 meng_hrclub@126.com
Contact person: Miss Zhang Miss Meng

WHAT'S ON

Tianjin Grand Theatre

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000

5/11
Dragon Quartet World Debut
Performance

弦上初夏
龙四重奏首演音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

5/12
Beethoven Cycle - Tianjin Grand
Opera Orchestra Series No.6

贝多芬全集
大剧院音乐厅

5/17
University of Kentucky Symphony
Orchestra

美国肯塔基大学交响乐团音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

5/17-18
Drama Married to An Honest Man

小剧场话剧《嫁给经济适用男》
大剧院多功能厅

5/18
Orchestre National du Capitole de
Toulouse

法国图卢兹国立管弦乐团音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

5/22
Kremer, Chen and Dirvanauskaitė
Piano Trio

巅峰的音乐对话——克莱默、陈萨
和德瓦瑞斯凯特钢琴三重奏音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

5/24-25
Drama Weekend Lover

小剧场话剧《半糖》
大剧院多功能厅

5/25
Peking Opera Tuo Zhao Peng Bei,
Zhan Ji Zhou, Ji Gu Ma Cao

天津京剧院京剧《托兆碰碑》
《战冀州》《击鼓骂曹》
大剧院小剧场

Tianjin Grand Theatre

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000

5/26
Tianjin Grand Opera Orchestra
String Quartet

天津歌剧院交响乐团
弦乐四重奏音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

5/26
Kreislser's Masterpieces - Jue Yao
Violin Recital

克莱斯勒小品专场
姚珏小提琴独奏音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

5/31
Beethoven Cycle - Tianjin Grand
Opera Orchestra Series No.7

贝多芬全集
天津歌剧院交响乐团系列音乐会7
大剧院音乐厅

5/31-6/1
Drama Top Secret: The Battle for
the Pentagon Papers

话剧《绝密·五角大楼文件之战》
大剧院歌剧院

6/1
The Yale Glee Club Concert

欢乐的阳光
耶鲁大学合唱团音乐会
大剧院音乐厅

6/1-2
Drama Double Bass

小剧场话剧《低音大提琴》
大剧院多功能厅

6/2
The Shanghai Quartet

大剧院音乐厅
上海四重奏音乐会

6/1-2
Shanghai Pingtan Concert

上海评弹经典专场
大剧院小剧场

6/5
Donald Runnicles and Philadelphia
Orchestra

唐诺·鲁尼克斯与费城交响乐团音乐会

Western Shore Museum

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

5/03/20:00
String instrument quartet concert
弦乐四重奏专场音乐会



5/10/20:00
Wooden pipe quintet concert
木管五重奏音乐会

5/17/20:00
Classic folk music concert
经典民乐欣赏

5/18/20:00
Classic vocal music concert
声乐经典专场音乐会



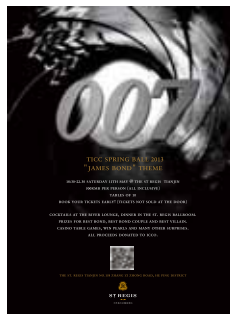
5/24/20:00
String instrument quartet concert
弦乐四重奏音乐会



5/25/20:00
Pole dancing and classic music
当钢管舞与古典音乐偶遇

5/31/20:00
Piano trio concert
钢琴三重奏音乐会

Don't Miss



**TICC Spring Ball 2013@The St. Regis
Tianjin**
"James Bond" Theme

Date: May 11 Saturday
Time: 18:30-22:30
Price: 500RMB per person (all inclusive)
Venue: The St. Regis Tianjin No.158, Zhang Zi Zhong
Road, Heping
Book your tickets early! (tickets not sold at the door)
Cocktails at The River Lounge, dinner in The St. Regis
Ballroom. Prizes for Best Bond, Best Bond Couple
and Best Villain. Casino Table Games, Win Pearls and
many other surprises. All proceeds donated to ICCO

Tianjin Concert Hall

No. 88, Jianshe Road, Heping

天津音乐厅 和平区建设路88号

5/12
Tianjin Grand Opera Orchestra
Cadenza Trio

天津歌剧院交响乐团
华彩三重奏室内乐音乐会

5/24
Paganini Meets Tango and Jazz
- Hui Wang Violin Recital

当帕格尼尼遇上探戈与爵士
王惠小提琴独奏音乐会

6/12
Flying Melody
- Tianjin Conservatory of Music
Chamber Music Concert

飞扬的旋律
天津音乐学院室内乐音乐会

Live

May 18
2013 Sandy Lam
Live in Tianjin
Saturday
19:30



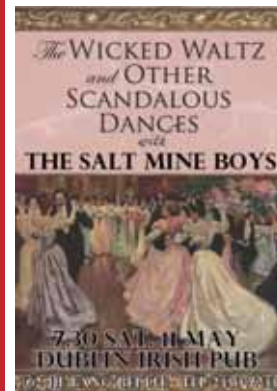
Venue: Tianjin Sports Center
林忆莲MMXIII演唱会2013天津站
天津体育馆

Don't Miss

May 19
2013WDS Tianjin
Grand Prix
Sunday
19:30

Venue: Tianjin Sports Center
Tel: 58395839
世界汽车飘移系列·天津大奖赛
天津奥林匹克中心体育场

Don't Miss



May 11 / Saturday / 19:30
Dublin Irish Pub
Venue: 62 Jiefang Beilu
Tel: 2330 7233
The Salt Mine Boys

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THE CHINESE DREAM AND YOU

By Paula Taylor

你的中国梦是什么？

现在媒体上谈论的一个热门话题就是习近平总书记提出的“中国梦”。作为一个国家，中国的复兴和富强是永恒的追求。作为个人，健康、财富、平安和快乐也是每个人心中最大的愿望。当电视台的记者走街串巷，询问普通人的梦想时，我们也不禁想知道那些在天津生活和工作的外国人有什么梦想，他们的中国梦是什么样的。

我们采访了英国摄影师、钟情于天津历史风情的美国银行家、国际学校的校长、嫁到中国的德国姑娘、我们的历史专栏作家、以及刚刚到天津一年的英语老师。在他们的人生中，天津是其中的一站，从某种意义上也帮助他们达成了梦想的一部分。摄影师Barnaby的梦想是环游地球，而在中国的两年来也丰富了他的人生，为他的梦想添上了重要一笔。

Douglas Red已经在天津生活了十几年，他已经深深爱上了这里。虽然已经从银行退休，Douglas每天仍然忙碌。他的工作就是让更多的外国人了解天津，也爱上天津。通过组织市区观光，他让很多外国人对这座城市从陌生到熟悉，最后流连忘返。Douglas亲自当导游，他的解说词绝不照本宣科，内容丰富但绝不枯燥。他希望更多外国人愿意选择到天津创业而不是只认得“北厂”，他也希望看到本地人能更多地为这座城市感到骄傲！

张凯玲来自德国，她嫁到了中国并且生了两个漂亮的女儿。凯玲的梦想当然是家庭的幸福和睦，而且这个梦想也已经实现了。她认为每个人都应该有梦想，虽然不能全部实现，但是回首人生，追求梦想的过程是那么丰富多彩，那么这也是完美的人生。她现在是天津歌德学院的负责人，向中国学生教授德语，传播德国文化。凯玲很喜欢现在的工作，家庭事业双丰收让凯玲十分满意现在的生活。

我们再来看看中国人的中国梦。关于个人的梦想，他们说的大都很实际。有的人说：如果工资不能涨上去，那么生活成本就降下来点，不然就让我中个五百万彩票吧。他们都认为中国梦与国家的富强息息相关，而且实现这一梦想需要每个国人的努力。从他们的回答中，我们不难看出爱国主义在中国的意义在于支持自己的国家，为自己是中国人感到骄傲。

The new Chinese president Xi Jinping has proposed the concept of the Chinese Dream and he has encouraged everyone to pursue their dream. The prosperity and rise of China is the country's dream, and this is interdependent with the dreams of Chinese people. Mainly though, as from ancient times until now, the dreams of Chinese people are tied up with their greatest treasure, their children. Does the Chinese dream influence expats in any way? Sometimes it does, sometimes expats come here to follow their dream.

I can't say I fully understand what this dream is about and I have my reasons for this. I discussed with Douglas Red, (who you can read about later in this article), the fact that Tianjiners are shy about their city. I think this is true of most Chinese people. I often get asked if I like China best or England. I tell them I don't have to choose, as both places have advantages and disadvantages. They ask me what advantages China has, it is as if they don't quite believe me and think that I am just saying so to make them feel good. As China seems to be driving the world's economy and is one of the few places in the world that is not going through an economic crisis, what more do people want? Surely China's star has already risen, the rest of the world is sitting up and taking notice.

Before I wrote this article I was under the impression that the dreams of foreigners and Chinese were totally different. Hence I surveyed both expats and locals to find if their dreams were different in any way.

A Dream in Photographs

Barnaby Skinner is a talented photographer from England who has been in Tianjin for two years. He agreed with Xi Jinping on an important issue, he said "I think China depends 100% on its people and without them the country is nothing, evidently Xi Jinping feels the same way". China's strength has always been the people, of this fact we are all well aware.

Barnaby's dream was to travel the world and record what he saw in photos. Coming to China was part of the pursuit of that dream, so being here of course means that he is right now living his dream. Not many people are fortunate enough to say that they have achieved their dreams, even those with quite modest dreams sometimes fail to realise them. I asked the question "Do you think that the dreams of Chinese people and foreigners are totally different?" The reason I asked this question is because if you ask Chinese people, their dreams relate largely to their country, family and health. If I was asked this question I would say something like "I long for world peace, I long to see the day when no-one is starving". These are the problems that have troubled me from my childhood. My friends here like to remind me, as if I didn't know already, that I personally cannot actually make this dream a reality. Barnaby's answer was "It depends on where you are in China, it's such a big country and in



Barnaby Skinner

each province/city I find the people and their dreams are different". Perhaps, but I still find that Chinese people have their dreams more closer to home than we do.

As Barnaby is in the enviable position of having achieved his dreams, I asked him if he thought that that was the case with everyone. He said "Very few achieve 100% of their childhood dreams (if any), however dreams change as one becomes older and you make them easier to accomplish". Of course this is right, when I was young my dream was to be a princess. This was partly down to the fact that every time my mother took me shopping and I asked her to buy me chocolate or something that "would make my teeth drop out", she refused. I vowed that when I grew up I would have a lot of money to buy all the chocolate and cakes that I wished to eat. Now I am grown up and can buy lots of chocolates and cakes, that particular dream has been realised and is evident from my less than skinny hips. I now know that not all dreams are good, hence one of my new dreams is to be slimmer although this seems to be unrealistic and unachievable.

Principal Dream

Paul Findlay, the Principal at Rego School who has been here for 9 years said this "I have heard of the Chinese dream and I think it is a very enlightened view. People should feel very proud of their regions and countries, and as long as the dreams are realistic and cooperative then it is a good way to get people thinking positively about the future. My personal view is that all planning for the future - from the small scale, traditional family unit all the way up to national level must also take into account that we are all in the end "global citizens". This initiative seems a good way of focusing people on their responsibility to be part of a collective endeavour. My dreams for the future are,

Personally:

To go wine tasting in Bordeaux
To see, but not climb Everest (unless they put in a cable car!)
To see Led Zeppelin play live in Tianjin
To perfect my bbq sauce recipe

Professionally:

I already have my dream job (Principal at Rego)

I came here to pursue my dream, which was to become the best English teacher I could be, and to find a way to balance Asian and Western teaching methods. I also I fell in love with Tianjin - I don't know why exactly, but for me it's a great place to live. I'm a teacher first, as well as a leader of teachers and Rego is a Chinese company that has chosen great teachers and managers for me to work with - so I guess in this way China has helped reach my dreams". When asked about the different dreams of Chinese and foreigners he replied "Health, wealth and happiness seem to be universal - and great bbq! I think that dreams are really just hopes and



Paul with his students

we all hope that the place we happen to feel attached to is prospering and happy. However my home is in Tianjin, I just holiday in the UK now, so I dream of a brighter Tianjin, with even better restaurants and facilities - and I'm getting really excited about the idea of a revitalized Tianjin "Bund". Historically it was up there with Shanghai's - so it would be great to see us begin to compete with them again. Hard work can achieve anything - but dreams that come true are always bitter sweet". To the question "Why do foreigners have more ambitious dreams?" his reply was "I think that the differences between us are mostly superficial - I don't know anyone who isn't looking for a family of some kind, we all want to belong, to be supported and to get affirmation from those we trust - underneath the glitz and pizzazz of our hopes and dreams humans are still just pack animals at heart. Regarding achieving my own dreams, I think that the bbq sauce recipe is a distinct possibility!"

An American Dream

Another person I interviewed who definitely showed that his dream is tied up with China is an American, Doug Red. He is from a banking background and is also involved in the American Chamber of Commerce. He has a surprising passion - he conducts walking tours, taking tourists around Tianjin. As the majority of his customers are Chinese, to say they are shocked when they ask



Doug Red

where the tour guide is and are presented with an American, rather than a local Chinese person, is an understatement. "Most of my clients speak English and domestic tourists form the biggest part of my clientele, with most of them coming from Beijing. I also have clients from overseas universities."

He was sent the list of questions that we asked everybody and he came to our meeting armed with his dream for Tianjin in the form of a well thought out plan. He first came to Tianjin in the 1980s and at the time Teda was already quite well developed. The rest of Tianjin is quickly catching up, but he feels that the city has an image problem. I agree with him, as previously stated, Tianjiners are always quite surprised when they ask me what I think of Tianjin and I tell them I love the place. "Really?" they ask, "Why?" I can always tell them plenty of reasons why I love Tianjin but they are never quite convinced. I get the feeling that they are always apologising for Tianjin not being as good as Shanghai or Beijing.



Doug is leading a city tour.

Douglas went on to talk of his love for this city “In the early 20th C. Tianjin was something of a sanctuary when the rest of China was in turmoil. Economically speaking, up until 1930 it was equal to Shanghai.”

“My dream is linked to Tianjin. I want to encourage people to come here. This city has been a turning point in Chinese history. People need to get excited about what happened here. This will help Tianjin’s image to improve.” He almost sounds like a local. Listening to him speak, it is impossible not to get caught up in his enthusiasm and passion for the city. Of course we know that Tianjin is an historically important place, but to listen to him express himself made me what to delve a bit deeper. As he leads his clients around the key points in the city, he gives them a history lesson. He agreed with me that the positives of Tianjin far outweigh the negatives. He loves living here and also thinks that the best thing about Tianjin is the people. He continued “When people come here on my tour, I try to get them to spend the night here, rather than rush back straight back to Beijing, they are always pleasantly surprised to find that Tianjin has a lot to offer tourists. Another great thing is that the Juilliard School is considering Tianjin as their Asian branch! This is really quite something”. (For those that don’t know, Juilliard is a one of the world’s top performing arts schools).

Doug’s passion about Tianjin arises from its remarkable and yet not broadly recognized achievements including leadership in foreign investment, strong economic growth, and development of key industries. To this, he says, add a warm and friendly people and a unique place in history and you have the most liveable and interesting city in China.

The following is what he wrote down.

An Ambitious Dream

For Expats

Expat Tourists come here in great numbers
Expat experts actively seek opportunities to work here

For the City of Tianjin

Tianjin becomes the cultural capital of northern China

For the people of Tianjin

Understand that Tianjin is the crucible, the historical stage (good and bad) for modern Chinese history and interaction with the west.

See themselves as the inheritors of this important historical legacy.

Find a new pride in their city which leads them to pursue and embrace ambitious development.

“I want to turn hearts towards Tianjin.” This is the first time I have ever heard an expat express such a heartfelt love for this city. He is a deeply interesting man, full of anecdotes and snippets of interesting history. For instance he told me “When I introduce Tianjin to people, I tell them a little known fact, that in 1905, Tianjin was the 9th largest banking center in the world.” Five minutes of talking to Doug will leave a person thinking that Tianjin doesn’t have to feel inferior. He says that Tianjiners are shy about their city. Maybe they just do not realise that not only is Tianjin an important place now, but in the future more and more businesses will look to Tianjin as their gateway to China.

A Dream Of A Better Future

Andrea Klopper who has been in Tianjin for 8 years had this to say: “I have heard of the Chinese Dream and I think it has value. Echoes of the American Dream? I fear that while the ideal is for individual dreams to mesh with national ones, the selfish gene is increasingly dominant and mitigates against this really happening. I see increasingly people in China wanting to advance themselves, but this is often at the expense of the common good as we see in much property development, environmental abuse, corruption. As we see greater openness as well as a recognition of the need for any civil society to have a solid base, I think it may be more possible. However I am concerned at the way in which a new materialism is shaping people’s sense of worth”. She didn’t think that someone’s nationality made a difference to the dreams they have, she said “Maybe the expression differs but at heart, people are more similar than they are different. I think foreigners (and it depends where they are, it is not particularly helpful to lump everyone together!) from Western countries tend to be more individualistic but also have a legacy of altruism and philanthropy which comes often from Christian roots. Patriotism has also often been eroded”.

To the question “Why do foreigners have more ambitious dreams?” Andrea replied “Maybe we would do better if more of our dreams were linked to our families. The West is increasingly dysfunctional at the family level and this is having an impact on the wider society in quite detrimental ways”. I wholeheartedly agree with this comment. Many of the problems in society that we face in the West can be traced directly back to the breakdown and undermining of the family arrangement.



Andrea Klopper

A Realised Dream

Karin Benkelmann-Zhang who has lived here for 2½ years has heard of the Chinese Dream. She has this to say “I think everybody needs to have a dream and try to realise it. Maybe we will work on it our whole life without ever fully achieving what we intended but if we look back and have lived a meaningful and colourful life, I think we have achieved it all. I think a country’s task is to set an environment for people to try to realize their dreams. If they do, a country will too. My own personal dream is to have a home full of laughter and happiness and a meaningful and fulfilling job. When I first came to China, I didn’t know it then that it was to pursue a dream, but it seems I was. Being here has helped me to fulfil my dream, I met my wonderful husband here and enjoy seeing our two beautiful and amazing kids growing up. At the same time I am able to pursue my career and enjoy a very interesting job. I think the dreams that Chinese people and foreigners have are mostly quite similar, having a happy marriage, building a family, pursuing an interesting job, buying a house (for Chinese people a little earlier).



Karin and her family

I think that most people in China know that they can only fulfil their dreams here if China keeps growing. For instance, it is a very big priority and condition for happiness for many Chinese to buy an apartment which is certainly only possible if the real estate market in China does not collapse. At the same time the government also depends on happy people to be able to keep prospering so there is a direct interdependence here that is probably less strong in western countries. Us westerners are very flexible and often willing to go abroad to fulfil our dreams. We do not think in country boundaries so much which is why for some maybe world peace is more important than their own country’s wealth. As to the percentage of people who fulfil their dreams, hopefully more than 50% do. I think as foreigners we tend to want to have it all. A lot of us want an exciting colourful and interesting life, where we travel and see the world, without giving up the idea of having a loving family as a home”. To the question “will you achieve your dreams?” her answer was a thrilled “I think I did”. Karin’s dream is not so far away from what Chinese people want. She has stable, enjoyable work, a loving husband and children that she dotes on. Maybe she has what many want, a happy and fulfilling life, which dream she is realising through her family.

A Dream of Equal Distribution

Someone else who wants a happy and fulfilling life is Matt Ford who has been in Tianjin for one year. Regarding the Dream he said “I think the dream of the country and the people are indeed interdependent. I think the dream should be clear about the need to distribute wealth more evenly. At the moment it seems that a very few people are becoming absurdly wealthy, and I think the pursuit of the dream needs to address this situation. I didn’t come to China to pursue my dream as such, but this chapter of my life is part of what I think is a happy and fulfilling one, being in China is enriching my life with experience”. As far as foreigners and Chinese people having different dreams are concerned, I would imagine most people dream of health and happiness, and that generally needs a certain financial security. In these areas, I imagine the dreams of the Chinese and others are very similar. I think it is mistake to assume there is only one dream. Why could one not dream of a prosperous country and world peace? The “rise of China” is an interesting one. It is perhaps a slightly immature dream (which I don’t mean offensively), in that it is one that countries at an early stage of modern political and economic development probably feel more acutely than countries that have been developed in these areas for longer. I can see why many Chinese feel now that “international face” is very important. In 100 years’ time, for example, they may not attach the same importance to it.

As I have said above, I do worry that China might ostensibly reach its dream of a “rise” whilst still having a huge number of people living in poverty as second class citizens. A recent article in China Daily (I think) reported that only the US has more billionaires than China. I don’t think that is something to be particularly proud of when so many people in China actually have so little. In that sense, the fewer billionaires China has, the closer I would say it is reaching the dream of a rise in China for all people. Having many billionaires at this stage of its economic development just points to a terrible wealth disparity.

I also don’t necessarily think that foreigners do have more ambitious dreams. I think many foreigners might agree with what the Chinese people have said. Some people dream of money, money and more money, for sure. However, I think most people just want enough money to enable their families to have reasonable security and happiness. I know very few people who have set out in life to make as much money as possible; very few. As I think my dream is fairly modest and achievable, and so far I would say that I have met it”.



Matt Ford



THE CHINESE DREAM AND YOU **Chinese Dreams**

Patriotism is always part of Chinese people's Chinese dream.

Let us see what Chinese people have to say about the Chinese Dream. Mikey You is 32. When asked he said "It is difficult to say what the Chinese Dream is for me. When I was young I hoped that China could send astronauts to the moon. I also hoped that we would have aircraft carriers. Now, work and the daily matters I have to attend to have taken up all my time and energy. I am not able to spend time thinking about dreams". I think many of us can sympathise with him. He went on to say "I don't think it is easy for everyone to achieve their dreams, I think each of us has to do what we can. If I have to talk about my own dreams, I would like to win five million on the lottery. Other than that, I hope the government can give us price reductions on things like coal, water and electricity bills etc. I hope inflation doesn't rise too much. When I get old I hope that I can receive a pension that is adequate to cover the bills etc." Actually this is not such a far-fetched dream – apart from winning the five million of course – well maybe not, somebody has to win, maybe one day it will be Mikey's turn. Everything else Mike's hopes for is normal and not unreasonable.

I asked him if he felt he could achieve his dream and he said "If the question is 'are you happy?' or 'do you have money?'" I really could not answer, in fact every year the SAT tests have this kind of article related to success".....Hm so is that a yes or no? He didn't really answer my question. Let's move on. He went on to say "I believe we all need our dreams, but unfortunately a lot of people no longer have personal dreams, without this life would be just whiling away time, like a monk striking a bell all day to no purpose. I think that many Chinese people have the same dreams

because our lives are almost all the same. Our dreams are to have a salary increase, study hard, live in a nice house, eat good food and drink clean water, and breathe in healthy air. To achieve my dreams I believe I have to work hard, money doesn't fall from the sky you know".

A United Dream

Candy was very clear about what the Chinese dream meant, she said "The Chinese dream is to make China stronger in every way, this is the whole country's biggest dream. To make this come true everybody must use their strength to work together and if everybody's hearts are united, it will happen. China's dream is the people's dream. China is a great country and now we are living in great times so both the country and we are growing

together. We have dreams and opportunities and if we strive to do our best we can succeed. People must remember that our hearts and strength must be together. To have a dream is to have a plan so in that case you can establish your future goals and this will affect your attitude. Although everybody has their own dreams, here everyone has the same dream to rejuvenate China and make it stronger. To make my dream come true, to make my family harmonious until the day I die, I must create a secure financial environment for them".

Xiao Sun also agreed that Chinese people need to work together to make the country strong. Also like a lot of Chinese people, for him the family being healthy was a number one priority. The Pollution is worrying him and he would like this issue resolved. He feels that many Chinese people have the same dreams because they are compelled by the pressure from society to do the same things, and also Chinese people are united in their love for their country.

Andrea mentioned that in the west patriotism is being eroded away. Patriotism means different things to different people. For some people patriotism means extremism and doing everything they can to advance their country's aims, including killing other people. Patriotism for others means just loving the land of the country. Maybe I fall into this group, because although I would not regard myself as patriotic, I think my country is the most beautiful in the world, and I am specifically talking about the land, the mountains, trees, sea, rivers etc. For others it means supporting their country and being glad about being a citizen of that country. This is the category that Chinese people fall into and this is why the Chinese dream has struck such a chord deep within them. The more I analyse the situation, the more I am starting to understand.

Young Dreams

Some of the 8th grade students at TIS helpfully gave us their views. Most of them had not heard of the Chinese dream, but felt

that being in China and being able to go to an international school would be crucial to them being finding the job of their dreams in the future. Being youngsters it was obviously not their decision to come here in the first place, but they have decided to make full use of the opportunities afforded to them.

Kwang Seop Ahn had this to say "The new Chinese president Xi Jinping's slogan is very good. For example, to win a match in the soccer game, the team needs to have good teamwork. If a soccer team has many star players but don't get together into one team, then they will not be able to achieve their goal. Xi Jinping is saying that for the rise of China, the people need to depend on each other and get together. He knows the way to raise China up. My personal dream is to live a life without worrying about finance issues. I don't think Chinese people and foreigners' dreams are totally different, because I think that all the people want their countries to prosper so that they have the proud of being that country's citizen."

Koreans are fiercely patriotic and there was a concerted effort from their government to build their country up after a disastrous economic crash resulted in, as far as they were concerned, international shame. A successful policy of getting Koreans to buy local is what has resulted in the economic powerhouse that South Korea is today.

Min Woo Jang said "I have heard of American Dream before, but I have not heard of Chinese Dream before. However I think it is very good for everyone to work together to accomplish their goal and to achieve their dreams. My dream is to go to the college that I want to attend and also to be a good husband to my wife and a good father to my children when I have them". This young man already has a good attitude to responsibility and will no doubt be a huge asset to society when he plays a full role in it.

Hyun Uk Kim said "My dream is to become a public official. I think that the dreams Chinese people have and the dreams foreigners have are totally different, because of the difference in the culture. I think it is because the people want to have dreams

that can help other people. I think that only small percentage of people actually achieve their dreams". Significantly none of the youngsters surveyed spoke about being footballers or pop stars.

My Wrong View Corrected

It has been interesting writing this article, I learned my view is too narrow and that I shouldn't lump everyone together. However as expected the expats dreams were wider in the sense that they voiced their wish for a fairer world. Despite what I initially thought, it seems that we are not so different after all. What Chinese people want, is largely we all want, and they are really just basic human needs, enough to eat, a decent place to live, a reasonable standard of living, good health for us and for our families, and to live in peace with freedom from worry – and a little reaching for the stars sometimes. Chinese people feel that if their country is successful, they will also be successful, as the country's success is the people's success. We think about those areas that are still quite poor in China – so do Chinese people. Andrea mentioned the philanthropic spirit that westerners have. Not a few Chinese students have told me that their ambition is to go to the poor areas to teach the children there. How many of them actually go on to do so is anybody's guess, probably the business of finding a job that will satisfy their parents requirements takes over and prevents them from doing so, nevertheless the desire is there. Surprisingly, apart from Mikey You, nobody said that their dream was to be rich. Even those youngsters we surveyed had dreams that revolved around satisfying work and having a family. As we are all part of the same family, the human family, of course our dreams are fundamentally the same. As for me, well of course, health is important, but also my big dream has not changed, nothing is impossible and so my dream still remains world peace. Please.





Akio Tajiri

Young Professionals Tianjin: Fresh Look at Networking in Tianjin

By Parker Barriball

专属于有志青年的沙龙

社交活动是构建个人事业的重要一环。当一个外国人远离以前的社交圈子之后，这件事就变得更加重要。在天津，针对外国专业人士的社交活动还是很多的。不但各个商会有定期的活动，《今日天津》杂志也有自己的TNC活动。现在有两个年轻人专门为立志在天津发展事业的年轻朋友开办了全新的交流组，名为“天津青年专业人士俱乐部（YPT）”。组织者Akio和Payton希望利用这个平台让人们互相交流信息。新来的青年人可以向已经在天津工作过一段时间的人取经，一些已经在天津创业的外国人还会以沙龙讲座的方式向大家介绍经验。每次活动都在轻松愉快的氛围中进行，大家不必一本正经地交换名片，而只是抱着结交朋友的心态彼此聊天。

Akio介绍说，每次活动我们只收50元的门票，因为我们不希望门票价格变成阻碍人们参加活动的障碍。相信未来这个组织会帮助更多的人在天津实现自己的职业理想。

Networking is an important part of building one's career regardless of the chosen field. The importance is magnified when one is an expat far from one's original circle of friends and business contacts. Tianjin has a myriad of professional networking opportunities. Business chambers from many countries are represented here, and even Jin Magazine runs a networking event. There is a relative new comer to this networking community in Young Professionals Tianjin. I sat down with their main organizers, Payton Huhta and Akio Tajiri to get their take

on networking in Tianjin and what their group offers. I quickly learned that their aims are not just throwing business cards at the wall and seeing what sticks, but becoming a real resource for professionals in Tianjin, regardless of age.

What is YPT and who is your target participant?

There are three main components to what we wanted to bring into this group. Firstly, we want to be a platform for information for those making the transition

from student to professional. Also, for those shifting around in their existing careers, we want to help serve their needs. Lastly, becoming a mentoring platform is also an important part of what we want to do. We want to bring new comers to the Tianjin workplace together with those who have been here a long time and have valuable experience to contribute. We believe that everyone has something that they can contribute so we are happy for anyone, whether they have a long established career or not, to come and partake in our events.

What was the original inspiration for YPT?

A group of us here in Tianjin felt like we wanted something more, a new way to interact and get involved with the local community. At the same time, we felt that we had a common interest in that we want to develop our careers in China. We knew that there were speakers in both the expat and local Chinese community who could provide a lot of wisdom in this area of career development. We received a ton of help from the local business community in providing



On one of the events

that wisdom to the group. Nearly every single person I have met here in Tianjin has an incredible story to tell, and all we did was provide a platform for them to tell it, and people to listen.

In speaking with Akio and Payton I learned that their vision for a networking event was different from others in town in that a business card is not a necessary condition to attend. I have actually attended a few of their past events and was impressed because there was less pressure to give and receive name cards at lightning speeds. The events are structured in a way to give ample time for personal networking as well as great information from their speakers.

Who is your target audience?

Our audience is really diverse! We want to provide a place where people can have a chance to really communicate with one another, and make connections on all levels. Our original idea was to develop Young Professionals by inviting experienced business professionals to help share their wisdom, but this ended up encompassing everyone, and so our audiences come from all walks of life.

As an attendee to these events I can testify to that diversity. While the name may beckon the younger crowd there is a wide range of ages and industries present at each event. There are plenty of opportunities to speak with people at different stages in their own careers. From my perspective each new event was bigger than the one before so it seems the organizers are doing something right, people are both networking and learning based on the speakers' topics.

Can you tell us what a typical event looks like, what do you guys do? Firstly, we try to give a lot of lead time for people to sign up and arrange their schedules, we may only have one or two events in a given month but I think it makes for better attendance numbers. The

point is to bring people together so the more the merrier. A typical event will begin with some informal networking and chatting, followed by our speaker. Past speakers include a group from LDI (Leadership Development International), Clay Vogel of Kazia Li, and panels of local professionals. After the presentations finish up there is a chance to meet the speaker at the end of the event. Many times after the official close of the event a group of people will carry on the conversation in more depth once things have quieted down and this gives them a chance to really dive into that evening's subject. We have also had more interactive, experiential events, moderated events, and some informal get togethers. We have a variety of people and a variety of structures that keeps things interesting and fresh. We want people to have fun and get something out of our events and so far our feedback has been very positive.

Who can attend and are there any fees involved?

Absolutely anyone can come, and everyone in the group is pretty easy to get along with. The price to attend the event is 50 RMB, and it includes a drink, appetizers and the event. We wanted to keep things accessible to



Clay Vogel of Kazia Li is delivering a speech

people, especially those making the transition from student to professional. Our philosophy is that everyone has something to offer regardless of what stage of their career they find themselves in currently and we don't want attendance fees to factor into the equation when people are deciding about coming to an event.

In my own attendance to these events I was pleasantly surprised with the mix of relaxed atmosphere and quality speakers. People were very into mingling and having a decent conversation without shooting business cards out left and right. Where might things go in the future?

YPT has many exciting possibilities in the future. One thing we are currently working on is a mentor program to help some of the veterans of TJ give back to the community, and on the other side to help the young professionals of Tianjin gain some insightful career and life advice.

We will continue to expand our horizons and challenge ourselves to try new things. Our goal is to be a platform for the creation of business and exchange of ideas. We feel successful thus far and plan to continue to serve our members moving forward.

How can readers engage if they are interested?

If you like learning about business, management and intercultural topics, then YPT should have something to offer you. Honestly our speakers are very good at what they do, and more importantly have real experiences to share, which usually relates better than "in-theory" type discussions. Beyond that, if you would like to help out with organization, we are always looking for people to help out!

I am excited about what Akio and Payton and their friends have accomplished so far with Young Professionals Tianjin. It is a great venue for those of us building careers in Tianjin and it will be exciting to see where the group goes in the future.

For those that want to engage with the group please contact: akiotajiri@gmail.com

Maternity Leave: What's a girl to do?

By Parker Barrball

Starting a family is never far from the mind of the Chinese. Whether you are Western or Chinese, it is a life changing event and can be one of the best and most challenging phases in life. For mothers to be with existing careers, the challenges of impending motherhood can be tenfold. There is a lot to consider when starting up a family and one thing that is true across cultures is the need for extra support from employers before and after a family welcomes a new member. What does maternity leave look like in Tianjin, and what can new mothers expect from employers?

Local laws read like anything one would expect back home. A Mother's job is protected from termination as a result of pregnancy and subsequent maternity leave.

TEDA Labor laws. Article 7 No employing unit shall rescind labor contracts and terminate labor relationships with women staff and workers during their pregnant, puerperal or baby-nursing period with the exception of rescission of labor contracts according to Article 25 of the Labor Law of the People's Republic of China.

According to the China Law Deskbook by James Zimmerman, "Female employees are entitled to at least 90 days of maternity leave but this can be extended under certain circumstances like multiple births or complications in delivery. Employers are required by law to allow the employee to return to her previously held position and for gradual resumption of a full work schedule." In addition new mothers are to be provided with enough breaks during the workday for nursing, and even paid leave for health examinations.



A new family member

新手妈妈重回职场?

中国人普遍家庭观念比较强，但是不管你是哪国人，组建一个新家都可算是人生美好同时也是最具挑战的一件大事。而对于即将当妈妈的职场女性们来说，这种压力往来的更加巨大。迎接一名新家庭成员的降临，各个国家的职场女性都需要来自雇主的额外支持。天津泰达开发区劳动法规第七条就有明确规定：任何公司不得在女性雇员怀孕期间，分娩期间或哺乳期间终止劳动合同和雇佣关系。据悉，市政府相关部门计划举办一系列宣讲和法律咨询活动。由此可见，当地政府确实在保护职场妇女权益上做出了积极的努力。当然，大多数公司对于工作能力出众的优秀雇员十分珍惜，因为其创造出的价值推动企业不断向前发展。帮助新手妈妈们重新回到工作岗位往往是公司为留住人才，节约培训成本，高效产出的一种手段。其中一些公司开出的条件十分优厚，比如电话会议代替传统会议，更加灵活的上班时间，以及附加婴儿托儿管服务等。因此，职场妈妈们未来将何去何从也逐渐成为一种双向选择。

In China, labor laws are in general much different when it comes to hiring policy and what kind of things can and cannot be considered in the hiring process. For example, it is perfectly legal for businesses to advertise in their want ads that 'women need not apply'

or that a certain age range will only be considered for a given position. This kind of attitude may give potential mother's pause when considering a new addition to the family. If sex alone is enough to disqualify one from being considered for a job, will



A new mother

employers really hold a new mother's spot at the office? The law does appear to be on the side of mothers, on paper at least. What is on paper and what is enforced can be subject to local opinions, but should push come to shove, there are legal avenues for mothers to pursue should the feel wrongfully terminated due to a maternity issue. While having a legal framework for maternity issues is important, the legal aspect of maternity leave is just one challenge new moms face. A smooth reintegration into the workforce is another large piece of the maternity puzzle.

For any business, losing a trained employee is costly. The time and money that goes into training an employee is something that companies cannot recover should a worker leave permanently. Studies have shown the advantages in cost saving for companies willing to go the extra mile in helping new mothers get back into the swing of things. Even if companies offer a more flexible or part time schedule to mothers after their maternity leave, they still have access to that employee's expertise.

Mommies: By the Numbers

Most important factors Chinese mothers consider when going back to work:

- Option to work closer to home (88%)
- Flexible working hours (87%)
- Near site daycare facilities (78%)

The above figures are from a Regus report entitled Keeping Mum in Work. The study also found that "more vacation days were significantly less popular than flexibility" which seems to point out that moms are looking to work, albeit with different schedules, and not just have more days off. International companies have switched onto

the idea of not just keeping mom's on the payroll to meet legal standards, but actually assisting them above what is required legally. A reported 72% of companies that don't foster a returning mother's transition feel that they will lose out on a valuable part of the employment pool.

The value of good employees is magnified in China. Many companies feel that a shallow talent pool in China holds them back in the Chinese market. By helping returning mothers these companies can hold on to their valued employees and keep training costs down while keeping productivity high. Teleconferencing, flexible schedules, and additional childcare assistance are some popular ways in which companies can and do help the transition.

Beyond the corporate side of things keeping mothers employed has macro economic benefits. According to Regus, "increased GDP, sustained growth, a bridge in skills gap, and fighting poverty" are all potential benefits to society when mothers can get back to work after a new addition arrives. But these are rather broad concepts. What can new mothers expect for support in Tianjin? How is the idea of maternity different here than back in the West?

According to an article from Xin Hua,

North China's Tianjin Municipality will set up women's centers in commercial buildings this year (2012), to offer legal counseling and cultural services to female professionals, according to the Tianjin Women's Federation.

In addition, women's centers will also be set up in other venues, including industrial parks and professional markets. By the end of this year, women's centers will be built in more than 50 percent of non-public economic organizations.

It is a good thing that companies and

local government are seeing, and trying to meet, the needs of new moms. The access to legal counsel alone can make the stress of juggling work and home life decrease when a woman knows her exact legal standing. The Tianjin government is also planning to launch lectures and emotional counseling services through the Tianjin Women's Federation.

These options are great for locals and many hospitals like Tianjin First Central Hospital have a good enough reputation within the expat community for medical care, for a Chinese style hospital. If you are looking for prenatal care for mom similar to what you would find back home, a Western style hospital like United Family will probably be more to your taste. The stress of a child is usually more than enough for a young couple, much less the culture shock of dealing with eastern medicine. If you have not yet had the pleasure of dealing with Chinese doctors and medicine, might I suggest that the best time to experiment may not be when the health of mother and baby are an issue. Dealing with doctors with similar ideas of health can go a long way in keeping all parties sane when maternity issues arise.

I have never had to comfort a wife or girlfriend through a pregnancy, thank God, and with any luck that day will be far, far away. But should it ever come I would like to think that my wife's career need not end at the hospital parking lot. Being away from home can be tough for us expats but support is available. Asking local friends can be a great resource when you face a new and nerve racking situation like childbirth and subsequent child care. Whether that assistance comes from the company a mom works for, or from a local public program, these resources are meant to help moms and dads focus on job number one, the new addition to the family.



Return to office

Holiday Inn Riverside

by Paula Taylor

天津海河假日酒店---总经理专访

天津海河假日酒店总经理丁永兴先生来自香港，并且在英国居住过很多年。所以这种东西方文化融合的生活背景使得丁永兴先生作为酒店的管理者，可以很清楚地理解中方客户的思维模式，以及外籍顾客的不同需求。酒店本身的地理位置靠近海河，风景优美。其中，酒店还有一些房间面对“天津之眼”摩天轮，夜景更加迷人。当然，坐落在海河岸边本来就是一个最大的卖点。因为在国外，靠近水边的别墅或公寓都是价格最贵的。近几年，天津似乎开始越来越重视利用这一地形优势，不断打造升级海河周边建设。如果深入想领略天津风貌，天津海河假日酒店可算是一处绝佳选择。



Kenneth Ting
General Manager

Kenneth Ting, the General Manager of the Holiday Inn Riverside Hotel seems to have it all. He is Chinese, and so is perfectly placed to not just understand the mind-set of the Chinese Customer, but being from Hong Kong and having lived in the UK for many years, he is also finely tuned to the expectations of the guests from abroad, namely the higher levels of service demanded by them. The hotel itself is very nice and is situated in a vibrant, developing area that is absolutely beautiful at night. I have always thought that the way they use the lighting here to accentuate the buildings is really skilful, and some of the rooms at this hotel face the Tianjin Eye, and the views as it starts to get dark are stunning.

Of course being on the river is an absolute selling point for me. The most expensive houses and apartments are always near water, either a river or the sea. Finally Tianjin is starting to make use of one of its best assets, the Hai He River.

Naturally Mr. Ting is rather proud of his hotel and although he arranged for one of his staff to show me around whilst he was having his picture taken, he rushed in shortly afterward to say he wanted to show me around himself and point out the various fine points of the hotel. One thing he drew my attention to is the fact that all the rooms have very high ceilings. Whilst a guest may not necessarily notice that detail, what they will notice is that the rooms are incredibly light and spacious. Mr. Ting is a man for whom details are important, as that will make the difference between the guest's stay being a comfortable one and a superior one. I noticed that the pillows had a little tag on them labelled "soft" and "firm". For those in the hotel business, this may be a small matter, but this is the first time I have seen this. Mr. Ting pointed out that the rooms are quite wide, this is in order for the trolleys for room service to be able to get through, so the guest would not have the feeling of being cramped when the staff arrived to deliver their meals.

There are various restaurants in the hotel and I said to him that I almost never ate in hotel restaurants as one, they are far too expensive, even at the lower end of the market which I am used to, by the way, and two the price was not usually justified. If food is expensive but worth it, most people will not mind too much. However as I usually stay in three star hotels I expect the food to be within my price range, but sadly it is not. I mentioned lukewarm, indifferent buffets. Of course he rightly pointed out that we get what we pay for. I still



Outside View

disagreed, sometimes we don't get what we pay for. He told me that the food in his hotel restaurants was very reasonably priced. I told him I wanted to see a menu, and.....he was right. Although they offer high end menus, they also have a huge selection of food that is what I would term normal prices. The food in the Chinese restaurant has a heavy Hong Kong influence which I feel both Chinese guests and overseas guests would appreciate. Chinese people are usually very wary of "foreign food" as many say they cannot get used to it, therefore they want to see familiar

things on the menu. Hong Kong food for them is not quite the same, but whilst being different, as it is still Chinese food they can accept it and "experience" Hong Kong without leaving the Mainland. For overseas guests, they will know that one of the delights of Hong Kong is the food and so the hotel really has a winner on its hand with this restaurant. Of course no good hotel would be complete with a varied selection of restaurants and the Japanese restaurant offers a totally authentic dining experience, complete with tatami mats. As another added bonus there is live music in the restaurants every night too.

I asked Mr. Ting how he felt about Tianjin. He thinks it a great place, but it has a drawback. I think we will all immediately know what he is going to say. London and Hong Kong are 24 hour places, and indeed so is Shanghai, where he also lived. Tianjin closes early. He told me that when he lived in Shanghai, after he got off work, if he wanted some nightlife or to just go and eat,

the time was no problem. Although Tianjin is a great, modern, rapidly developing city, some things will not change, and that is that Tianjiners love family life, they would much rather be at home with their loved ones than outside enjoying themselves with their friends. Although it is this characteristic that gives Tianjin its unique stamp, in that it is a big city with small town mentality, it is extremely inconvenient for ex-pats to also have to close down at 9 p.m.

Mr. Ting told me "When I came here, the view at Hai He was here, but nothing else, before the hotel was built the area was empty. Now the area is quite well developed and there is a lot for visitors to see. Apart from the Eye, there is also a famous Buddhist Temple at the back of the hotel, and of course Old Cultural Street is across the way". For those bargain hunters, of course there is Da Hu Tong nearby too.

I spoke with Mr. Ting about many interesting things, from a hotelier's point of view, but space does not permit me to talk about them in this article. Perhaps another time I will tell you. The many great hotels in Tianjin are a testament to the fact that Tianjin is where it is happening.



Room View



Fighting Back!

有力的回击!

上一次我说到为了不纵容那个大生产商的嚣张气焰，我决定接触一些有能力但规模较小的生产商。这次我对一家小企业进行了实地考察。和那家大企业的傲慢态度不同，这家小厂子的老板亲自迎接我们并且毫无保留地让我们参观了整个厂区。虽然之前我有些心理准备，但实际情况还是让我的心灵凉了一半。老板看出了我的担心，于是他坦诚地说，如果合作能够达成，他希望能帮助他们改善技术和管理水平，同时可以给我更多的价格优惠。

他的真诚让我深受感动，我觉得这是成功合作的基础。于公于私，这都是一个巨大的挑战，但我决定接受挑战，把这个三流小厂打造成具有国际水准的供应商。

合同签订之后，我让我的技术团队与厂家密切联系，时刻关注生产进展。四个月后，是第一批样品交付的时间。当我看到包装整齐的样品，我心里大呼万岁！我真想让那个大厂商的老总看看我的胜利果实！

整件事最让我开心的部分是，那个大厂家后来居然给我发邮件道歉，还想要跟我继续谈谈今后的合作。显然他们已经知道了这件事。于是我回复他们：“以后再说吧！”以后，就没有以后了。

“Enough is enough” was the feeling that came to my mind as I felt oppressed by the inexcusable attitude I endured from my latest business partner. If you're new to the series, then let me bring you up to speed.

During recent supply chain expansion by my company (heavy manufacturing industry) I came upon two supplier that seemed to fit the bill and theoretically both could produce the items I needed with suitable quality, cost and lead time. Theories however, are not always applicable.

After I started negotiations with the larger supplier (thinking that it probably makes more sense to work with a veteran) I witnessed a complete lack of trust, an appalling attitude, absurd quotes and above all, lack of manners. For more on that unfortunate encounter, refer to last month's article.

Anyway, the important part here is that I made a decision to stand up to the supplier team who thought they are just too big and important to be replaced. So I focused on the smaller supplier and set my aim high and took this as both a professional and a personal challenge.

I was ready to go through some difficulties to get the smaller supplier moving down the path to becoming a larger market player. It seemed to me that the biggest issues to be dealt with are the supplier's communication skills -not language- and quality assurance procedures.

I deferred my nearest meetings and ventured into the Chinese country side for this Profit Hunting episode. It was a new experience for me -developing a small-time Chinese manufacturer into an export manufacturing veteran- but I gathered my team and decided that it was the only way for us to break the larger supplier's monopoly.

Once we arrived at the closest train station to the supplier, we were amazed to see that the CEO has come to meet us himself. This was a huge departure from what we witnessed at the larger supplier's facility. Our host instantly made us feel welcomed and at home. I always treat personal feelings separately than professional relations but I can't deny that I felt a striking difference in attitudes that made me wonder if I was wrong to start with the larger supplier in the first place. This just shows how important a good public/customer relations team is to your business.

Once we arrived to the facility, we were offered a welcoming meal that seemed out of the ordinary for such a modest place but it again, it showed that the facility owners were good hosts and that they were trying to ease our journey and extend their welcomes to us. After the banquet was over, we then started talking business and again I was happy with what I heard.

We spoke about the readiness of the facility and team to produce the items I required and they seemed both willing AND confident to join the big market players. They said that they will however need my support to develop their technical and managerial teams to international level competence. This too was a sign of good will as a supplier that asks you for help is a supplier that will actually treat you a business partner rather than a mere customer.

At the end of our talk, I was more willing to give the smaller supplier a chance to prove their worth and even more willing to support their endeavor to join the big corporation league. But first, I needed to tour their production zones and audit their processes and operations. Since this was a smaller facility, we obviously didn't set our expectations too high but at least we were glad that the owners didn't set any off-limit zones within the facility. They gave us a general pass to tour the whole plant and the CEO himself accompanied us during the visit.

Now all this set on a much more positive mood than the visit to the larger supplier where we were coldly met, mostly restricted from touring the facility and not even friendly welcomed. On the other hand, once I set foot inside the production facility, reality sunk in and I found myself in a tough choice situation. Now this was definitely a much more modest facility and the operators seemed less trained and that struck me as a possible recipe for disaster.

I needed a business partner with great attitude but I also needed a superb product and I was not completely sure that this supplier will be able to produce what I needed at an acceptable rate and quality. I might have started to look worried because the CEO suddenly noted that they are ready to invest in development of their production line if we go through with this deal with them. He even hinted at a discount in exchange for our patience and support for their development efforts.

As I progressed further and deeper into the facility, I started realizing that

appearances can be deceiving because even if the facility was humbler and simpler, I started jotting down notes about the machinery they have and the types of processes they can do. As the notes accumulated, I noticed that the facility might in fact be able to pull through. The equipment they have while older and less sophisticated than the larger supplier, seemed to be enough for the job which in my mind meant a more affordable quote because I will not be paying premium prices for flashy new equipment that offered features I don't need.

This was a good sign since the new investments would be minimal in this case and the efforts are mainly going to be targeted at training the operators to follow new more advanced production processes and quality assurance systems. The management team seemed understanding however and I was encouraged by their spirit.

As the tour ended and we returned to the meeting room to further discuss the deal, I had already set my mind on going ahead with the deal and pursuing this business partnership with the smaller supplier. I was even more delighted when we started talking about the expected prices as I was going to pay nearly half what my competition were paying to the larger supplier. I was going to be offered extremely competitive pricing in return for my efforts to educate the management team on how to turn their establishment into a world-class manufacturing facility.

I liked the challenge and the associated benefits and asked my purchasing team to finish the contract as soon as possible. At the same time, I asked my technology team to send the technical requirements to the supplier along with a list of changes we were going to need at the facility to which the supplier agreed.

This project seemed to be heading somewhere and I highly anticipated the first product of the production line. Our plan was to have the first prototype within four months and the final product to be ready in six months. We gave them the designs, requirements and quality assurance definitions along with a recommended list of training courses for the operator team and some slight additions and upgrades to the facility equipment and we continued to visit them biweekly to make sure they are progressing in the correct direction and to deliver the training courses we promised we will.

As the weeks passed, I received the email I was anticipating. The one about the prototype. I took the team again on a rail trip to the supplier's facility and once there eagerly went inside to see the result - even before lunch, much to the dismay of my hosts - and as I laid eyes on the parts neatly packaged along with a technical specification sheet that rivals multinationals with years of experience; I felt ... triumphant! I was glad my gamble has paid off and more importantly, I wished I could meet the larger supplier's team and just tell them "in your face monopoly" but I resorted to reason and just pushed further for the successful prototype to be finalized into a completed product.

After the few notes I have had been implemented and the product was finished, I signed a long term contract with the -now-medium sized supplier for joint development and production of further new designs. I had successfully turned a small-time workshop into a real and dangerous competitor with few resources and a small team with big aspirations.

You know the funniest part in all this? Three weeks after I signed the contract with the new partner, I received a VERY sorry, humble and respectable call from the large supplier asking to schedule a meeting to rethink future cooperation. They heard about my new partner and were now worried. Of course my answer was "we'll see about that in the near future" but I don't think it's going to be anytime soon. "Sweet sweet revenge" I thought to myself.

Please send your comments and questions to Moe via moghareeb@gmail.com



Tianjin Historic Walking Tour



On Saturday, April 13th, AmCham China, Tianjin's Vice Chairman Douglas Red, a longtime resident of Tianjin and enthusiast of local history, led a very interesting and informative walking tour of the old French and British financial neighborhoods, the Astor Hotel and the Xiao Bai Lou Area.

Mr. Red exposed little-known facts about Tianjin's concession era past, introduced the key figures who lived and worked in the area, and pointed out unique buildings along the way.

A lunch break was taken at Qing Wang Fu, a historic mansion constructed in 1922 as a private residence for the last head eunuch of the Forbidden City in the old English neighborhood.

If you missed out on this event be sure to join us next time! Check our website or join our mailing list to keep an eye out for other upcoming cultural events hosted by AmCham. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

By Amanda He

AmCham China, Tianjin Upcoming Events

Tianjin Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing

7:15-9:00 AM, Thursday, May 16 –The Westin Tianjin Hotel

AmCham China Tianjin would like to invite you to its next monthly executive breakfast. This event is a great opportunity to meet the members of our 2013 Executive Committee and to become involved in the Tianjin professional community. Network and share information with your fellow members, while enjoying a delicious breakfast at a great price.

The guest speaker for this month will be Mr. Franz Richter, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin.

Registration:

Cardholding members: RMB 80
Employee of member companies: RMB 120
Non-members: RMB 180

AmCham China Tianjin and BT Eagle Group Twelfth Annual Charity Golf Tournament

10:00 AM - 8:30 PM, Saturday, May 18

Tianjin Binhai Lake Golf Course and Tianjin Renaissance Lakeview Hotel

Tickets now available, for more information, please see page***

Inter-Chamber Business Networking Event in Tianjin

7:00-10:00 PM, Tuesday, May 21 – Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

We warmly invite you to join our next Inter-Chamber Business Networking Event. This month the venue will be the Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel. We look forward to seeing you, and remember - you never know who you might meet!

Registration:

Cardholding members: RMB 80
Employee of member companies: RMB 80
Non-members: RMB 150

Latest Information on Visa and Residence Permits Policy

2:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Thursday, May 23 – the St. Regis Tianjin

AmCham China, Tianjin invites you to attend this discussion featuring comments on the current exit and entry visa regulations and policies by officials from the Exit-Entry Administration Tianjin Municipal Public Security Bureau (天津市公安局出入境管理局). Mr. Xu Xinhao, Director of the Exit-Entry Administration Bureau will share up-to-date policies on visa and resident permit issues. He will also discuss how the Exit-Entry Administration Bureau is able to provide information and service to foreigners living in Tianjin.

are encouraged to submit questions to amandahe@amchamchina.org. Deadline to submit questions is noon, May 20th, 2013.

Please note that this event will be conducted in Chinese with English translation.

Registration:

Cardholding members: RMB 120
Employee of member companies: RMB150
Non-members: RMB250

Address: Room2918, Exchange Tower 2, No. 189 Nanjing Rd, Heping District, Tianjin 300051
TEL: 86-22-23185075 Contact person: Amanda He amandahe@amchamchina.org Website: www.amchamchina.org

**AmCham China, Tianjin
and BT Eagle Group
Twelfth Annual Charity Golf Tournament**

PAR-TEE

10:00AM – 8:30PM, Saturday, May 18th 2013

Tianjin Binhai Lake Golf Course

Awarding banquet at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a round of golf and make a difference in children's lives. All proceeds will be donated to the Jian Hua Foundation to support disabled children.

Entry Fee: RMB 1100 *

*Entry fee includes green fees, facilities and caddies, registration pack, lunch on the course, cold beverages all day, awards banquet, return transportation and lucky draw.

Sponsorships now available!

- Exclusive Platinum Sponsor: Cash RMB 50,000
- Beverage Sponsor: Cash RMB 6,000 (or in-kind equivalent)
- Hole Sponsor: Cash RMB 3,600
- In-kind / Prize Sponsor: In-kind or prize values over RMB 500

For more information on purchasing tickets or sponsorships, please call the AmCham China, Tianjin office at 022-23185072, or send an email to amandahe@amchamchina.org.

Contact person: Amanda He



值得信赖的销售团队

艾丽华集团是近几年发展很稳定的一家酒店及服务公寓管理公司。艾丽华在天津的第二个物业滨海·艾丽华服务公寓即将开业。胡晓莉是这个新物业的销售总监，带领着一个年轻、专业、热情的销售团队。

胡晓莉在服务式公寓销售领域已经工作了10年，而这仅仅是她的第二份工作。胡晓莉说：“通过一段时间的接触和了解，我被艾丽华集团的经营理念 and 成功经验深深打动，坚定了我加入滨海艾丽华的決心。而在我加入公司这段不长的时间里，也被滨海艾丽华同事们的工作热情所感动，更加坚定了我的选择。”



Anna Hu

The Team to Trust for all your Property Needs

Anna Hu has been in the serviced apartment sales business for ten years and recently joined in the Ariva Tianjin Binhai Serviced Apartment office. As the Director of Sales and Marketing, she leads a young and professional group including the dynamic team of Diego Zhang, Ella Sun and Marty Jin.

Ariva Tianjin Binhai Serviced Apartments is a new competitor in the local market which makes the job a challenge for Anna Hu and her team. She is not worried. "This is only my second job in the past ten years. So you see, to begin working for Ariva Tianjin Binhai Serviced Apartments was a decision I made only after prudent deliberation," said Anna. "Ariva Group is a hotel and serviced apartment management group that has recently been growing steadily in size. Before making my decision, I did some research on Ariva Tianjin No.36 and other two properties in Beijing. I was very impressed by its corporate culture and success so I was pleased to join Ariva. Although I've only been

here a short while, I've already been impressed by the passion of my colleagues. Now I know that I made the right decision!"

Anna is successful due to her practice of being able to satisfy all the needs of her clients. "Running a serviced apartment is all about service. As we all know, life is full of problems. Our job is to solve the problems. It's the little things like fixing a light or arranging water delivery that may seem too trivial to mention but they are important to the client." In her new workplace, Anna continues to execute the philosophy that helped her achieve the best national sales record in her previous job. "My philosophy happens to tally with the corporate culture of Ariva so everything has been going very well so far," she said.

The sales team is the engine that keeps all businesses moving forward. In the serviced apartment business, the job of the sales team is not just about selling a product, it is about a whole lot more and covers everything from the presale discussions to after sale services.

Anna always shares her experience with the team. "Before selling an apartment, we always sit down and ask questions and then listen carefully to their answers. It is important to know whether they live alone or have a family; where they prefer to live and their budget. This allows us to offer suggestions that will provide the best solution to meet their requirements," explained Anna.

Having worked with Anna for

up to five years, means the other team members have also developed a dutiful sense of service and share her ability to solve problems. As team member Diego says: "I'm always honest with my clients, telling them of the pro and cons of our apartments. Being honest is the best way to win trust. Our relationship is based on winning friends rather than just simply doing business. Listening is always essential" Ella explains: "I take every small request of my clients seriously and I take immediate action to help them solve the problem. It's important to make clients feel special because they are."

The most recent addition to the business Marty Jin states: "I'm new to this industry. But I'm already impressed by the encouragement and corporate culture being developed by Ariva. I have learned so quickly with the help of Anna and my other colleagues." Anna added that Marty Jin was a particularly creative staff member who has had some excellent ideas which have surprised clients on special occasions.

Anna is confident that her team is the best around due to their cohesion and understanding of each other. It is a team that is always pursuing perfection. As an honest and professional group, they prefer to get down to business and resolve every issue so everyone is happy. As for the future, Anna believes that they still have the potential to further enhance their service. "We are not afraid of problems. The only thing that matters is to solve them quickly in a way that satisfies our client."



Left to right: Marty Jin, Ella Sun, Anna Hu and Diego Zhang

Tianjin to set up women's centers in commercial buildings

North China's Tianjin Municipality will set up women's centers in commercial buildings this year, to offer legal counseling and cultural services to female professionals, according to the Tianjin Women's Federation.

Based on the women's needs, the Tianjin Women's Federation will launch lectures, offer counseling services, and hold cultural activities. Psychologists will also be on hand to help the women cope with any emotional or mental stress that they may have.

In addition, women's centers will also be set up in other venues, including industrial parks and professional markets. By the end of this year, women's centers will be built in more than 50 percent of non-public economic organizations.

Currently, each community in Tianjin has a women's center where women can talk about their worries and concerns and seek help when they run into problems with their marriage, work, legal rights and more.

National cruise liner tourism zone to be built in Tianjin

A national cruise liner tourism development zone in northern China's coastal city of Tianjin has received approval to be built, local authorities said Thursday.

The pilot project in the Binhai New District shows that Tianjin's cruise liner tourism is officially incorporated into the national development strategy, the city's tourism bureau said.

According to the China National Tourism Administration, the development zone will be the country's second after one in Shanghai.

"Cruise business is the so-called 'golden business in the golden waterway,'" said She Qingwen, tourism bureau director. "Cruise tourism has already become a great engine for tourism development of the Binhai New District."

The international cruise home port in the Binhai New District was put into operation in June 2010. Since then it has attracted the world's three largest cruise liner companies -- America's Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines and Italy's Costa Cruise Lines. Official data showed that over the past two years, 85 international cruise liners have docked at the port. The number is likely jump to 90 in 2013 alone.

Source: money.cnn.com

When you're ready to take the next step or take on more responsibility, you should start doing your job at the next level.

当你准备走出下一步，或者准备承担更多责任时，你应该按照下一个更高阶段的要求开始工作。
——玛丽莎·梅耶尔 (Marissa Mayer, 雅虎CEO)

If you advertise that you are trying to be ethical, you're going to wind up hiring more ethical people.

如果广泛宣传自己的道德主张，就会雇用到道德水准更高的员工。
——马克·弗雷姆 (Mark Frame, 田纳西大学心理学教授)

Do not believe that winning is really everything. It is more important to stand for something. If you do not stand for something, what do you win?

不要认为胜利就是一切，其实更重要的是要有信念，倘若你没有信念，那么你的胜利又有什么意义呢？
——约瑟夫·车道·柯克兰 (Joseph Lane Kirkland, 美国工会领袖)

Managing crises instead of thinking about the future leads to defensive attitudes. We must adapt to a changing world, not defend outdated models.

围绕危机管理而非放眼未来的思考导致了防御性思维。我们必须去适应这个不断变化的世界，而非保护我们已经过时的模式。
——克劳斯·施瓦布 (Klaus Schwab, 世界经济论坛创始人和执行主席)

Time is a versatile performer. It flies, marches on, heals all wounds, runs out and will tell.

时间是个多才多艺的表演者。它能飞，能大步前进，能治愈一切创伤，即使消逝，也能留下影响。
——詹姆斯·弗兰克 (James Franck, 德国著名物理学家)

Source: Fortune China



EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

2012 Annual Corporate Income Tax Filing Key Points Update, 22 March



As the tax filing deadline (i.e. May 31, 2013) of the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Annual Filing for Year 2012 is approaching, various state tax bureaux at district level in Tianjin have issued notices for CIT Annual Filing arrangement and tax treatment on some common items. Tax professionals from PwC shared their knowledge and thought on the 2012 CIT Annual Filing and answer specific questions during the F&T workshop conducted for Chamber members and PwC clients on 22 March.

What's in a name? - Branding and Trade Mark Protection in China, 26 March

The European Chamber Tianjin Chapter supported the China IPR SME Helpdesk successfully hosted an interactive seminar on Branding and Trade Mark Protection in China, which will address the issues of: Why it is crucial to register your trade mark in China as soon as possible to avoid future problems, How to register a trade mark in different product- and service classes, a system unique to China, How to license a trade mark in China, Different methods to legally enforce your trade mark in the case of infringement.



Get lay off/ termination job done, while gain reputations among management and employee! 10 April

The European Chamber Tianjin Chapter has conducted the survey on "Economic Downturn" related by end of Y2012, one of the questions is "Is your company planning to lay off staff in China?" Among 40 top executives from member companies, 28% of them replied with "There will be significant layoffs or small number of layoffs" this year. With this question in mind, the European Chamber Tianjin Chapter invited Michelle Feng, HR Director of Gamesa China who successfully implemented the employee layoffs and company restructuring in the past couple of months shared their best practices with other member companies.

Her more than four hours' presentation covered the issues of: How to lay off under current economic situation? How to make lay off plan? How to communicate with management team? How to communicate with all employees? How to design leaving process? What is the key point during termination negotiation? What trainings are to provide to line managers? How to leverage the most function of line managers? What the roles designed between Line managers and HR? Almost 40 HR leaders participated in this workshop.



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Email: tianjin@bj.china.ahk.de Website: www.china.ahk.de

Past Event

Kammerstammtisch Binhai Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Our new "Kammerstammtisch Binhai" – the social gathering for the German Community in the Binhai area – regularly provides the chance to meet Chamber members as well as friends from TEDA, Binhai and the Tianjin community to share experiences, information and ideas. Mr. Uwe Birnbaum, General Manager of Jean Mueller Electrical Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., and Mr. Joachim Heussmann, General Manager of Siemens Mechanical Drive Systems (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., as members of our Advisory Council attended the gathering to welcome questions and engage in dialogue with the participants. You are welcome to join our next Kammerstammtisch in Binhai – on May 8 at 5.30pm at the Delights Bar and Restaurant in TEDA.



Seminar

Third Culture Kids in Tianjin – School Counseling Services and the German Mother Tongue Programme at IST Friday, April 12, 2013

The relocation to China presents challenges to families and children who have to adjust to a new city, a new culture, and a new school. Third culture kids (TCK) who spent a significant part of their developmental years outside the parents' culture often benefit from their multilingual and intercultural environment, but also might find difficulties in becoming acquainted with their new environment, readjusting themselves, developing a sense of belonging, or maintaining their mother tongue language sufficiently. The German Chamber and the International School of Tianjin (IST) organized this seminar to advise on how to help children to get accustomed to the new surroundings in Tianjin and how to deal with culture shocks. In presence of the Chamber's Tianjin Advisory Council Members, the Director of the IST, Steve Moody, and the School Counselors offered insights into how to address these issues, and also presented the school's IB Diploma and the German mother tongue programmes. This school meeting is part of a series of Chamber events to inform the German community about important institutions in Tianjin and provide essential information about the living environment for expats.

Upcoming Events March 2013

- May 8, 2013: Kammerstammtisch Binhai – Delights Bar and Restaurant TEDA
- May 9, 2013: Tax Workshop - Transfer Pricing: China's anti tax avoidance ambitions, German Chamber of Commerce – Tianjin Office
- May 18, 2013: German Night, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin
- May 20, 2013: Interchamber Communication Workshop - Impactful Communication using the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), Astor Hotel Tianjin
- May 29, 2013: Kammerstammtisch Tianjin, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin



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What's An MOOC: Changing The Online Learning Landscape.

By Parker Barriball

It's 7:45am, your head is still pounding, you smell like a barman, and in fifteen minutes you are due for a class with mandatory attendance. Wasn't university life great? Wouldn't it be nice if you could just flip open your laptop and 'attend' class without the hassle of sitting in a classroom, or putting on pants for that matter?

Higher education, like many other aspects of our lives, is evolving as a result of the internet. Until recently, higher education meant four years on a university campus or in a technical training program full of tedious class schedules, lab experiments, a few late night cramming sessions, and if you university experience was anything like mine, plenty of football and beer. But the world is globalized, and with it, information and how we attain knowledge. There is still a very real stigma when telling someone that you took some or all of your coursework online. But things are changing and major universities, and Silicon Valley startups, are exploring the possibilities of open source online education. Enter the MOOC, or Massive Open Online Course.

What is a Massive Open Online Course? Put simply, they are courses available online via video, audio, and problem sets. It differs from the way Universities typically offer online learning in that the courses available are meant to be accessed by anyone anywhere and the process is not yet monetized. That's right, free courses. Interactivity on a large scale is a major aim of this format of online learning. So, why would Universities like Harvard and MIT just give away their valuable knowledge? Theories about education models are changing, and the partnership formed by these two universities, called edX, is being used as a research tool to understand how students in the digital age might use different methods



Online education

网络教学新气象

由于科学技术不断进步，人们的生活方式也渐渐随之发生变化。其中互联网的飞速发展，使得网络已经渗透到生活的方方面面。如今，接受高等教育也不再仅仅局限于“坐在教室里听老师讲课”这种单一的形式。世界名校纷纷开通网络课程，通过一系列视频、音频、课后习题帮助学生达到获取知识的目的。当然，如果你现在告诉朋友、家人、或同事，你在接受某种网络课程，他们时常会误解你在偷懒或者干脆泼冷水，但是教育方式确实正在朝着多样化方向发展，网络成为最佳载体已经成为一种趋势。相信不久的将来，天津的留学生们也可以每天根据自己的作息时间表，随时随地打开笔记本电脑完成作业。不过，我个人认为传统授课方式和面对面的讨论、答疑不可能被完全取代，因为这是教学过程中十分重要的一个环节。希望未来可以演化出一套更加便捷、时间更加灵活的学习方式，还可以应用到雇员培训当中，从而极大的节约公司成本并且收益最大化。

and engage in education.

The philosophy behind MOOC's like edX and Udemmy is called Connectivism. The theory emphasizes the importance of social and cultural context in the learning process. It posits that the relationship between learning knowledge and work experience is essential to learning overall. Online technologies lend themselves to the metaphor in that they allow people to connect concepts online, thus the name and 'web' analogy. The theory, as well as the educational experiments growing from it, is quite new and admittedly

unproven. Below we explore two cases of the MOOC and what they may mean for higher education in the future.

edX: Harvard and MIT for FREE?

The concept is thus, Harvard and MIT have recently offered the content of many, but certainly not all, of their courses online. Prospective learners can sign up and learn at a distance, at their own pace. The administrators state that the rigor of the coursework will not change just because the format is nontraditional. As for now, classes are free and there is a certificate for

completion of courses, but this certification is not accredited like the traditional courses offered by the respective universities. You cannot get a free degree. While there are similarities between edX and other online programs offered by other universities, important differences remain.

The open source, read free, nature of this program is by far the most surprising aspect of edX. According to the project's website, "EdX is a not-for-profit enterprise built upon the shared educational missions of its founding partners, Harvard University and MIT. The edX platform will be available as open source. Also, a primary goal of edX is to improve teaching and learning on campus by experimenting with blended models of learning and by supporting faculty in conducting significant research on how students learn."

Faculty at both universities are now gathering data from students participating in these courses as a way to better understand and optimize an integrated learning experience. One goal is to find the best way of lowering the cost of attending college through new teaching methodologies. While the program is only in its 2nd year, the promise of a major change in education seems likely to be fulfilled. While edX plans to expand its participating partner universities to UC Berkeley, Australian National University, and more in the near future, the format (open source), and target audience (anyone connected to the web), will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. Another venture, Udemmy, is making strides in the professional world for companies

wanting to invest in the training of their employees.

Located in Silicon Valley, Udemmy started in 2010 as a way for instructors to design and teach custom courses online, it provided the platform and technical support needed to deliver an experience that would be comparable, and by some critics' estimations, rival classroom instruction. Courses offered range from technical skills like programming to entrepreneurial courses designed to equip learners with tools to get a start-up launched. Recently, Udemmy launched Udemmy for Organizations in an effort to serve organizations, whether companies or non-profits, that want to take advantage of their flexible platform.

When an organization decides to join Udemmy, there is no charge for organizations of 250 employees or more to set up an Udemmy subdomain. "We may charge in the future, but for now the platform is free to use, and you pay for the content you consume," Dennis Yang, president and COO, said in an interview with informationweek.com. "Large organizations will be able to negotiate a discount or a site license to cover all employees," he said. Organizations have access to thousands of existing courses, or can create one with content customized to their organization. Udemmy also offers analytics to track employee progress through courses. This means that companies can now take advantage of the distance and self paced learning that universities have started capitalizing on to invest in their employees without investing large sums of money. Most of the professional courses offered by Udemmy



New way to learn

for Organizations are free, but some are on a pay basis ranging from \$5USD to \$250USD. So while Udemmy is not purely open source, it is quite affordable and offers an alternative to the costly seminars and tired speakers that companies may typically use.

Personally, I believe that integrating the online model with traditional classroom learning models will be the hardest challenge for college curriculum developers. Nontraditional and traditional college students alike can clearly benefit from the flexibility and online communication offered by these new programs, but a face to face, real time discussion is also important. So, classroom learning should not disappear, but there will be a balancing act in the future of education. Hopefully that balance will mean reduced costs for college students. For companies, being able to design custom courses for employees and tracking their progress will streamline personnel investment costs and make for a higher value employee base at minimum cost. It will be exciting to see the evolution of online education. One thing is for certain, whether open sourced through MOOC's or monetized by universities, online courses are here to stay.

Online Courses By The Numbers

This year 18 percent of US undergrads are projected to receive at least 80% of their instruction online.

25% of Associates Degree students will take at least one class online, 17% of Bachelor's candidates will engage in online study.

Older and married students are much more likely to take online courses than their younger counterparts



Massive Open Online Course

WHY DO YOU.....?

你怎么这样。。。？

去年我们曾经做过一个主题--“中国人不喜欢外国人的那些事”，这次我们来说一说“中国人看不懂外国人的那些事”。这些都是生活中的一些小事，一些中国人看来理所当然，外国人却相当抵触的事情。比如：我为什么不能在你家陪你过夜？你解决不了的事还瞎操心什么？你们怎么不拿吃饭当回事？我问你的问题你为什么不同答？我为什么不能给你安排相亲？

By Paula Taylor



Last year we featured an article about the things Chinese people do not like about foreigners. This time we are taking a light hearted look at the things that puzzle them about us.

They wonder why we waste food. I was a little startled at this because I think they waste food. My friends always order far more than they can eat and refuse to get doggie bags. They think I am a cheapskate because I order

just enough, or I say we can order more if we need more. Like many people I was brought up on a mantra of "Don't waste food, there are people starving in Africa". It was drummed into to me so many times that I say it to my Chinese friends. However their reply is "You waste food". I dispute this but they asked me "Do you eat feet (as in chicken's feet)? Or heads (as in fish heads), or offal?" My answer is always no. They then ask why we waste so

much of an animal and throw the best bits away? I admit I have no good answer to this. If I say I am not used to eating them, this reply is not acceptable as they tell me I can try them. The only thing I can come up with is that eating fish heads is dangerous as if there is pollution in the water it goes straight to the fish's brain. I have no idea if this is true or not, but at the moment it is the best I can do. As far as chickens' feet are concerned, I just

lamely reply that I think the claws must scratch the throat on the way down, but they tell me this is not true. As for innards and other strange things like the gristle between the joints of chickens, I tell them if I eat those kinds of things I will throw up so it really will be wasting food. Do you eat heads, feet and innards? If not why not?

My friends also do not understand why they cannot come to my house and make themselves at home without so much as a by your leave. When someone suddenly says "Oh I can stay here tonight" my reply is "Why don't you go home instead?" If I have a guest I need to prepare things for them, bedding and food etc. but they don't require this, they are perfectly happy to share my bed. Friends or not, this is not an arrangement that is comfortable for me. They want to know why we make such a big deal out of everything.

Chinese people do not understand why we are not willing to answer their questions. I usually respond with a question of my own, "Do you need to know?" The answer comes back "Yes. I am interested in you".

Why do we get so irritated about problems we cannot solve? Chinese people generally think worrying about a problem they cannot solve, like pollution, is pointless and leads to dissatisfaction. When I say "You can at least think about this problem instead of just shrugging your shoulders", they ask me "Why should I think about it, I can't change anything?" They also think that if it doesn't affect their lives too much, there is no need to let it worry them. If I excitedly ask "Did you see the news, war has broken out in Syria?" The reply is "No I didn't see the news. Anyway that

place is far away from here". As I spend a lot of time worrying about the problems in the world, I wonder if they have got it right after all.

Why are we not so obsessed with food as they are? After all we have to eat and talking about food delights Chinese people. If you mention a place in China that they have never been to, they can always say something like "Oh their speciality is dried squid". My friends are mystified that I do not take an interest in such an important and enjoyable subject. The other day someone asked me how to say "Have you eaten" ("吃饭了吗") in English. This is a standard greeting here, but I really couldn't think of how to say it, because if I asked a complete stranger this in England, they would think I was insane. If I asked my western friends this, they would think I am asking because I want to invite them to eat. Therefore I just said "We don't really ask people this". My Chinese friend said "If a friend asks you this it is because they care about you". I am afraid I don't care if my friends have eaten or not, if they miss one meal they won't die so I need to be too concerned.

Why don't we immediately agree with them on certain things? My friend bought us a pineapple, but I had to spit it out as it was too salty. Yes salty. Chinese people think that if you put pineapples in salt water it will make them even sweeter. I tell them "If you put pineapples in salt water, it will make them salty". This is a cue for them to ask me if England has pineapples and I have to admit they don't grow there. Therefore the implication is crystal clear, China has an abundance of pineapples and this is the way

they prefer to eat them, how come I don't have pineapple experience but want to tell them they are wrong? Another example is I disagree that we westerners are fat because we live on a diet of hamburgers and fried chicken. They then point out to me that we are in a fast food outlet and there are other westerners there. I sometimes go into these places for a cup of coffee, I am not always eating there. I have eaten far more junk food here than I ever did in England, maybe because it is comforting to have a familiar restaurant. However everybody knows that westerners are fat hamburger eaters so it is ok to agree with them on this!

Why do we not let them arrange a blind date for us? If we have no husband/wife we are pitiful so they are only trying to help. I have mortally offended one friend who suggested finding a husband for another of our friends. This second friend does not actually want to get married at the moment, so I just said "She can find her own husband when she is ready". The first friend was insulted as she found her husband through a blind date so what I was really saying is that her method was wrong. I haven't heard from her since.

So there you have it, some of the things that puzzle Chinese people about us. You can ask your Chinese friends if they agree with what I have mentioned. One of the things that puzzles me about Chinese people is, and I would like to ask a question at this point, "Why do they need a seat on the bus or train for their bags?"



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Being at Nankai University, I feel like I am on track to furthering my education by receiving a Master's degree at a credible university and also opening up numerous employment opportunities in China. Since I have arrived in Tianjin, I have found people are warmhearted and it is easy to make friends with local Nankai students, international students and INTO staff.

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March 21st - Junior School Talent Competition





2013 Hopeland International Kindergarten Farewell Party

华兰国际幼稚园2013年日本小朋友告别会

This spring there was a special day for two Japanese children: A Farewell Party. The two young beautiful girls graduated from Hopeland. The Japanese parents provided strong support and cooperation, so the atmosphere of the whole party was warm and touching.

The two Japanese children have been studying Chinese for years in Hopeland so their Chinese is fairly good now. When they presented their graduation speeches, many parents were moved to tears. Moreover, the two girls showed other artistic talents and performances learnt from Kindergarten, such as Mongolian dances, Chinese-English-Japanese songs, sign language performance, piano, etc.

It was a definitely an unforgettable day for children because there were a lot of thanks to say to their teachers. For teachers, the cute faces and smiles of children cannot be erased from their memories, although sometimes children can be naughty. We wish all the children at Hopeland a happy life in the future. Be a good child for your parents and the pride of teachers forever.



Movement for Learning

by Pat Preedy



There is a growing concern that our modern less active way of life may be damaging our children!

Adults frequently carry, feed and dress children rather than helping them to be independent. The use of modern baby equipment such as walkers, car seats and baby bouncers often restrict movement so that children are less able to explore the world around them.

Babies and children need a balance of, physical movement and stimulation, healthy nutrition, love and care in order to thrive.

Providing daily opportunities for physical movement helps children to develop:

- ✓ body awareness and control;
- ✓ muscle tone;
- ✓ balance;
- ✓ grip and finger movements;
- ✓ hand – eye co-ordination;
- ✓ the sensory systems (especially sight, hearing and touch).

Our Little GEMS International 'Stretch and Learn' programme incorporates nursery rhymes and special movements to help children develop the skills they need for learning.

I wrote 'Ready, Steady, Go' with my colleague Dr. Celia O'Donovan in order to provide parents with movements, music and songs that they can enjoy with their babies and toddlers.

We have just produced a new range of equipment for parents and nurseries to use with babies and young children. This combined with multi-sensory approach to learning provides children with the foundations for a successful start to school.

Remember: children need to move to learn!



For enrolment inquiries please contact: Tel: 86 22 66227888 or Email: admissions@gemseducation.com

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FOLK



Miniature Carving

核雕再小也有神

收藏爱好者赵先生出示一枚橄榄核钟馗雕件，请专家鉴定价值。虽然这枚橄榄核只有两个指节的大小，但精细的雕工却将钟馗的霸气表现得无比鲜明，连丝丝胡须都能精细地分辨，尤其是炯炯有神的双眸流露出傲然的气魄。“这样小小的橄榄核，能雕刻得如此精细，冲这个雕工，应该也值不少钱吧。”“这件核雕作品雕工确实不错，将钟馗的神韵都表现了出来，价值应该不低。”专家认同了赵先生的看法。

大多数人对于核雕的印象，大都来自于收录在初二课本中的《核舟记》。天津市文物博物馆学会民间收藏专业委员会常务副会长何志华介绍，橄榄核雕眼下已成为休闲时尚的象征，或将单枚挂于腰间，或多数串起戴于手腕，工作之余盘摸把玩，不仅能够有效地缓解劳累，而且可以养心怡情。其受欢迎程度，并不亚于玉雕类饰件。“橄榄核这种材质并不值钱，其价值的高低取决于雕工。”何会长表示，一般苏南地区的橄榄核雕工细腻，技艺超人，价格高；而廊坊、广东和河南雕工粗，价格相对较低。所以在选购的时候，一定多加留意。

Miniature carving on olive pit

by Jiang Hao Photo by Shi Song

Recently Mr. Zhao, a miniature carving collector, brought his olive pit carving with Chinese god feature to an expert and asked help to identify its value. The olive pit miniature is about only two knuckles long, but the carving pattern is extremely vivid and the technique is exquisite. You can even see the god's beard clearly and his sharp eyes. Mr. Zhao said "The olive pit is so tiny but craftsman can still carve such delicate item so I guess it must worth a lot of money!" The expert replied "Yes, I think so. The carving skill is very sophisticated and the charm of the god on the olive pit will presented so I think the value must be very high."

Most Chinese people only have a basic knowledge about miniature carvings because of the difficult ancient articles in a text book for middle school students, named "He Zhou Ji". The Vice-president of the Tianjin Museum of Folk Cultural Committee, Mr. He Zhihua, told us that the olive carving mini sculpture has now become a symbol of leisure and trendiness. Some people put a single one on the waist or hang one on a bag; some people string many of them together and wear them as a bracelet. Sometimes when people feel tired during work, it can effectively release mental stress and fatigue. People have the same degree of fondness as for the jade carving craft. Mr. He said: "The materials used in olive pit carvings are not expensive so their value depends on the carving skills. Generally speaking, the technique of southern regions of Jiangsu is more exquisite so the price is much higher, but the prices in Lang Fang, Guangdong, and Henan are lower because of the immature carving skill, therefore the customers must be very careful!"



Olive pit carving with Chinese god feature

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The two Seven Days restaurants in Isetan downtown and Isetan Binhai serves authentic western food as well as a large variety of desserts, which are ladies' favorite.



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SEASONS restaurant is situated in Tianjin Museum in Tianjin Cultural Center. The 8m high space is a wonderful venue for various parties. In March, Tianjin Japanese School held its graduation party (about 150 people) in the restaurant.

FLAG restaurant located at Xiao Bai Lou, the CBD of Tianjin. It is most popular among business people. The large selection of wines is a highlight.



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Exercise: Why It Hurts So Good

by Parker Barriball

运动：痛并快乐着

近期，感冒、发烧成为大家眼中的敏感词汇。一场捍卫健康的战役迅速打起，大家纷纷选择运动提高自身免疫力，预防疾病。但是光靠运动提高免疫力并不会在短时间内收到效果。必须持续运动一个阶段，免疫细胞数目才会开始增加，抵抗力才会相应增强。同时，由于内啡肽等快乐因子在体内持续增多，心情也会开始逐渐变得愉悦。因此，运动还能疏导心理紧张，减轻心理压力，消除精神疲劳，稳定情绪，这也有助于提高机体的细胞免疫能力，减少各种疾病的发生。相反，过度运动则会令人体产生大量造成紧张的荷尔蒙，使身体处于过度疲劳状态，反而对人体抵抗力带来负面影响。那么在自家、学校或工作单位附近选择一家健身房，循序渐进的推行健身计划，并且把运动变成生活的一部分，这样对学习和工作才会产生积极的影响。据悉，今年6月初美国某知名健身连锁店品牌即将入驻小白楼信达大厦。对于健康保健意识日益增强的人们来说，又多了一个不错的选择。

We've all had the alarm set for an early morning workout, and all of us have hit the snooze button instead. Exercise is a necessary part of life. As humans we need to push the limits of this machine of muscles, tendons, and nerves to keep them in working order. And while we all know this rationally it still happens that many of us struggle to make it to the gym with regularity. Why is it that we have such a hard time doing something that we need, and if we do it enough, releases the right chemicals in our brains and gives us a natural high? Any physical exercise will cause a change in the amount of dopamine, epinephrine, serotonin, and endorphins. These are the neurotransmitters that people are really searching out when using recreational drugs, and the ones whose effectiveness is ironically limited by activities like substance abuse. These chemicals help to regulate things like motor movement, mood, concentration, appetite, and even body temperature. When people talk about 'runner's high' or being 'in the zone' during athletic competition it's not a euphemism; the chemicals dumping into an athlete's brain are the same ones people access when taking drugs like heroin or cocaine.

It has been established that all the substances that create dependency in humans have this addictive quality because they either alter levels or the body's reaction to neurotransmitters like dopamine and endorphins. So if a junky is willing to steal your TV to get his dopamine fix, why aren't we willing to get off of the couch for a mood elevating chemical cocktail?

Are people really so idle that the physical health benefits of exercise and the subsequent endorphin rush cannot get us off the couch? Is our laziness that deep? Actually, the problem is not laziness per se, but that the average person may be hardwired through conditioning and natural physiology to hate exercise. It is less about discipline and more about physiology. It turns out that how one interprets the body's sensations during and after exercise can influence one's attitude toward exercise. A University of Iowa study found that exertion capacity may be surprisingly lower than what many people might expect. How one reacts to physical exertion determines the marathon runners from the couch potatoes.

Exertion Capacity: Separating Mice and Men

We all have a capacity for physical exertion, and once we pass beyond this imaginary line in the sand, the body begins to feel discomfort, pain, and or distress. People vary greatly in what their individual bodies may consider exertion. In fact for sedentary people cooking a meal may even qualify as exercise. One indicator of exertion is the ventilatory threshold, a term that describes the ratio of carbon dioxide to oxygen one expels during breathing. The harder you exercise the more that ratio shifts to CO2 and the body hardwired does not like this feeling, and introduces neurotransmitters like endorphins or dopamine discussed above. If you are an elite athlete, your individual ventilatory threshold might be 75% of your maximum exertion capacity, and as low as 35% if you are a sedentary person. Regardless of where your threshold lies relative to your maximum capacity, anything beyond that magic number hurts. This is the tipping point where the old adage 'no pain no gain' becomes relevant. Simply put, pain and exertion releases endorphins, the body's natural pain killer (or more accurately pain blocker); as a result of not feeling the pain, the body releases dopamine which makes one happy or euphoric. So if you want the famed runner's high, your options are exercise at high levels, or a visit to the wrong side of town for a chemical substitute.

Athletes that can push their exertion capacities and ventilatory thresholds into this zone of positive feedback are the ones who actually enjoy the act of exercise. People who do not have enough positive rewards, in the form of the mood elevation caused by these chemicals, will stay stuck in the resentful stage of exercise. For these people, they view exertion as a painful or uncomfortable exercise in futility. While marathon runners and elite athletes are sometimes described as 'benign masochists' they are on to something when they can push past the negative feelings and enjoy the body's natural protection of pain killing and mood elevating chemicals.

Addiction and Aversion

People generally fall into two camps when it comes to exercise, the semi-addicted and the averse. The averse are the ones stuck

in the resentment stage and will never really enjoy the very real benefits of exercise. We can talk about the dangers of obesity and a sedentary lifestyle all day, but the opposite extreme is often overlooked. Elite athletes, workaholics, and people in involved in emotionally abusive relationships may all suffer from the same addiction to the chemicals the body releases as a protection mechanism. Endorphins, dopamine, epinephrine, and serotonin have one thing in common, they are released by stress. The catch twenty-two is that the body is pretty indiscriminate in what kinds of stress will trigger a chemical dump. The physical stress of exercise, mental stress of overworking, and emotional stress of an abusive relationship all produce a flood of chemicals in the brain and a subsequent elevation of mood. And in case you have not been paying attention, these are the chemicals that we humans find so addictive. Even though a situation looks intuitively bad, like 17 hour workday in a stressful workplace, an emotionally abusive partner, or a two-a-day workout schedule, the reality is that these individuals are experiencing positive reinforcement of their activities because the body is trying to protect itself from harm, physical or emotional. Who knows what makes us love the stress initially, but once a habit forms it can be hard to break. It might be easy to label a group like this pain addicts but that would be an over simplification. In reality they are

seeking what any other substance abuser seeks, it is just that their fix comes internally as a result of behavior rather than externally from chemicals introduced into the body.

This article is not meant to be a cautionary tale against the wiles of workout addiction as I would estimate that most of us are in no real danger of falling into that particular form of vice. I myself like a good workout and in the past have been very much into distance running. However, in my entire experience running I have only experienced the famed runner's high a handful of times. I will admit that it was an almost supernatural feeling and the word euphoria would certainly apply. But that feeling only comes after about 7 miles of running, and that few minute stretch of euphoria just is not enough motivation to keep up with something that physically demanding.

The human body is an amazing machine; the fact that it can heal itself and literally become addicted to the drugs it naturally produces is at the very least fascinating. I know I feel much better when the gym is a regular part of my routine. I am more effective in my studies and work because both body and mind are working together. So even though it sucks hearing that alarm clock ring so early, it is more than worth the trouble to hit the gym, or the road, and make it hurt so good.



Indoor Yoga

Two 'hommes de lettres'

By Andrea Klopper

曾经与天津擦肩而过的两位法国作家

天津的法国租界不只有罗马天主教会，还曾经有两位法国著名文学家在这里生活过。Paul Claudel出生于1868年，他在中国的外交官生涯开始于福州。在这里，他经历了一次婚外恋丑闻。与有夫之妇的曲折爱恋成为Paul日后创作的灵感来源。

1906年，Paul与一个建筑师的女儿结婚并来到天津担任法国领事。这份工作的报

酬丰厚，可以让他毫无压力地进行创作。他对中国的自然、民俗和艺术都十分感兴趣，并且在中国四处游历。

另外一个法国人Victor Segalen和Paul是在天津相识的。Segalen在学校里学习的是航海医学，这给了他四处游历的机会。后来他发现了自己对佛学的兴趣并开始来中国学习中文。他在中国进行了一系列考古之旅。途中，他发现了很多古代石碑，这也成为他创作的灵感。去年，中国国家图书馆还曾展出过他的作品。

The French concession was not known only for its Roman Catholic institutions (see JIN April issue) but also for some of its characters. Two men who have become famous literary figures – ‘hommes de lettres’ - were Paul Claudel and Victor Segalen. There has been a resurgence of interest in their work in recent years with books republished, exhibitions mounted and academics re-examining their contribution.

Paul Claudel

Claudel has been referred to as “this little studied man whose work and quieter life of creative expression stands somewhere in the centre of the earlier twentieth century’s cultivation of French Catholic theology and thought” (review of the book on Paul Claudel by Aidan Nichols 2011). Others have described him as “the grand old Roman Catholic of French literature” (Guardian 2004), ranking alongside Bertold Brecht as one of the great twentieth century dramatists and as “one of those rare and exotic birds who lives two lives” (Royal 2012).



A young Claudel
<http://blogs.mcgill.ca/steigan/2011/06/06/claude-musee-des-beaux-arts-paris/le-2011-11-11/>

The first was the better known life as an ‘homme de lettres’, a literary man; the second was as a rather controversial diplomat due to his devout Roman Catholicism and right-wing political stance. Claudel spent a formative part of his diplomatic career in China. Born in Villeneuve-sur-Frere (August 1868) into a fairly traditional Roman Catholic family (priests on his mother’s side), his family later moved to Paris where Claudel completed his schooling and started at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. Here he imbibed the atheism of his circle, before being posted to Shanghai in 1895.

On a trip back to France, he had an extremely influential spiritual experience in 1886, while visiting the Cathedral of Notre Dame having possibly been directed there by Rimbaud, his heart was strangely touched by the choir singing the Magnificat, and he immediately believed. So profound was the conversion, that he considered becoming a Benedictine and applied to enter a monastery. He was turned down as it was felt he could serve better in China but this led to a deep personal crisis. His confusion at the time is perhaps further indicated by his being embroiled in scandalous and protracted affair. While on the boat to Fuzhou where he was to be vice-consul, he met the struggling businessman, Francis Vetch, and his Polish wife, Rosalie. He fell in love. He offered them rooms in the consulate and the husband’s frequent business trips enabled Claudel and ‘Rose’ to spend much time together. She was to serve as a kind of ‘muse’ for several of his works despite her leaving him in 1904, divorcing and rapidly marrying another man met on the boat back to France. A



possible reason for this was her being pregnant – she bore a daughter, given the name Louise, after the father. Claudel’s full name was Paul Louis Charles Marie. The complex web of human and divine passions that ring through Claudel’s works have their origins in this period.

He moved on however, probably the wiser. He would only meet Rosalie again many years later. When back in Paris, he married Reine Saint-Marie Perrin, daughter of an architect, in March 1906 and three days later they were bound for Tientsin where Claudel took up the post of French Consul. They were to have 5 children. His diplomatic work gave him a salary that allowed him to write without the pressure of it being his livelihood. He tried to write for at least an hour each day, inspired by his daily reading of the Vulgate and Vulgate concordance which were permanently on his desk. From 1904, he kept a journal which has many quotations from these. He was also a tireless observer of nature, customs and art of China (and later also of Japan where he was posted as Ambassador 1922-8). This may well account for his interest in and friendship with Segalen who was beginning to explore both China and his response to the exotic nature of China’s past and present (see below). In 1907 he published a single volume of some 41 prose poems entitled “Knowing the East”. He also wrote a number of plays: *Le Partage de Midi* (The Break of Noon 1906), *Cinq Grandes Odes* (Five Great Odes 1907), *L’Annonce Faite a Marie* (The Tidings brought to Mary 1910).

His writing was gaining attention and he appeared on the cover of Time magazine (March 21, 1927) while in Washington as Ambassador. His extremely lengthy *Le Soulier de Satin* (The Satin Slipper 1931) dates from this period.

In 1935, after a short stint in Brussels, he retired to his chateau in Brangues. He continued to write about the drama of salvation, the struggle of faith in a faithless world, and God’s intimate love for His creatures, but his writings were more exegetical in style. He produced various theological works. In the Second World War, though opposed to Nazism and its anti-semitic position, he served in the Ministry of Propaganda. There was some controversy over an ode he wrote about De Gaulle. In 1947 he was elected to the Academie Francaise and in 1950, was publicly honoured by the Pope. He died five years later, aged 86, leaving behind a reputation as mixed as his life. Aply perhaps, he was given a state funeral in Notre Dame.



Claudel in later years.



Left: Victor Segalen. Right: on horseback – a regular way of travel in China

Victor Segalen

It was during his time in Tientsin, that Claudel no doubt met Victor Segalen, some ten years his junior. Segalen had been born in the French town of Brest and had studied naval medicine, though neither this nor life at sea were his passions. It did however provide him with the opportunity to travel and pursue his real interests. His first naval posting took him to Polynesia where he was struck by Maori culture and began to write about the influence of Christianity and Western civilization on the traditions, customs and religion of the people in Tahiti (“Les Immémoriaux” The Immemorial Ones). He did with words what Gauguin did in paint. On his return to France, he travelled via Ceylon where he began to learn about Buddhism, and Djibouti, so following the route taken earlier by his idol, Rimbaud, who had also influenced Claudel’s thinking.



Statuary at Xiao Xiu’s tomb by Segalen, 1917

steles (shibe), inscribed stone monuments, that formed the motif for his prose poetry *Stèles* (1912), a bilingual masterwork that presented poetry like translations of imaginary inscriptions that explored his notions of the exotic in themes of friendship, love, desire, violence, otherness, selfhood. Only last year, the French Institute in China commemorated its centenary with an exhibition in the National Library of China in Beijing. The original book was dedicated to Claudel who Segalen appears to have met in mid-1909 according to a letter to his wife, Yvonne. (née Hébert 1890-1968). A visit with Claudel to the temple and gardens of Li Hong Zhang inspired a poem as perhaps it had Claudel’s ‘Jardins’. There developed a kind of rivalry with Claudel who possibly envied his poetry but also attempted to convert Segalen to Roman Catholic faith. Between May 1911 and October 1912, Segalen taught physiology at the Imperial Medical College in Tientsin, during which time he lived here with his family. A son, Yvon, had been born to them in Brest (1906) and another, Ronan, was born in Tientsin (1913)



A page from Stèle

A second expedition followed in 1914 with de Voisins and Jean Lartigue (1894-1986, a photographer of repute). Sponsored by the French government, early examples of Han Chinese stone sculpture were to be found and recorded. The black and white photographs of this extensive 6000 kilometre cross-China trip on horseback and foot, by mule and boat deep into Sichuan are testament to the last of such great explorations and reveal aspects of the unexplored heart of China. They were to appear later in a book entitled *Chine: La Grande Statuaire* (Great Statuary of China). First published in 1972, Malraux wrote of it as “irreplaceable in its field”. The outbreak of the First World War interrupted further trips. Segalen started work on his thriller set in Peking, René Leys and his passion for China remained.



St. Louis Football team 1932-3

In 1917 he visited China again, this time as a doctor for the French mission responsible for recruiting Chinese volunteers to help in the First World War digging trenches, carrying ammunition, serving as medical auxiliaries and doing other manual jobs. Some 140000 were recruited. In 1919, Segalen returned to France where he was struck by a mysterious disease. His death proved more mysterious as he was found dead in the Huelgoat woods in May 1919 with a copy of Hamlet at his side – suicide or the result of a serious foot injury after which he was unable to walk and remained undetected for several days? Claudel had continued to correspond with him and after his death, Yvonne Segalen served as secretary to Claudel for a time. Only in the 1970s were many of his manuscripts brought into print revealing a man who was in many ways ahead of his time in his understanding and critique of ethnocentrism, colonialism and the cultural Other. He was one of the first French writers to examine how Europeans related to radically different cultures, and how they represented them, invariably in very stereotypical ways and with a sense of European superiority. He is considered now as one of the luminaries of French modernism.

In their journeys, both physical and in the spiritual-intellectual realms, Claudel and Segalen found themselves passing through the French concession of Tientsin, contributing to the richness of this city.

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Fenghuang (鳳凰): The Phoenix Village

by Kyle Knutson

湘西凤凰古城

凤凰古城的春天，气温在20度左右，天气很好，放眼望去，一片绿色，早上起来还能看到雾气重重的沱江美景。此时去也可以让你充分体验民风民俗。这座曾被新西兰著名作家路易艾黎称赞为中国最美丽的小城，是怀化、吉首、贵州三地之间的必经之路。凤凰古城分为新旧两个城区，老城依山傍水，清浅的沱江穿城而过，红色砂岩砌成的城墙伫立在岸边，南华山衬着古老的城楼，城楼还是清朝年间的，锈迹斑斑的铁门，还看得出当年威武的模样。北城门下宽宽的河面上横着一条窄窄的木桥，以石为墩，两人对面都要侧身而过，这里曾是当年出城的唯一通道。现在凤凰九景的门票需要148元，包括：沈从文故居、熊希龄故居、杨家祠堂、东门城楼等。然而凤凰古城最有名的还是那一幢幢古色古香、富有浓郁土家族风韵的吊脚楼，在回龙潭那里依然保留有十多间老屋，细脚伶仃的木柱立在河中，托起一段段过往与历史。

In recent years, a vast number of the once isolated and untouched Chinese villages, whose culture and traditions have survived throughout China's long history, have gradually been transforming into modernized, bustling, visit for profit tourist destinations. This phenomenon, most certainly, has altered what both insiders and outsiders consider to be the norm of traditional village life. Defining, or perhaps redefining this norm, is a debate that continues to this very day.

Nevertheless, despite the disappearance

of this cultural authenticity and wanton destruction of its centuries old architecture, going out into these rustic areas is still a completely different experience that makes it all the more worthwhile rather than just lazing away in the big city. I like to think of it this way: to see something is at least better than to see nothing.

Fenghuang village, in western Hunan Province, is a fine example of why one should follow this philosophy. Fenghuang, which roughly translates into Phoenix village, is the most popular village in Western Hunan

Province and it certainly shows with the crowds of weekenders soaking up Fenghuang's colors, food and charm. And it's worth it.

Traveling to Fenghuang may sound a little complicated but it's managed well. First, you should take an overnight train to Jishou (吉首). The most frequent trains depart from Changsha, the capital city of Hunan. When you disembark at Jishou, probably at 5:30am in the morning, walk across the square and make a left. You'll be able to make out in the dark a bunch of buses lined up along the curb. All of them should go to the Fenghuang long distance bus station (about 1 hour). You may hear bullhorns from guides announcing "Fenghuang" in the square. After you arrive at the Fenghuang long distance bus station, you'll have to take a city bus to the Fenghuang old village which is right next to the new modern town. All the passengers from the first bus transferred onto the same city bus to the old town so just follow the masses or ask one of the staff if you don't know which bus to take. Looking down from a

large bridge where the bus drops you off, you will experience your first site of Fenghuang from afar.

It was about 6am when I arrived and I felt extremely tipsy from the rough train ride, despite the fact that I don't drink. But after stumbling off the city bus onto the stone bridge, and adjusting my eyes through the dense and imminent pollution, the resulting site of Fenghuang immediately shoved aside whatever instincts I had to collapse right here and there to take a long 4 four nap. Blobs of blurry wood eventually yielded to clear cut triangular roofed structures sitting on tall wooden stilts while the oval blotches turned into pretty red lanterns.

Sliced in half by the Tuo River, Fenghuang village comprised of a more touristy western side where most of the original architecture can be found, and the eastern side with a number of cafes, restaurants, bars and the very famous BBQ night market. The Miao and some Tujia ethnic minority inhabitants continue to use the Tuo River for their simple daily necessities: washing their clothes and fishing. As I walked down the river, I caught a glimpse of a traditional waterwheel and a few beautiful bridges lining the river. Opportunities to dress up as one of the ethnic minorities and take a picture were here, there and everywhere along the river.

Glancing upwards into the clouds, I tried to imagine the silhouettes of two phoenixes hovering in the sky, for which this town is named after. According to folklore, two phoenixes discovered Fenghuang and found that it was so beautiful that they decided to stay to provide longevity and luck for the local



Local People



Stone tablets

people.

Moving away from the main river, a great number of mom and pop restaurants were huddled together in the stone paved back alleys. Drifting past me as if there wasn't a hurry for them in the world, smiling Miao and Tujia people returned my greetings. The clothes that the minorities wore were a very distinctive blue with intricate cross stitched pattern, black pants and shoes. Their distinctive large black turban like hats reminded me of Egyptian pharaohs. As soon as this thought crossed my mind, I then realized, despite the fact that I had visited so many provinces in China, how "laowai" I still really was. Various stalls also sold Fenghuang's special stretch candy and spicy chili.

Eventually, I found the ticket office and bought a thorough fare ticket for all the sites. Keep in mind that Fenghuang is free if you merely want to wander around the village and not enter the historic buildings. Some of the buildings included the Yang Family Ancestral Hall, the Hong Bridge (a uniquely decorated two story bridge), a few temples, some watchtowers, the Gucheng Museum, and most interesting, the former residence of Shen Chongwen, probably the most famous writer to come out of Fenghuang.

Shen Chongwen (沈从文1902-1988), wrote a few books about western Hunan, two of which are available in a combo English/Chinese edition at the Museum bookstore. His first book, "The Border Town", is a love story about a peasant girl's life in the village of Chatong near the Hunan-Guizhou border. The other book is a collection of six essays called "Recollections of West Hunan." His first two essays chronicle his life in Fenghuang and his determination to become independent from the regimental system of doing what others tell you to do. This helped

him to eventually become a writer. His other four stories are more like anthropological travelogues with some perceptive and intelligent observations of four far flung minority villages in Western Hunan. At the bookstore, just say, "Ni you ying yu shu ma?" (Do you have English books?).

Afterwards, I checked into my family run courtyard hotel. A fairly cosy and inexpensive (less than 100 yuan) place, I would highly recommend doing this whenever you have the opportunity to stay in a village if you are looking for an authentic experience. Just be prepared for a possible squat toilet. Those that stay at a two story hotel overlooking the river will have to pay more.

Come nightfall, Fenghuang was like a completely different place. The bars dotting the east side of town came alive with colorful lights, drinking, laughter, dancing and other forms of merriment. While true that the whole setup was headache inducing, especially for a village, it certainly was an unexpected change of pace. Other parts of the town were still quieter and pleasant enough for a stroll.

Be warned that a few of the bars may not serve foreigners. I do not know the exact reason for this but the best way to handle this situation is to politely submit a written complaint to the tourism center and see what they do in the future. You might discover other shops selling T-shirts with Osama Bin Laden portrayed as Jesuslike or a few with an anti Japanese message. But once again don't let these inconsistencies discourage you from missing out in an opportunity to see another side of China that most visitors are unable to witness. For this reason, Fenghuang still remains to be a very popular destination for tourists all over China and newcomers like myself.

Huairou- a relaxing and quiet getaway outside of Beijing

By David Wong



MuTian Yu Great Wall

怀柔踏青

怀柔以其69%的森林覆盖率和丰富的水资源成为京郊的天然“氧吧”。怀柔区距北京城区50公里，是周末休闲的好去处。你可以围绕怀柔水库骑行，中午选择一个农家院品尝当地的农家土菜。这里还有许多采摘园，你可以亲自动手摘下香甜的瓜果，体验丰收的乐趣。

慕田峪长城也是不容错过的旅游景点。慕田峪长城建于明代，西接居庸关，东连古北口。万里长城——慕田峪段的建筑构造具有独特风格，是万里长城的精华所在。三座敌楼并矗一台的正关台，为长城之罕见。西北面有俗称“牛犄角边”、“箭扣”及“鹰飞倒仰”等长城景观结点，其势险峻峥嵘，起伏连绵，如巨龙飞腾。

除此之外，怀柔周边还有许多充满绿色生机的徒步路线，比如密云水库周边。

Consider Huairou District ; "Huáiróu Qū". The district is situated in northern Beijing and covers an area of 2,557.3 square kilometers. It is 50 kilometers from the Beijing city center (about a 1½ to 2 hour drive). 90 percent of it is mountainous area. Its major agricultural

products are chestnuts, walnuts, hawthorns, sweet pears, and apricots.

Huairou District is known for being one of the most important water sources in the capital city earmarked for protection. Because of its 69% forest coverage, the district is known as the natural "oxygen bar" of Beijing.

In addition, it boasts a rich combination of plant, animal and tourism resources. Therefore, Huairou is of great importance to Beijing in ensuring the environmental quality and the ecosystem of the capital city.

The city center of the Huairou District includes a lake with a walking trail and bike trail for recreation. At the top of the trail there is a pagoda overlooking the lake.

Huairou has two American fast food restaurants (MacDonald's and KFC) and Chinese food restaurants are plentiful and are not hard to find no matter what part of Huairou one is in. However, I suggest trying some of the small home-style restaurants or cottages on the edge of town towards the mountains. Called Nong Jia Le "Happy Farm Homes" are great venues for a home

cooked meal at very reasonable prices. They usually have their own vegetable gardens and even a fish pond, basically a concrete pond with fish that you can catch and they will cook in any style you wish: barbecued, fried or steamed.

There are also many fruit orchards in the area and depending on the time of year, you can pick your own fruit and pay by the basket. The walnuts are also very good.

Huairou is most famous for the portion of the Great Wall called Mutianyu, which lies about 20 kilometers from Huairou. The portion of the wall is labeled as "The Great Wall at Mutianyu."

The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is connected with Jiankou in the west and Lianhuachi in the east. As one of the best-preserved parts of the Great Wall, the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall used to serve as the northern barrier defending the capital and the imperial tombs.

First built in the mid-6th century during the Northern Qi Dynasty, Mutianyu Great Wall is older than the Badaling section of the Great Wall, where most tourists visit, as it is closer to Beijing, making this section more attractive since there are fewer crowds. In the Ming Dynasty, under the supervision of General Xu Da, construction of the present wall began on the foundation of the wall of Northern Qi. In 1404, a pass was built in the wall. In 1569, the Mutianyu Great Wall was rebuilt and till today most parts of it are well preserved. The Mutianyu Great Wall has the largest construction scale and best quality among all sections of Great Wall.

Built mainly with granite, the wall is 7–8.5 meters high and the top is 4–5 meters wide. Compared with other sections of Great Wall, Mutianyu Great Wall possesses unique characteristics in its construction.

Watchtowers are densely placed along this section of the Great Wall - 22 watchtowers on this 2,250-metre-long stretch.

Both the outer and inner parapets are constructed in such a way so that shots could be fired at the enemy on both sides - a feature very rare and seldom found on other parts of the Great Wall.

The Mutianyu Pass consists of 3 watchtowers, one big one in the center and two smaller on both sides. Standing on the same terrace, the three watchtowers are connected to each other inside and compose a rarely seen structure among all sections of

Great Wall.

Besides, woodland and streams surround this section of Great Wall. The forest-coverage rate is over 90 percent.

Today, this section of wall is open to visitors. There are three methods of ascent and four methods of descent to choose from. Besides utilizing 4000+ steps, visitors may also choose between a two-rider chairlift and four-rider gondola up from the foothills to the level of the wall, which runs along the ridges above. These lifts may also be used to descend. Another feature of the wall at Mutianyu is an alternate method of descent by single-rider personal wheeled toboggan. This allows single riders to descend from the wall to the valley on a winding metal track.

Adjacent to the Mutianyu wall is its namesake village, which has been hailed by the Chinese government as a model village because of its rebirth largely thanks to tourism and the glassware industry. Mutianyu Village is twinned with the village of Shelburne Falls in Massachusetts, USA.

Another tourist attraction is Hong Luo Mountain on which the Hong Luo Temple is located.

Huairou is also noted for the 1995 United Nation's 4th World's Women's Conference. The official conference was held in Beijing, and the Civil Society community was forced to meet in the Huairou district, an hour from the official proceedings, leading to a great deal of discontent, as many of the non-governmental actors present felt marginalized. In a tent at the Civil Society Village established especially for poor,

grassroots women at the conference (organized by GROOTS International), the Huairou Commission, a registered non-governmental organization with a global secretariat in Brooklyn, New York, was established to ensure that grassroots women would have a voice at subsequent UN conferences and in other development processes.

The mountains around Huairou provide many hiking trails and in the summer, everything is green and lush, which is quite a contrast from Beijing. The Miyun Water Reservoir is also nearby and although access is restricted because it is the main water supply for Beijing, there are several side roads surrounding the reservoir that provide nice alternatives for a hike. The highway leading to Huairou is named JingMi Highway.

I find that even fall and winter are excellent times to visit this area. Although it can be quite barren and you have to dress warmly during these seasons, the main difference is there are fewer people and it is quite peaceful. You may need to bring a lunch or plan to drive into Huairou to eat, as most of the aforementioned places will be closed during the off-season.

As Beijing grows, the quaint flavor of Huairou is giving way to more commercialization. There are more Happy Farm Homes side by side and promoters line the road trying to attract customers. But for now, it is still a greener alternative for a weekend trip compared to busy and congested city.

Tips:

There are several ways of travelling to Huairou from Beijing. I have seen teams of bicycles although the 2 lane JingMi can get crowded with larger trucks that avoid the tolls on the adjacent Airport Expressway 机场高速.

■ There are buses that depart from DongZhiMen 东直门 station in Beijing: 867旅游专线 (travel express)

Take 916 express (快) and get off at Huairou North Avenue 怀柔北大街; walk about 120m and transfer to 936 branch (支) at Fule North Avenue 富乐北大街站, reach Mutianyu Great Wall Station after eight stops

■ You can drive from Tianjin in route:

Jing Jin Expressway – 5th Ring Road – Jing Cheng Expressway – off at Bei Tai Road exit

■ Admission fee: RMB45/adult; RMB25/child

Flights to Americas and Japan to increase in the summer season

Korean Air, South Korea's flagship airline, has announced its flight schedule adjustment plans for the upcoming IATA Summer Season, from March 31 to Oct. 26.

The carrier will strengthen its routes to the Americas and provide customers with widened flight options. The current 5 times a week flights from Seoul/Incheon to Seattle, Dallas and Toronto will be increased to 7 times a week (daily) and the 3 times weekly flights from Seoul/Incheon to Las Vegas will be increased to 4 times a week. In total, the frequency of Korean Air's flights to the Americas will rise to 115 flights a week.

There will be significant changes in Korean Air's flights to Japan. The airline expects an increase in demand on the Narita route due to the Open Skies agreement between Korea and Japan and it will increase frequency on its Seoul/Incheon - Tokyo/Narita route from 28 to 35 times a week, operating 5 flights every day.

In addition, the previous daily flights on the Seoul/Incheon - Narita - LA route will be put on the Seoul/Incheon - Narita - Honolulu route instead. Frequency on the Busan - Narita route will also increase from 7 to 14 times a week, operating 2 flights every day.

Flights to other destinations in Japan are also increased. The Seoul/Incheon - Komatsu route will increase from 4 to 5 times a week and the Seoul/Incheon - Okayama route will change from 7 to 9 times a week.

Korean Air will also strengthen its reach into the Chinese market by increasing frequency on the Cheongju - Hangzhou route (from once to 4 times a week) and opening a new 4 times weekly route between Busan and Nanjing.

The carrier will also reduce flights. Flights from Seoul/Incheon to Hakodate, Nagasaki, Melbourne and Gatwick (London) will be suspended and flight frequencies on the Seoul/Incheon - Jakarta and Seoul/Incheon - Ho Chi Minh City routes will be reduced from 10 to 7 times a week, and from 7 to 4 times a week, respectively.

All airlines operating regular flights plan their schedules twice a year based on the IATA (International Air Transport Association) Summer/Winter seasons.

Focused on providing a service that meets the ever-changing needs of its customers, Korean Air's network is continuously expanding, allowing passengers to enjoy more options and greater flexibility when traveling.

Korean Air contributes to culture and arts through 'Excellence Program'

Korean Air has signed a sponsorship agreement with sculptor and installation artist Suh Do-ho under its "Excellence Program."

The signing took place March 20 at the company headquarters in Seoul, and present were CEO and President Chi Changhoon, Managing Vice President Emily Cho, and Suh.

Under the agreement, the artist will be provided First Class tickets to any destination in the world served by Korean Air when he needs to travel abroad for exhibitions or related events. He will also be given a 50 percent discount on exhibition related cargo.

Under the Excellence Program, Korean Air has sponsored selected figures in the fields of sports, culture/arts, social service and academia whose excellent skills contribute to the enhancement of Korea's prestige in the world. This is part of the airline's social contribution program and aims to help talented people show their ability on the international stage.

Suh is the first artist to be chosen as a beneficiary of the Excellence Program. Known for his intricate sculptures that defy conventional notions of scale and site-specificity, Suh was recently voted the leading living artist of Korea and is active both at home and abroad.

This year Korean Air also launched the "WITH Campaign," which is an



integrated initiative for social contribution under four categories-sharing, children, the environment and culture. The scope of the Excellence Program has been expanded to culture and arts under the new initiative.

The Excellence Program was launched in 2006 when the airline decided to sponsor baseball player Lee Seung-yeop. Pro golfers Shin Ji-ae and Na Sang-uk were also supported under the same program. At present Korean Air provides sponsorship to figure skating star Kim Yuna, swimmer Park Tae-hwan and rhythmic gymnast Son Yeon-jae.

Korean Air begins direct flights to Sri Lanka and Maldives

Starting March 9, Korean Air has launched a direct service flying from Sri Lanka and the Maldives to Seoul Incheon, expanding its network to countries in the Indian Ocean.

Korean Air's new three times weekly direct service flies from Male in the Maldives to Colombo in Sri Lanka first, and then onto Seoul/Incheon in Korea. The Male-Colombo-Seoul/Incheon flights operate every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Flight KE 474 departs from Male at 15:30 and arrives in Colombo at 17:30; the flight then departs from Colombo at 18:50 and arrives in Seoul/Incheon at 06:10 the next day. On the return flight, KE473 departs Seoul/Incheon at 22:40 and arrives in Colombo at 04:10 the next day. The flight then continues its journey departing from Colombo at 05:40, arriving in Male at 06:40 the same day.

Korean Air's new Male-Colombo- Seoul/Incheon route is operated with an Airbus 330-300, seating 276 passengers and equipped with Korean Air's premium seats. First Class has six Sleeper Seats-the 180 degree full-flat beds with an 83-inch pitch and a 21-inch width, guaranteeing comfort and freedom during the flight. Prestige (Business) Class has 18 full-flat Prestige Sleeper Seats with a 78-80-inch pitch and extra-large seat partitions offering comfort and privacy.

Passengers in all classes can enjoy the new AVOD (audio and video on demand) system that offers upgraded inflight entertainment with high



resolution and a high processing speed, which allows quick passenger access to entertainment services.

The new Korean Air route ensures travelers from the Maldives and Sri Lanka hassle-free journeys to Korea and convenient transit to destinations in the Americas, Japan, China and other Asian countries. In addition, travelers from South Indian cities such as Chennai can also enjoy air travel to Seoul/Incheon and beyond via Colombo where airport transfer is a comfortable and relaxing experience for passengers.

Flight Schedules

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

Flight Number	Days of Operation	Route	Departure	Arrival
KE474	Tuesday Thursday Sunday	Male(MLE) - Colombo(CMB)	15:30	17:30
		Colombo(CMB) - Incheon(ICN)	18:50	06:10+1

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.

LOCALEVENTS

InterContinental Hotel Group (Tianjin) held Grand Wedding Show successfully



On 13 April, InterContinental Hotel Group (Tianjin) Grand Wedding Show was held in the Conference Room on the third floor of Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City. The event gathered five hotels of IHG group including Crowe Plaza Tianjin Binhai, Crowne Plaza Tianjin Jinnan, Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe, Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside, and Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City. Each hotel presented their special decorations to give a grand visual feast for the new couples in advance. New couples not only had the privilege to appreciate the elaborate wedding table setting, but also saw the five flamboyant wedding themed cakes made by these five hotels.

Except for the static display, splendid and magnificent modern wedding and formal dress shows were presented at the event, which gave out the fashion style and factor of wedding dress. Apart from that, a vivid wedding ceremony moved every attendee, bride and bride groom slowly walked towards the ceremony platform with romantic ballads, the whole event brought a world of fairy tales.

During the event, the most exciting moment was definitely the lucky draw for free wedding holding opportunity.

Other breathtaking lucky draws such as free hotel accommodation and free food were presented by five hotels. Cocktail party was specially prepared to entertain guests arrived at the event.



THE RITZ-CARLTON, TIANJIN MARRIES A PERFECT MEMORY TO A PERFECT MOMENT WITH WEDDING TRIO

TIANJIN, China, April 2013 - The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin has lifted the veil on its wedding packages, the wedding showroom and venue concepts as it prepares to open later this year.

The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin has already earned a reputation as one of the city's most sought after venues with its luxuriously detailed wedding showcases from its sister properties across the world. The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin continues the tradition with its 'one-stop' wedding service.

When it comes to wedding packages even the names hint at the luxurious romance the hotel offers: 'Timeless Love', 'Love in Bloom' and 'Royal Romance'.

Each package promises a complimentary night stay for the couple, a wedding butler service, a wide selection of Chinese and Western menu ideas, a pre-celebration cocktail reception and use of a VIP bridal room. All packages include value on The Ritz-Carlton Spa signature treatments for the bride and the groom to calm the wedding day jitters. Wedding couples who confirm their wedding receptions for 2013 can enjoy an exclusive Champagne celebration. They will also receive a complimentary Rolls Royce wedding car upgrade.



The Primary Election of Qin Wang Fu Super Wedding Show

Qin Wang Fu 2013 Super Wedding Show held its preliminary round of the competition at Qin Wang Fu courtyard and garden on April 20. It was open to the public and all couples could participate in the competition. 10 couples were selected for the next round and they will be judged by online voting and experts. The competition result will be announced in May and the winner will be the wedding ambassador for Qing Wang Fu Wedding and will be awarded a wedding package to the value of 200,000RMB, including wedding ring, wedding photos, and wedding video.



KERRY HOTEL, BEIJING LAUNCHES 2013 WEDDING SHOWCASE

On 13 April 2013, Kerry Hotel, Beijing will host its annual Wedding Showcase of the year. Themed "To Paris With Love", the showcase will take guests on a romantic journey through Paris, featuring a bridal gown fashion show by top Taiwanese bridal designer Lin Li and hair and make-up by Lin Make Up. Couples who confirm their Kerry Wedding stand a chance to win the grand prize, a 3-night stay at Shangri-La Paris.

As guests enter the 1,560 metre square ballroom they will step into a lively café bistro setting accompanied by a live French jazz band. Attendees will watch a love story between two love struck students studying in Paris unfolds right before their eyes. During the showcase couples can receive complimentary consultation on important details of their big day. From hair and make-up to jewelry and honeymoon destinations, couples will find it all at Kerry's Wedding Showcase.

Kerry's Signature Wedding packages feature exquisite menus and give guests the opportunity to experience either a one year anniversary stay at Kerry Hotel, Beijing or a destination honeymoon stay at some of Shangri-La's premier properties. Wedding packages start from RMB 788+ per person. For consultation and more information, please contact one of our bridal specialists today at (8610) 8565 2634.



Get closed to nature

From April 27 to May 5, the children who are under 1.5m high enjoys free entrance ticket of Tianjin Polar Ocean World in Tanggu. Besides the excellent marine animal performances, there were also other popularization of science activities for children and parents having fun together.



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin is honored "The Eternal Valued Hotel" from 2012 China Travel List by Beijing News.

The award ceremony of the Beijing News took place successfully in Beijing recently. The 2012 China Travel List is one of the most authoritative and influential evaluation systems of tourism industry in China. The list covers the leading enterprises in several areas of the tourism industry, such as restaurant, hospitality, transportation, tourism agency, shopping and entertainment. It evaluates China's tourism development and progress in 2012. The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin won "The Eternal Valued Hotel", which witnessed the leading position of the hotel in hospitality industry.



Ms. Joyce Li, the Marketing Communications Manager from The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin picked up the trophy.

The famous film star Mr. Wallace Huo arrived at The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin for cover story photo shooting. With refined manner and courtesy, he was taken photos in the Astor Wing and wrote down the best wishes for hotel 150th Anniversary. The shooting venue includes the old Otis elevator made in 1924, Mr Sun Yat-sen suite room, Astor Wing lobby. The Marketing Communications Manager Joyce Li represented hotel to give the best welcome to Mr. Wallace Huo.

2 Years Anniversary Party of Le Procope

In co-operation with Baileys and Moët & Chandon, Le Procope Lounge Bar held its 2 year anniversary party on April 8. The theme of the party was "Best friends will be together forever". There were free sample drinks of Baileys and a big promotion of Moët & Chandon. At the same time, in order to add more high-tech and fashionable elements, Le Procope had a collaboration with Micro-blog and Wechat for the first time in town to interact with fans. From now on, the party season begins!



2013 Best of the Best, Tianjin Hotel Star Performer

The St. Regis Tianjin was awarded again by Hurun Report for 2013 Best of the Best, Tianjin Hotel Star Performer. As the top brand of the Starwood Group, The St. Regis Hotel is superbly located along the picturesque south bank of the Hai River in the prestigious Heping district. An exquisite sanctuary of unsurpassed elegance and flawless service, The St. Regis Tianjin is a most coveted address in the historic and cosmopolitan city. Experience uncompromising and bespoke service, the hallmark traits of the legendary St. Regis brand.



YY Beer House Songkran Festival

YY Beer House's annual Songkran Festival kicked off on April 20th, bringing with it a Thai dancing and Muay performance and massive water fights. All the guests enjoyed the fun of dousing each other with water guns and water buckets.



Tempting Amazing Thailand - Sumptuous Thai Cuisine Festival Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

The opening ceremony of "Tempting Amazing Thailand - Sumptuous Thai Cuisine Festival" in the Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel was held on the night of 15th April. Together with the support and help from the Royal Thai Embassy in China and the Thai Authority Tourism Bureau in Beijing, the hotel offered a memorable Thai Culture Feast, and brought the amazing Thai cuisine to every guest on that night.



The Beauty of Chinese Traditional Culture

Organized by Tianjin Municipal Historical Style and Feature Company, the traditional culture season started on April 21 in Min Yuan Xi Li Cultural Creation Zone of the Wu Da Dao Area. During the event, there were traditional stringed instrument performances, Kun Opera interactive activity and sales of traditional arts & crafts.



Harley Davidson, Get the Party Started @ Sheraton Tianjin Hotel

On April 16, 2013, with great honor, Sheraton Tianjin Hotel welcomed their distinguished customer, Harley Davidson Motor Company, to hold an fascinating opening ceremony banquet for its 1st officially authorized outlet located in Tianjin.

On the evening, a lot of Harley fans, including both foreigners and local residents, arrived and gathered at Sheraton Tianjin Hotel to enjoy such an exciting moment. The activity was held both at the hotel's lobby and its unique outdoor garden where is surrounded by vigorous greenery and blossoms. During the event, a great number of foreigners, local guests and media shuttled their way through these venues to enjoy the exhilarating outdoor barbecue party and also a variety of splendid live performances. The famous crosstalk comedians, Li Boxiang and Du Guozhi, also attended this grand event to present their excellent performing arts and made all the audience roar with laughter.

Around 9:00pm, the event came to an end with great success and Harley Davidson will start another brand new journey of the iron elite from Sheraton Tianjin Hotel.



SAFETY FIRST

by Paula Taylor

安全第一

虽然很多人都告诉我们，天津是个安全的城市，我们也不能掉以轻心。在我的国家，每天的本地新闻都会有几条涉及毒品、枪杀案件的报道，而这些在天津十分罕见。但是我们自己以及周围的朋友几乎都遇到过手机、钱包被偷的事情。

有一次，公交车上的移动电视播放了一个民警提示的短片，告诉我们遇到公交车上的小偷作案先不要轻举妄动，因为他们一般都是团伙作案，旁边一定有同伙掩护。如果你挺身而出，可能会有人身危险。如果可能的话，你可以拍下小偷的照片，为警察提供证据。我不确定这样是否会引起他们的注意，但这个短片要传递的信息是，除了财产安全，个人人身安全也很重要。

有一天晚上，我就犯了一个愚蠢的错误。我为了抄近道，打算从水上公园里面穿过去。但是当时已经是晚上10点多了，所有景观灯都熄灭了。我就这样一个人走在黑漆漆的公园里。我当时心里非常害怕和后悔，万一遭遇不测，我真是求救无门啊！所以，不管天津如何安全，你在自己国家里不会做的事，在这里也不要做！

which I regret bitterly and I cannot now believe I was so stupid. It was just after 10 p.m and my bus had just sailed past me. I have had some not very nice experiences in taxis so I decided to walk the 10 minutes home through Shui Shang Water Park. In the evening now Tianjiners come outside to associate with friends so I thought it would be full of people. However 10 p.m. is considered late here and the park was deserted - and scary. I hurried along but with every step I became more nervous. I discovered the park that it is beautifully lit in the early evening has its lights turned out at night so it was DARK. It was like a typical horror film where you start to hear sounds in the undergrowth and see shapes everywhere. I started to walk even faster, my unease growing. I was suddenly aware of a man watching me and as I hurried past him he stopped whatever it was he was doing and just stared at me. This happens frequently but at night in a deserted park it was terrifying. I started to run but I was hampered by the gifts my friends had given me. I rounded a bend and was faced with another two men who stopped what they were doing to stare at me. As I went past a particularly dark stretch, with huge bushes and old deserted buildings, I started to believe I was in serious trouble. Thankfully this time I did get out safely. I would never have done this in London. My advice is don't do anything you wouldn't feel safe doing back home.

Most of us would agree that if the biggest loss to us was a few replaceable possessions, we could bear that, however it seems as though there is more at stake than that now so let's be careful out there.

Living in Tianjin we are fortunate in that there is an absence of serious crime. The local news does not carry stories of drug and gun crimes as we are probably used to in our own countries, not because the bad news is not highlighted, but because it really does not happen. However one problem is that pickpockets are rife and just recently there has been a concerted effort from the Police asking people to protect themselves, and, importantly, giving advice as to how to handle the situation should they become a victim of crime, or witness a crime.

This is a very significant development. When I was on the bus a Police information video was being shown of a crime scene being played out. The skill of the pickpockets is legendary, many of us have already fallen

victim to them or at least know someone who has. However the video was highlighting the fact that if you witness a crime, do not intervene yourself. This is because more than likely the thief will have an accomplice and helpful bystanders may be attacked. The Police were asking people to take a picture with their mobile phone. I am not sure if it is possible to do this covertly and not attract the attention of the thief or their accomplice, but the message is clear. If they are now telling us to be careful not just because of our belongings, but also because our personal safety may be compromised, unfortunately it means that Tianjin is catching up with some of the more undesirable elements of modern society.

I made a serious mistake the other night



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