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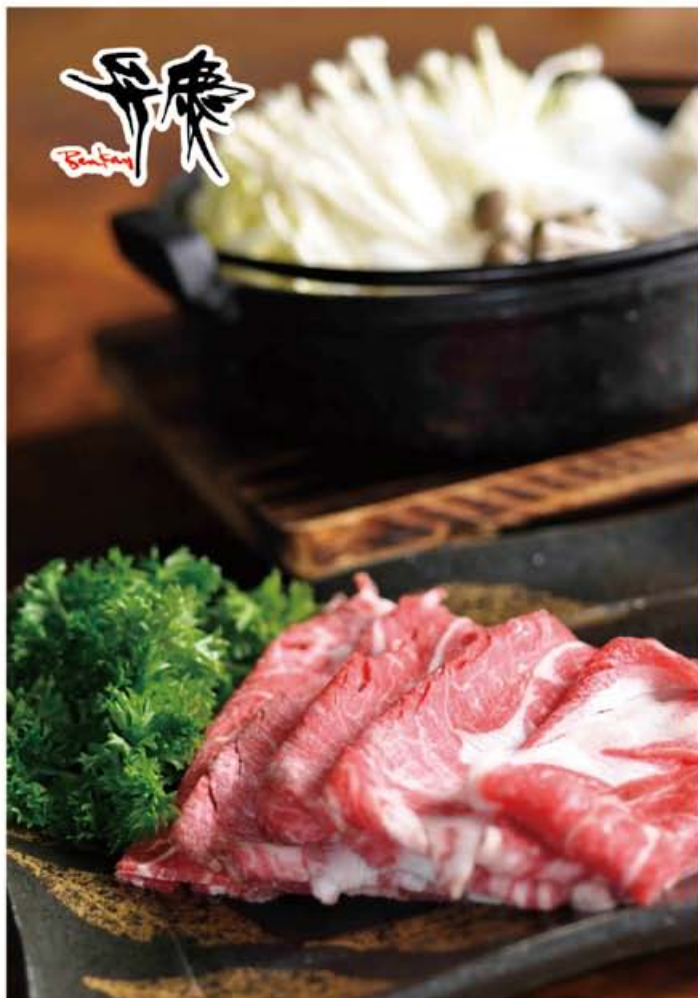
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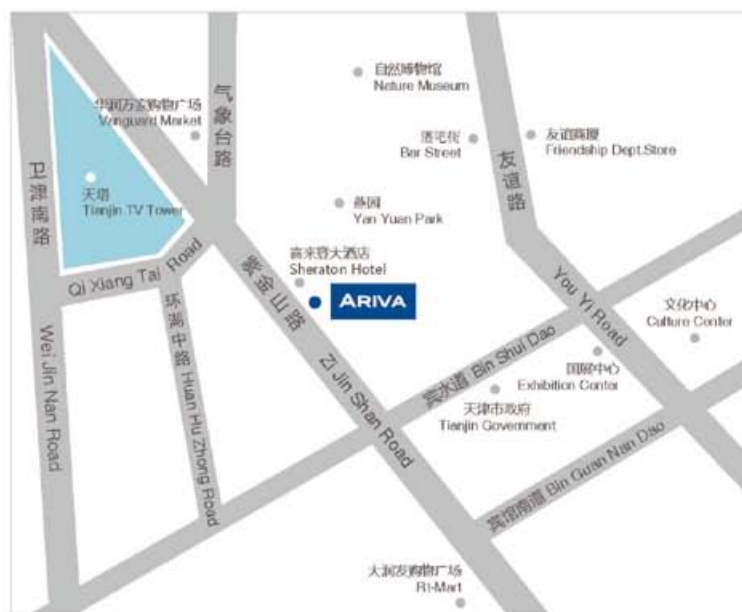


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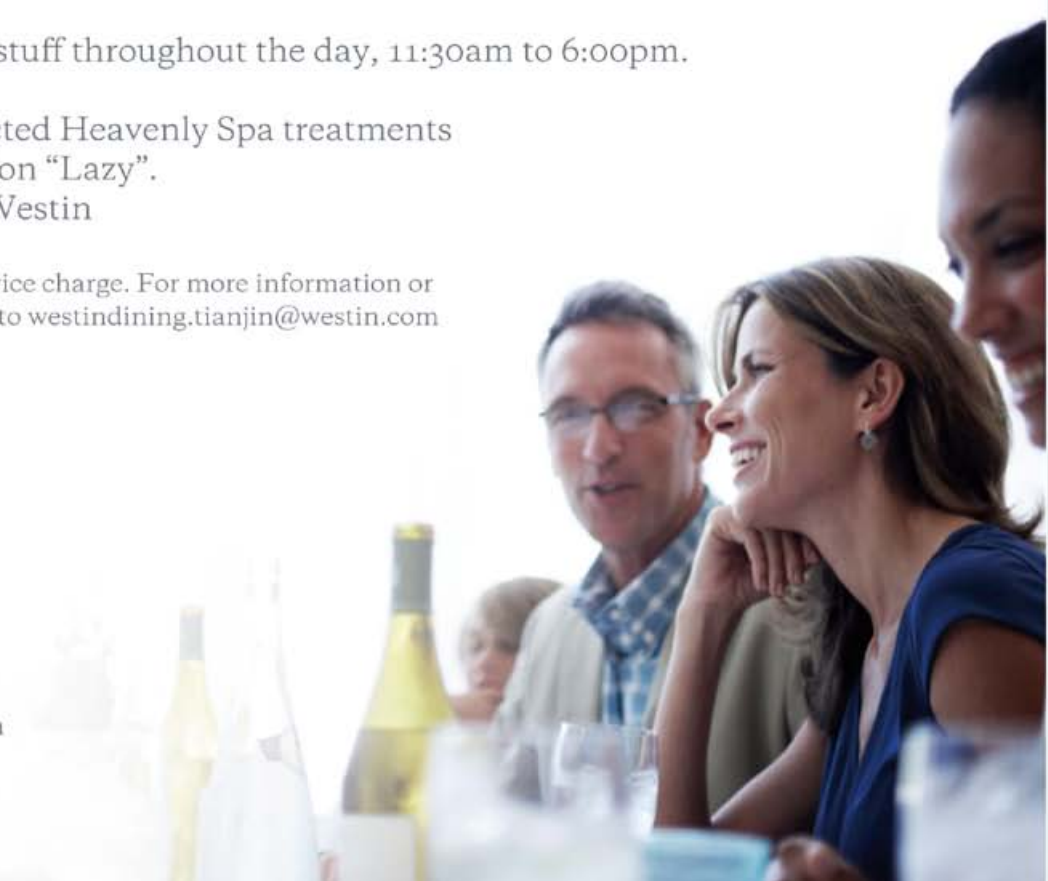
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TIS Auditorium

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ARE YOU
ILLITERATE?
(Maybe you are)

汉字，好难！

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小常识大收益

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE GOES A LONG WAY

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Please contact Scott Carlson with any questions:

- Phone: 8829 7772
 - Tianjin email: enquiry@tjif.com
 - TEDA email: enquiry@tedafellowship.com
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discover God and His
great plan, together



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Letter from the Editor

There have been many times when I couldn't write the Chinese character in my mind. In my language it is called 提笔忘字, which means you have the pen in hand but have forgotten how to write. The blank space in my mind is frightening because I know it's a common character and not at all complicated to write. I ask myself, "Why can't I remember it?"

Nevertheless, I know why this happens. It is because we use a keyboard so often and write so rarely. When do I ever get to write something in longhand now? Maybe when I sign a receipt or fill in the address on an envelope or... that's about it, I can't think of anything else. Often, when taking notes during an interview or a meeting, my pen is hovering in mid air waiting for my mind to respond. If I can't remember it in three seconds, I have to use the pinyin instead, which is really a shame because only the poorly educated should need to do it this way.

Fortunately, I'm not the only Chinese person who feels ashamed about these lapses. The skill of writing Chinese character is declining in our generation. We used to be so proud of our language, with its profound historical and cultural significance, but slowly it is being lost, swamped by modern technology.

So, that's why the first Chinese Character Writing Competition has received so much attention. It is the first contest of this kind to be broadcast nationwide. It is an effort to rescue the language and encourage Chinese people not to forget that our writing is an important part of our cultural heritage in the country with the longest history in the world.

At the same time, we see more and more expats who speak fluent Chinese. However, most of them admit that they can't write Chinese characters well. A lot of them don't really care because speaking Chinese meets all the demands needed in their daily communication. Despite this, in her article Paula Taylor suggests that if you want to enhance your competitiveness in the job market or live an independent life in China, it is important to learn to read and write in Chinese. Though it is definitely not an easy process it is a fact of life if you're serious about making the best of your time in China.

最近两年,我总是提笔忘字,完全想不出要写的那个字长什么样子。这让我感到很害怕,因为我知道那不是生僻字,笔画也不复杂。我不禁要问自己:“我要渐渐变成文盲了吗?”

不过我知道为什么会这样。现在我们大部分时间都在用键盘打字,手写的时候很少。除了签字和填表之外,我实在想不起来什么场合还需要写字。有时候,我需要做采访记录,几乎每次都会碰到提笔忘字的情况。如果3秒钟之内我还想不出来,那我只好用拼音代替。这让我感到非常惭愧,因为只有小学低年级学生才会这么干。

其实,很多人都和我有类似的感受。我们这一代人的汉字书写能力正不断下降。我们曾经引以为豪的汉语言文化正在渐渐被现代科技侵蚀。

正是因为如此,不久前结束的首届《中国汉字听写大赛》才引来如此多的关注。这个比赛提醒我们不要丢失这一历史悠久的文化遗产并把它继承下去。

同时,越来越多的外国人现在都能说流利的中文。但是,会写汉字的却不多,因为会说中文就可以满足他们日常交流的需要了。尽管如此,Paula Taylor 还是建议大家学会中文的读和写,这样才能提高自己在人才市场上的竞争力,过上真正独立的生活。虽然这必然是艰难的学习过程,但如果你不想虚度在中国生活的光阴,那还是迎难而上吧!

Monica W



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Tianjin International Culture Communication Association

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Fax +86 22 2750 9201

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JIN MAGAZINE

Legal Consultants

Logos Law Firm

Korean Advertising Agency

Duoyun Advertising

Price ¥ 10

主办 今晚报社

承办 今日天津杂志社

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广告独家代理 天津市风华广告有限公司

固定形式印刷品广告登记证号 120103200482505027

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发行 陈鹏宇

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法律顾问 道名律师事务所

韩国广告代理 天津市多芸广告有限公司

2013年11月刊

国内统一刊号: CN12-1262/Z

国际标准刊号: ISSN1004-826X

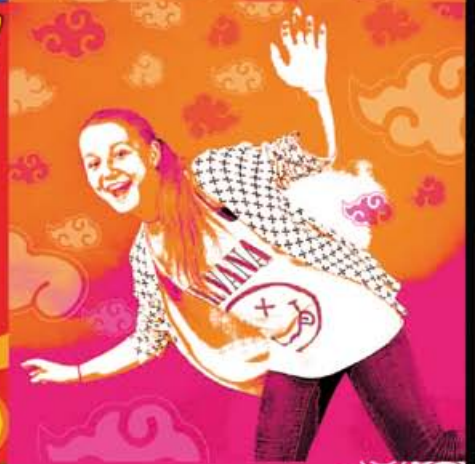
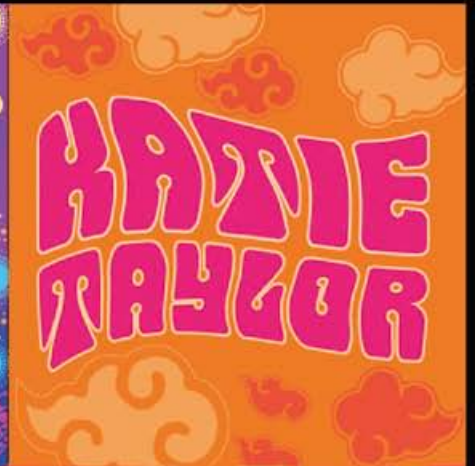
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更正

《今日天津》10月刊第33页刊登的《2013年外籍社区生活晨报》中,“天津好宝有机农业有限公司”应为“云南好宝有机农业有限公司”,本刊谨在此更正并致歉。

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Book by **William F. Brown** Music & Lyrics by **Charlie Smalls**

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TIANJIN NEWS

Tianjin seeks volunteers to knit sweaters for needy children

天津征集“爱心妈妈”为孤残儿童织毛衣送关爱

“编织梦想共筑希望”——2013年恒爱行动在天津启动, 在全市征集“爱心妈妈”为孤残儿童编织毛衣送上关爱, 妈妈们的一双双巧手将为孩子们带来温暖。

市妇联、市妇女儿童发展基金会携手恒源祥集团在今年冬天到来之前采取多种方式给这些孩子送温暖: 动员全市爱心妈妈积极领取爱心毛线亲手编织爱心毛衣; 动员不懂编织技术、工作繁忙的爱心人士踊跃捐赠新毛衣, 为孤残儿童送关爱; 动员全市力量踊跃捐款或捐赠新毛衣。

The Tianjin Women's Federation recently launched a campaign, under the banner of Heng'ai Action, to call for volunteers to knit sweaters for orphans and handicapped children.

"These children will face much harder obstacles than their peers while growing up and they need all the help they can get," said the Federation's Vice President Cheng Shumei at the launch ceremony of the campaign.

There are nearly 1,000 orphans and 13,000 disabled minors in Tianjin.

The Tianjin Women's Federation and the Women and Children Development Foundation of Tianjin are seeking to help these children by calling on volunteers to knit sweaters. They are also encouraging people to donate new sweaters and are calling on employees of state-run enterprises and public institutions to donate money and sweaters.

The Heng'ai Action is a charity project launched in 2005 by the China Children and Teenagers Foundation and Chinese garment producer Heng Yuan Xiang Group. The project has already donated more than 690,000 sweaters to needy children.

Wanda Hotels & Resorts Extends its First Reach to Tianjin with the Grand Opening of Wanda Vista Tianjin

万达文华酒店盛大开业

万达酒店及度假村管理集团在天津的第一家酒店于9月25日盛大开业。万达文华酒店位于河东区海河岸边, 拥有一流的酒店设施, 五星级高水准服务和独一无二的海河景观。

The first luxury hotel owned and managed by Wanda Hotels & Resorts in Tianjin- Wanda Vista Tianjin, and its luxury private club-Club Reign, celebrated their grand opening on 25 September 2013. The hotel is built for up-upper scale five -star construction standards and will be managed by the luxury brand Wanda Vista.

The hotel is located Hedong District, on the banks of the Haihe River, the mother river of Tianjin. It offers 297 elegant guest rooms and suites, 70% of which have river view. The private and exclusive Club Reign is located on the top two floors of Wanda Vista Tianjin for elite members. The glamorous facilities including Legend Chinese Restaurant, Universe KTV, SHUI Spa, Galaxy Bar and wonderful views of Haihe River will create an intimate business environment and make you feel like a real VIP.

China to issue air pollution warnings in Tianjin & Beijing

■ 国家气象局计划在天津北京发布空气污染预警机制

为了应对日益严重的大气污染问题，中国气象局和环保部计划联合对京津地区空气污染建立预警机制。该预警由高到低分为三级。政府计划在2017年前将可吸入颗粒物浓度降低10%，PM2.5浓度降低25%。

China plans to pilot an air quality warning system in the heavily-polluted cities of Beijing, Tianjin and surrounding areas next month amid the country's increasing efforts to tackle the problem.

China Meteorological Administration and the Ministry of Environmental Protection have jointly released the plan that issues an alert at three levels with Level I the highest and Level III the lowest.

When the air quality index is set to reach 500 or beyond, a Level I warning will be issued. Warnings for Level II and III are for when the index is predicted to be between 300 to 500 and 200 to 300 respectively, for three consecutive days.

The plan comes as China is under growing pressure to address the causes of air pollution after heavy smog smothered large swathes of the country early this year.

The government aims to cut the density of inhalable particulate matter by at least 10 percent in major cities nationwide by 2017.

PM 2.5, a key indicator of air pollution, should fall by about 25 percent from 2012 levels in Beijing and surrounding provincial areas by 2017, according to a recent government plan.

Mansion of Princess Heping Courtyard Opened

■ 格格府和平馆开放 四合院原为迎接慈禧太后而建

格格府和平馆昨天在泰安道7号、原英籍犹太人纳森的旧居开放。这座清式四合院原是为迎接慈禧太后而建，如今修旧如旧，整修完成。格格府是天津出生的香港商人戚秀云女士投资修建的私人博物馆，围绕裕德龄格格与慈禧、慈禧与纳森的关联，展出许多古董、家具及其他典藏精品。

The Mansion of Princess located in Gulou Shopping Street, is a private antique museum begun by the Tianjin born businesswoman Zang Xiuyun. The museum's exhibits are all related to Qing Dynasty princess Yu De Ling, Empress Dowager Cixi and the Englishman Edward George Nathan who was the President of Kailuan Mining Bureau. The museum has opened an annexe in Nathan's former residence at No. 7 Tai An Dao. The residence also boasts a Chinese style quadrangle courtyard originally built for the visit of Empress Dowager Cixi.

More Parking Facilities will be Constructed to Ease Parking Tension

■ 天津加快公共停车场建设 出门前将可预约停车位

随着机动车数量的不断增长，本市停车难的问题日益凸显。据了解，目前中心城区道路停车泊位约有两万个，针对一些重点区域停车泊位不足的情况，交管部门还会在不影响正常交通出行的情况下，在一些停车需求较大的路段增设或调整一些停车泊位。今后，本市将重点解决城区配建车位不足、路外公共停车场建设滞后、重点地区停车矛盾突出的问题。

With the ever increasing number of automobiles in Tianjin, the lack of parking spaces has become more and more apparent. The 20,000 parking lots in the downtown area cannot meet current demand, especially in the busiest areas. According to the traffic administrative department, more parking areas are planned for busy roads with the prerequisite that they not affect traffic. In the future, the department will focus on solving the lack of parking facilities with the construction of roadside parking spaces in the key areas that most need them.

The department will enforce parking regulations and favor policies that encourage the construction of more parking spaces. It is planned to build 35 roadside parking areas in the central area with a total of 17,000 new spaces. Eight of the new parking areas will be built near railway stations in order to encourage people to transfer from their car to public transport. The Binhai New Area will receive an additional 39 new parking areas.

Relocated Natural Science Museum to be Opened by the End of the Year

■ 自然博物馆新馆年底开放：大象鲨鱼做SPA搬新家

新的自然博物馆位于天津文化中心、原天津博物馆内，占地面积5万平方米，总建筑面积3.5万平方米，展示面积1.4万平方米，将于年底向社会开放。

The Tianjin Natural Science Museum has relocated to the site of the old Tianjin Museum in the Tianjin Cultural Center. The new site, which has an exhibition area of 14,000 square meters, will be opened to the public by the end of the year.

The moving of exhibits began in May and the 8000 exhibits from the old museum have all been repaired, cleaned and treated to prevent insect damage.

11/1

The Chorus: Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc

19:30

Price: 380/280/180/120/80

放牛班的春天—法国圣马可童声合唱团音乐会

天津大剧院音乐厅

指挥: 尼古拉斯·博特

演出: 法国圣马可童声合唱团

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/1-2

CDrama Mr.and Mrs.Single

19:30

Price: 180/120/80/50

小剧场话剧《离婚男女》

天津大剧院多功能厅

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/1

String Instrument Quartet

20:00

星座之旅—弦乐四重奏音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/2

Yangqin Performance

20:00

—叶知秋音

—卢振炎师生音乐会扬琴表演

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/2-3

Drama Assassin

19:30

Price: 380/280/180/120/80

话剧《刺客》

导演: 林兆华 主演: 高亚麟 濮存昕

天津大剧院歌剧院

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/2

Full-tackle American Football Game!

Tianjin Pirates vs. Shanghai Warriors

Time: 2pm Kickoff

Date: Nov. 2

Venue: Tianjin University of Sport

11/9

String Instrument Quartet

20:00

国风·月下花前

—弦乐四重奏中国作品音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/2, 9, 16, 23, 30

2013 Tianjin Binhai Middle and High-end
Small Scale Recruitment Session

Binhai Exhibition Center

Tel: 65302688

2013天津滨海中高端小规模专场招聘会

滨海新区泰达时尚广场内滨海会展中心

11/9-10

Drama Hi, Mick!

19:30

Price:180/120/80/50

小剧场话剧《Hi, 米克!》

导演: 李宗熹

编剧: 蔡智恒(原著) 李宗熹

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/16

From Baroque to Romanticism

- Tianjin Grand Opera

Orchestra 2013-2014 Series

No.4

16:00

Price: 180/150/120/80/50

从巴洛克风格到浪漫主义—天津歌剧院

交响乐团(天津交响乐团)

2013-2014系列音乐会4

天津大剧院音乐厅

指挥: 萨巴斯蒂安·朗-莱辛

演出: 天津歌剧院交响乐团(天津交

响乐团)

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/30

Classical Music and Prairie

Music Concert

20:00

弦外之音—古典音乐与草原音乐欣赏

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/30

China International Piano Contest Awards Winner Concert

19:30

Price: 180/120/80/50

中国国际钢琴比赛获奖选手音乐会

天津大剧院音乐厅

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/22

Classic Old Movie Theme Song

Concert

20:00

闪烁的回忆

—电影经典怀旧音乐欣赏

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/1-10

CHistorical Europe: Classic Artwork Exhibition

Date: Nov 1 to 10

Venue: Tianjin Western Art Gallery

Add: No. 77, Jie Fang Bei Road, Heping

Ticket: 10RMB

百年欧洲 经典艺术品展

来自英国、法国、德国、意大利、西班牙等欧洲19至20世纪最具有代表性的古典油画、钟表、烛台、家具、灯具、瓷器等经典艺术品200余件

和平区解放北路77号天津西洋美术馆



11/8

The Magic Flute

20:00

魔笛变奏曲——双簧管、大管、钢琴三重奏

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/15

Indoor Movie Theme Song Concert

20:00

乐在光影寻梦时

——室内乐电影音乐专场

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/16

Classic Folk Music Concert

20:00

彩云追月——经典民乐欣赏音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/23-24

Drama The Master Builder

19:30

Price: 380/280/180/120/80

话剧《建筑大师》

天津大剧院歌剧院

编剧: 易卜生 导演: 林兆华

领衔主演: 濮存昕 陶虹

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

11/29

Classical Music String

Instrument Quartet

20:00

秋·意·浓

——古典音乐欣赏弦乐四重奏音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi

Tel: 022-23263505

西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

11/30-12/1

Drama Still Watching Soccer Game?

19:30

Price: 280/180/120/80/50

小剧场话剧《还看球吗?》

天津大剧院多功能厅

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi

Tel: 83882000

天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

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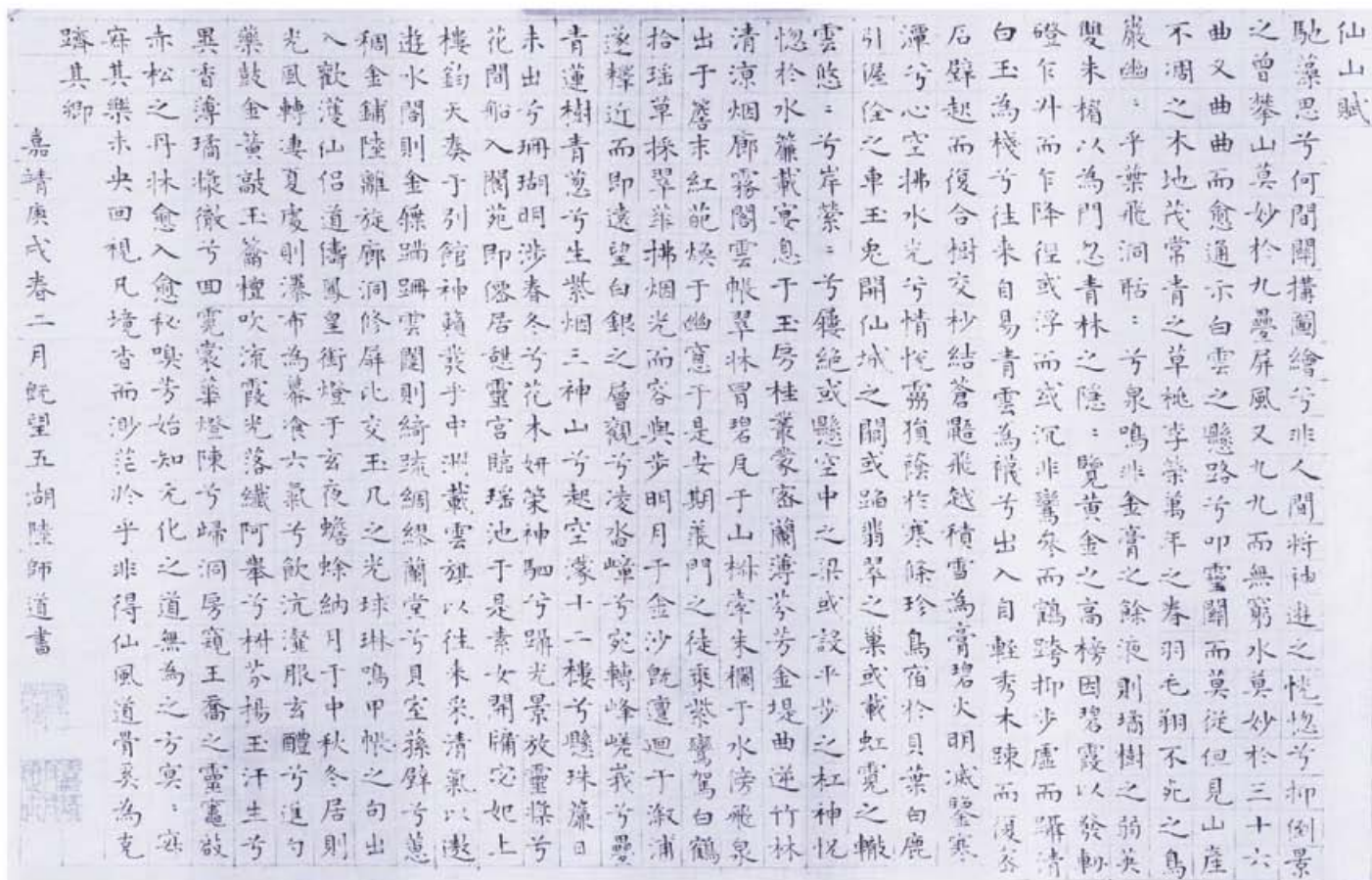


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ARE YOU ILLITERATE? (Maybe you are)

by Paula Taylor

汉字，好难！

你认识汉字吗？也许你认得，但你会写吗？恐怕回答“是”的人就凤毛麟角了。我们最初学中文心态是学会和中国人交流，能听能说就可以了。但是随着学习的深入，我发现这还不够。比如，我在超市购物时想要知道某种产品里是否含糖，我就只能去问理货员，这让我觉得总是给别人添麻烦。所以我决心要学会认字。但从此我像是走上了一条不归路。

我试过很多办法，无论是把这些字写在便签上贴满家里的各个角落还是下载学汉字的电脑程序，对我统统不管用。在我晕头转向的时候，我仿佛看到这些字在跳舞，似乎是在嘲笑我的无能。很多字在我看来长得都一样，比如“我”“找”“钱”，是不是都差不多？

但我发现也有些容易记住的字，因为我能根据它们的形状来判断意思。比如“飞”字就像一只振臂高飞的小鸟；“鼎”字经常出现在高档中餐厅的名字里，形状就像两把椅子支起一张桌子。但在几千个汉字里，这只是九牛一毛。

那我们为什么要花那么多时间和精力去学习汉字呢？很少有人是因为兴趣这么做的，大部分还是现实的需要。现在越来越多的外国人想要在中国发展事业，但找工作可没有以前那么容易。以前的公司高薪招聘外国人主要是为了提升门面，但随着前来淘金的外国求职者不断增多，这张外国脸也不再是香饽饽了。而且，现在很多中国人的外语水平都很高，完全能满足工作需要，工资水平又远低于外国员工，那么企业为何要舍近求远呢？

我有幸找到一家特别的语言学校，这家学校专门帮助外国人通过HSK汉语测试，感觉很像HSK界的“新东方”。这所学校开发了一套学习汉字的手持app软

件，所以你无须随身带着书本，只要用手机或是ipad就可以随时随地练习写字了。它能为你演示每个字的笔画顺序，你还可以在旁边的格子里临摹。这所学校的校长赵蔚介绍说，学习中文没有捷径，必须付出足够的时间和精力。他有一个生动的比喻：学会说中文是你的一条腿，读和写则是另一条腿，有了这两条腿你就可以自由地跑跳了。

这所学校的一个加拿大学生Dionne告诉我们一个故事：“我的中文口语不错，但看不懂汉字，所以我一直无视小区里的通知。但是有一次物业通知业主如果暖气有问题要马上和供热单位联系。因为我没看这个通知，导致错过上门服务的时间。对方在电话里反问我：‘你难道没看通知吗？’我真的是哑口无言。”我很同情她的遭遇，能够认识汉字让我觉得自己非常独立。

去年我们曾经采访过一个研究汉字词源学的美国人，大家都叫他“汉字叔叔”。关于这个问题，没有人比他更有发言权。他告诉我们，学习词源学能够帮助记住汉字，因为你明白汉字演变历史背后的逻辑意义。外国人学习汉字当然困难，因为成年人肯定没有儿童学得容易。由于我们的语言系统不一样，中国学生那种死记硬背的方式可能不适合西方人。那么我们可以通过了解词源来记住汉字。我本想问问他学汉字有什么诀窍，结果他给出的答案是“活到老学到老”。

汉字的字形充满美感，背后的历史文化意义深厚，是宝贵的文明遗产。但是电子科技的普及让年轻人变得提笔忘字。这是非常令人遗憾的事情。但是最近的举办的“中国汉字听写大会”让民众重新对汉字产生兴趣。参赛选手们丰富的汉字储备令人叹为观止，同时也让人们看到了汉字传承的希望。

Are you illiterate? You probably think this is a stupid question, particularly as if you are reading this article, you obviously can read. However my meaning is, when it comes to the Chinese language, are you illiterate? Many foreigners here can speak Chinese and perhaps you are amongst that number, but if you can speak Chinese, can you read it? Maybe you can. If you can read Chinese, can you write it? Not all of us can. I can read many characters, but I can only write a handful, so to some extent I am illiterate. When I first started learning Chinese, I thought it was enough to be able to speak it, after all in any language the most important thing is that we understand what others are saying to us and that we can make ourselves understood by them. I used to get really embarrassed when I had to explain to people that I could not read, for instance in the supermarket, if I wanted to know if there was sugar in something I had to ask a fellow shopper. I always felt as if they were scornful of the fact that I couldn't read and needed their assistance, hence I determined to learn to read. Now I feel that even though I have sweat blood trying to learn these infernal characters, I now realise that it is still not enough. It feels strange to be able to read and not write. English and most other European languages are comparatively easy, you learn the alphabet then you can read and write. Chinese of course isn't like that, instead there are thousands of characters to be learned. Consequently I am now expending even more effort in trying to learn to write them.

Many people have remarked on the ability of African people to master languages quickly, and indeed they seem to race ahead of others learning Chinese too. Learning characters also comes easy to Japanese and Korean people. Japanese has many traditional Chinese characters, and in ancient times Chinese was also spoken by Koreans, so that even today if you go to Korea you can see many signs written in traditional Chinese. Of course now Koreans have their own language but their written characters or Hangeul seem to be based on the same kind of principle as Chinese as they look like pictures, so I think their brains are already hardwired to remember Chinese characters.

Characters are what make the Chinese language so hard for Westerners. There is nothing that we can relate to. English speakers can look at other written European languages and we can sometimes guess the meaning, as these are all Latin based languages and many root words are the same. But where do we start with Chinese, there are no mutual points that we can recognise? If you are learning Chinese characters, have you

ever tried to look up one in a dictionary? Seemingly impossible as you also have to learn the radicals and how many strokes there are to a character before you can look it up. What if you don't know how many strokes a particular character has? Then you can forget it, the dictionary will be of no use to you.

WHY SO DIFFICULT?

Why are characters so difficult for us to learn? I have tried numerous methods, writing them on sticky post it notes and placing them around the house, flashcards, including making my own, computer programmes testing me daily, and various other methods none of which have really worked for me. I don't know why they just won't stick in my brain. There have been times when I have been in absolute despair at my inability to retain them, particularly when I am tired they seem to start dancing on the page. Also it seems to me that so many of them look the same. If I see some similar characters all together, it is clear that they are not the same, but if I separate them, sometimes I really cannot tell the difference between them, which my tutor thinks is ridiculous. For instance (我 (I), 找 (look for) and 钱 (money). Don't they all look similar to you?

Having said this, some characters are really easy to remember because they look like the word they represent. The character to fly is 飞. Doesn't it look exactly like a bird? Another one that I find easy to remember and that can often be found outside high class restaurants is 鼎. It looks like two chairs and a table. It is actually an ancient cooking cauldron with two looped handles. There are other characters which I like so I can remember. 曾 is really cute because it has a face and looks a little angry. 乒乓 are the

characters for Ping-Pong (table tennis) and I find them really to recognise too. 凸, means convex or to stick out and the bit at the top really does stick out. One character I think is really obvious is 哭, which means to cry and if you look closely you will see a teardrop coming out of the right hand "eye". Anyway apart from these easy to recognise ones, there are thousands of others that I cannot memorise. Nobody seems sure as to exactly how many characters there are, and if you ask ten people, you will get ten different answers.

A DYING ART

An unusual problem regarding characters is also worrying teachers and experts alike. Now with the technological age, there is less and less need to write characters and because so many youngsters text or type emails, which just means typing pinyin and it will automatically change to characters, they are losing the ability to write. What a tragedy, thousands of years of culture is being eroded by the very things that are supposed to advance us as a society. In the eyes of many people, this is not advancement but rather a step back.

If you go into Shui Shang Park in the early morning, you will see many people writing beautiful characters with huge paintbrushes, they actually use water to write poems and wise sayings. One particularly talented man uses one hand to write English and the other to write Chinese. The problem is they are all old people, all past retiring age. There are no young people that have this hobby and if you ask anyone below 30, they will confess that their handwriting is not good. Text speak has murdered the English language, it seems a pity that it will also do the same to Chinese, at least as far as characters are concerned.



An old man is practicing characters on the ground.

DO WE REALLY NEED TO LEARN CHARACTERS?

Actually there is no simple answer to this question and there is no right or wrong answer. It of course depends on your motive for being here, and whether or not your future career can be helped by speaking, reading and writing Chinese. I found out recently to my great surprise that it is no longer enough to just speak good Chinese. There has been a great sea change in the job market here. Before, companies were falling over themselves to recruit foreigners. They didn't particularly care where they came from or what skills they had. Having a foreigner in the company gave them face and showed that they were prosperous enough to pay the high salaries that foreigners demanded. Now however, there are more foreigners that are interested in coming to work in China and the market is swamped, so unfortunately we are now two a penny. Also Chinese children are starting to learn English at kindergarten level, so the number of Chinese people who can speak fluent English is rising rapidly. Why should a company now employ an illiterate foreigner when they can employ a bilingual Chinese at a much lower salary? Hence the bar is being raised and any foreigner who can read and write Chinese is now very much on the wish list of companies that are looking to employ a foreigner.

This is not to say that if you are totally illiterate you will not be able to get employment, indeed there are many foreigners employed here as say English teachers who do not need to speak Chinese. In fact in their case the schools do not actually want them to be able to speak Chinese, as it will hinder the students from speaking English all the time. There are also many executives and hotel managers who do not speak Chinese and have great jobs, but these people have desirable irreplaceable skills so they can control that particular job market. It may also be that you are in the right place at the right time and have the right connections, and will be handed a great job on a plate, without knowing any Chinese. However this kind of situation is becoming more and more rare, as Chinese companies are now demanding more value for money.

Students wishing to come here to study majors like Chinese medicine find that for one year they have to study Chinese extremely diligently, before they can even start to learn the basics in their chosen majors.

I was initially put off learning characters when I started to learn in school here because the teachers rigidly stuck to the text books which were of no use to us at all. In the reading class we had to read things like "The

Why should a company now employ an illiterate foreigner when they can employ a bilingual Chinese at a much lower salary?

temperature in Beijing is 35 degrees today. In Tianjin the temperature is also 35 degrees today. In Shanghai....." blah blah blah. The book went on to list numerous cities and their temperatures and other weather conditions. I asked the teacher if she could teach us to read things like labels in supermarkets, things that could really help our day to day life in China. For instance I would have found it really helpful to know which foods were spicy. Or if I had a cold, what kind of medicine I should look for at the pharmacy. The teacher told us she had to teach the textbook even though she admitted it was of no use to us at all. I quit that class and gave up studying characters for a while.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SCHOOL

As I had such a negative experience studying characters at school, a friend persuaded me to go along to have a look at his school, which is located at the Ao Cheng complex. What I saw and learned there surprised me. The school mainly focuses on passing the HSK, they are specialists in it, although there are also many students who just go in order to have a spoken Chinese

class. The HSK is the government approved aptitude test for Chinese and previously I thought it was really scary. However I spoke to Mr. Yang, who has been teaching HSK for 14 years and so is the school's most experienced teacher, and he explained that they can get a student through the HSK 4 or 5 (there are six levels), within three months. The student just needs to spend 1½ hours at school every day and then spend a further two hours studying at home. For students this would be no problem, after all they are here to study, but for busy people who are working most of the day already, many of whom have families, to expect them to spend this huge amount of time studying is unrealistic. However the school also has the answer to this problem, but more about that later.

Mr. Yang confirmed that the school's Western students found it a lot harder to take in and concentrate on characters than their Korean and Japanese counterparts, although our spoken Chinese, particularly our accent is much better than theirs. The Asian students already have a head start, not only because they are already familiar with Chinese characters, but also because their brains and education system are already geared up to adopt the kind of repetitious learning that is needed to absorb characters. We get bored and give up when we do not immediately get results. Also Japanese and Korean students have a bigger motive than us for applying themselves to learning characters. If their Chinese is good in all aspects, they can find a good job in their own countries. I have noted that even in England, the larger, expensive shops like Harrods and Selfridges and the luxury brands are now asking for sales assistants who speak Chinese.



The character studying APP

Regarding the HSK, in fact there is one form of the HSK which can be studied on the internet, thereby avoiding the use of characters and guess which group of people is most likely to use that? Mr. Yang told me a crucial point, they first find out why someone wants to learn Chinese, and then they can tailor the course accordingly for each individual. The bigger schools and universities are not able to cater for individual students and the classes are large. The quieter students or those with less ability to learn characters are overwhelmed and swallowed up (me!). Of course why you want to learn Chinese has a big effect on the way you learn and the speed at which you learn – simple but true.

I also gleaned some very important information from the school's founder, Zhao Peng. He gave me one of the best quotes I have ever heard. He said "If you learn to speak Chinese, it is like having one leg. You will be able to walk with the aid of crutches but not very well. Reading and writing characters gives you the other leg. You need two legs in order to be able to run and jump". Really this is so true. Speaking Chinese enables you to live fairly comfortably without having to rely on other people. However reading and writing opens far more doors and takes you to another level as far as independent living is concerned.

Mr. Zhao went on to explain the difficulties involved in learning characters, "When you start learning Chinese you basically have to learn two languages as it were. You learn pinyin in order to be able to pronounce the words and then just as you are familiar with pinyin, you find it is not enough and then you also have to learn characters". Mr. Zhao has the distinction of opening the first privately owned school that is able to provide study visas. He takes his responsibilities very seriously and even though he is the owner and founder of the school with numerous employees, he takes it upon himself to meet the students at the airport, and personally takes them to the health centre to have the health check carried out. If you came here to study, remember that nightmare trip to the hospital? It is something that is indelibly engraved on my memory and I shudder every time I think of it, hence this personal service is a really big deal. Mr. Zhao says his school emphasises the HSK test, because in time it will become as important for gauging proficiency in Chinese, as the TOEFL or IELTS English test is. As the eyes of the world's business markets are turning to China, it is easy to believe that speaking, reading and writing good Chinese is highly desirable. The Confucius Institute, which is a government backed initiative, is currently on a drive in many countries to persuade people of the benefits of learning Chinese.



Zhao Peng, the school founder

If you learn to speak Chinese, it is like having one leg. You will be able to walk with the aid of crutches but not very well. Reading and writing characters gives you the other leg. You need two legs in order to be able to run and jump

Mr. Zhao emphasised that the HSK is now much easier than it was, and this is deliberate, the government is keenly interested in helping foreigners advance in the Chinese language and it was recognised that it was simply too hard for most Westerners. "If we can get the students interested in Chinese characters, they will be far more motivated and will progress much more quickly. Part of that motivation process involves speeding up their learning and once they see how far and how quickly they have progressed, they will want to personally strive even harder".

Adding to the difficulty of Westerners not being familiar with the concept of using pictures to read, the fact is even when we study we are not exposing ourselves to characters enough. Mr. Zhao pointed out that sometimes even Chinese people will occasionally come across a character that they do not know, or at least do not know how to write, simply because of lack of use. He stresses that there is no simple way to learn characters as everybody absorbs information

differently. However what is clear is that there is no way to avoid spending time on this and it goes without saying that the more time you spend, the more characters you will learn.

For those busy busy busy businessmen, there is a tool that the school has developed which you can download to your Apple device, which is perfectly designed to help you learn characters, even if you just have five minutes a day to spare. You can download this by logging on to the school's website, www.NOMMOC.com.

I also spoke to one of the students at the school, Dionne, a Canadian lady, she said "My Chinese is now not bad, I am learning just for survival purposes, it makes things easier if you live here. At first it was very frustrating but now I can get around and use the language. I tried twice to learn characters but I did not really want to spend that much time learning to read and write, although people have suggested to me that at the very least I learn to read. I agree I am illiterate when it comes to Chinese".

Although Dionne has lots of Chinese friends who are willing to help out when she gets stuck, like me she also discovered the hard way what it means not to be able to read. There are always notices pinned up in the lobby of the apartments and I always used to ignore them. However once the notice was urging us to contact the central heating people to make an appointment in order to sort the heating out. As usual I ignored it as I couldn't read it, and the result was my heating did have a problem but they were not willing to come out as the time for appointments had already passed. "Didn't you read the notice?" they asked me when I phoned to complain that nobody had come. What could I say? Should I have admitted "I am a foreigner and cannot read"? It was too humiliating. Dionne says that she now asks what the notices say. I am happy to report that I can now read them myself. She also agrees with me that our brains work in different ways and there are different pathways for different functions, so maybe Westerners do not have the necessary mapping in order for characters to stick in our heads. Being able to read means that you can go to a restaurant and know exactly what to order. Which reminds me, the character for dog is 狗 gǒu. Of course I avoid places that sell dog meat, and so for the first two years after I came here I avoided 狗不理 gǒu bù lǐ bāozi because I thought they used dog meat. I now know that no dogs are used in the making of their bāozi!! Think also how great it must be to be able to read the signs at the bus stop. Really to be able to read is to be almost totally independent.



Uncle Hanzi

A TRUE FOREIGN EXPERT

You may remember that in September of last year we featured an article about Richard Sears, otherwise known as Uncle Hanzi. His life's work has been the study of Chinese characters and helping other people to study them. When I read the article, I noted a point which definitely confirms something. Richard was presented with an award and at the ceremony he was introduced to two scholars, the 90 year old Nobel Prize winner for literature, Xu Yuanchong, and Xu Jialu, the 74 year old expert in Chinese character information processing development. As you can see both these men are advanced in years, which confirms that generally young people are not interested in Chinese characters. However there is a glimmer of hope. There is now a kind of Chinese character Olympics competition on TV and middle school children are being encouraged to participate. It really is not easy as the characters they are asked to write are obscure, and no doubt being under public scrutiny is not an aid to memory! If you want to check it out you can look at it on Baidu, you can type in "Chinese Character Conference" and it will immediately bring up several episodes.

As a foreigner who is used to the study of Chinese characters, I thought Richard would be the best person to unlock their secrets. This is what he told me. "Originally the reason I became interested in studying Chinese was because I realized that only 7% of the world spoke English so I wanted to learn a foreign language. I can read both simplified and traditional characters, although I read slowly. Studying the etymology of characters has helped me remember them, because if you know the history the characters will make logical sense. The reason it is so difficult for Westerners to retain characters is quite simple, we do not learn as children and it is much more difficult to learn as adults. It is not a requirement for us all to study etymology in order to remember characters, because

Why should a company now employ an illiterate foreigner when they can employ a bilingual Chinese at a much lower salary?

Chinese children learn by memorization only. However having said that, a good method of learning characters is to study their etymology!!" I asked him if he had any more good advice for us and his answer was "活到老学到老" which means loosely translated means live until you are old, study until you are old, i.e. the studying process is a never ending one. Richard confirms that characters are inextricably bound up with history and culture. In fact if we study characters, it will definitely help us to understand Chinese culture and vice versa.

He also confirmed that to be able to read a newspaper will mean putting a lot of effort into studying. Once again the question of time rears its ugly head. The last word from this expert is Chinese people are not

hardwired from birth, but they get hardwired after about 15 years of speaking and writing Chinese.

It is hoped that this article will help you to see the benefits of either studying characters, or putting more effort into your current studying. Although it means a lot of hard work, being able to read and write is surely worth it. Characters are beautiful, they are mysterious, characters are full of history and meaning and definitely should not be avoided. After all at least in China it is a lot easier to study characters as they are simplified. If you went to Taiwan or Hong Kong you would have to study traditional characters – they would really make your brain go into meltdown. Actually although Chinese people think that traditional characters are beautiful, the reality is that the ability to read them is dying out and the younger generations of children are either totally unable to read them or will be unable to read them in the near future.

Richard's assistant said that characters are like old friends that he comes into contact with regularly. At the moment I feel that characters are an enemy to be conquered, they hate me and I hate them. However, I look forward to the time when if someone asks me if I can read and write I will be able to confidently say "Yes I am not illiterate". How about you, are you illiterate?



Uncle Hanzi's etymology book



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一对德国兄弟的“天津故事”

在一次特殊的聚会上，我们遇到了两位年事已高的德国老人，时隔62年之后他们回到了被他们称为“故乡”的天津。虽然这62年中天津发生了翻天覆地的变化，但他们儿时的回忆历历在目。当回到了童年居住的“德国大院”故地重游时，二位老人又坐回那几级台阶上，留下“穿越”68年的合影。

两位老人叫海因茨·黑斯卢普和罗尔夫·黑斯卢普。哥哥海因茨生于1939年，今年74岁，弟弟罗尔夫今年72岁。

他们的太姥爷叫做乔治·瑞德（Georg Ritter），是“利顺德大饭店豪华精选酒店”的早期创建人。他从1883年至1903年担任饭店总经理20余年，和德璀琳一起主持了利顺德从“泥屋”栈房到豪华楼宇的修建，使小小的泥屋一跃成为天津最时尚的西式酒店。

这时弟弟罗尔夫还讲了个故事，1900年八国联军入侵的时候，乔治·瑞德奋力保护利顺德饭店的员工以及逃难而来的普通市民，将他们藏在利顺德的地下室里。这个举动使得许多天津百姓免受战争的摧残。战事逐渐平息后，这些被救的天津民众为了感谢乔治·瑞德先生的救命之恩，还特意送了礼物表示感激。从此乔治·瑞德一家和天津的感情就变得越来越深厚。此外，乔治·瑞德回国后，还将他在德国威斯巴登市的住所命名为“天津公馆”，可见他对在天津这段生活的无限怀念。

如果追溯这对兄弟对天津的情愫，其实应该从他们的父母说起。对于这对兄弟的父母来说，在中国的日子是自由自在而充满乐趣的。他们骑着普利茅斯牌的德国自行车或坐着马车、驴车在天津的大街小巷中穿梭，在德国俱乐部聚会，在马场道赛马，在海河进行划船比赛，在海河下游打猎等等，在天津的这段生活虽然短暂却很精彩。

特别值得一提的是他们的父母是1929年5月11日在天津康利迪运动俱乐部（俗称德国俱乐部，现政协俱乐部）结婚。这家俱乐部就是现在的政协俱乐部，是当时德国高级侨民和社会上层人士的主要活动和社交场所。

说完他们的父母再说说海因茨和罗尔夫两兄弟，这对兄弟也在天津度过了一段难以忘怀的童年时光，特别是弟弟罗尔夫就出生在天津。他们当年的家就在现在的福建路23号，当年叫做“德国大院”。两人的童年就在这个大宅院里度过。

两位老人至今还会说一些简单的中文词汇和句子。罗尔夫说年幼时自己常常在德租界里玩，平时只能见到一些手艺人来到家里修房子、修家具。他特别佩服天津的“木匠”，他说每次“木匠”修缮家里门窗的时候，他总在旁边目不转睛地看着。

不过比起“木匠”，还有个手艺人更受罗尔夫老先生以及当年租界里的小伙伴们欢迎，他就是“磨剪子戗菜刀”的老师傅。罗尔夫说每次老师傅经过家门口，孩子们都会被吆喝声吸引。说到这里，罗尔夫手舞足蹈地模仿起磨刀的动作，声情并茂地用天津话喊了一句：“磨剪子磨刀……”。

老先生最后说，等到几十年以后，自己走不动了，要让自己的孙子再来天津，续写这份“中德情”。



Heinz & Rolf Haesloop Newchwang Road | 1945

At the 150th anniversary celebration of Tianjin's Astor Hotel, I was lucky enough to meet two German brothers who had spent their childhood in Tianjin. Though it had been 62 years since they had left, their childhood memories of old Tianjin were still vivid. Seventy four year old Heinz and seventy two year old Rolf Haesloop lived at No.23 Fu Jian Dao, then called the German Courtyard, over 60 years ago. They were born into a privileged family that was influential in old Tianjin. Their great grandfather, George Ritter, was one of the founders of the Astor Hotel.

The Astor Hotel started life as a humble one storey structure known as the Mud House. Over his 20 years tenure managing the Astor, Mr. Ritter rebuilt the Mud House and transformed it into the most fashionable hotel in Tianjin. Heinz remembered meeting people of many different backgrounds. As he recounted, "At that time, there were Americans, Germans, Englishmen and Chinese all looking for new lifestyles coming to stay or dine at the Astor. Although they spoke different languages, they always smiled and greeted each other. The atmosphere was so harmonious. I never encountered any quarrel caused by cultural differences."

Rolf also told a story. In 1900 during the invasion of Eight-Power Allied Forces, Mr. Ritter sheltered with some local citizens in the basement of the Astor. After the fighting stopped, the locals who had been saved by Mr. Ritter showed their appreciation with presents. Since then, the emotional bond between the Ritters and Tianjin remains strong. When George Ritter went back to Germany, he named his residence Tianjin Mansion in memory of his life in Tianjin.

The brothers' parents were married in Tianjin in 1929. Their wedding was held at Club Concordia which was at Jie Fang Nan Lu. The club was established soon after Germany acquired its concession in Tianjin. It was originally in a four level building in Victoria Street. However, as the German population increased, a larger social center was needed, so it was relocated to the current site. The four

German Brothers Revisiting their Childhood Home after 62 Years

By Du Kun and Qi Yafei



American Heinz & Rolf Haesloop in their old house, 2013

towers with sharp peaks represented classic German architectural style and were completed in July 1907. The club was the main social center for the high-class German residents and Tianjin's social elite with facilities such as a theatre, meeting rooms, bar, restaurant, chess and reading room. The Haesloop brothers were not permitted into the club as it was adults only. However, they found their fun in other places.

Life in Tianjin was carefree and happy for the boys and their parents. They often went out on their Plymouth bicycles or in a carriage to the watch horse racing at Ma Chang Dao or boat racing in Haihe. They had parties at Club Concordia and hunted downstream along the Haihe River. Although they were only a few short years in Tianjin, it was a time of happy memories.

The two brothers became very excited



It was a major part of their childhood with memories that have been carved out of every one of the bricks in the old house. For decades, they have been thinking of coming back "home".

when talking about the boat racing. Rolf recalled 60 years ago, the Haihe River seemed to be wider and several ships could sail side by side. Rowers of different nationalities participated in the events but the Germans were always the strongest and smartest crews of all. Rolf still feels proud: "We always defeated the English team! I developed passion in sports when I was little because of my father. And I became an enthusiastic rowing amateur just like him."

I was shown a picture of the brothers sitting in the doorway of the old house in Tianjin. In the picture, Heinz was six and Rolf was four. They left Tianjin six years later. On their first trip back to Tianjin, they revisited the old house and took a picture in the same place. I asked Heinz what came to mind when he thought about Tianjin. He thought for a while and said one word: "Home". He couldn't help shedding tears when he returned to

Tianjin and recalled his childhood. To the brothers, Tianjin was not just a city or a place where they had stayed for a while. It was a major part of their childhood with memories that have been carved out of every one of the bricks in the old house. For decades, they have been thinking of coming back "home".

Although 60 years have passed, they could still speak some Chinese. Rolf told us that he rarely left the German Concession and had little contact with Chinese people outside this area. The only Chinese he knew were the calls of the craftsmen and tradesmen who came to fix the furniture and the house. He admired the Chinese carpenters and loved to watch them as they were doing their jobs. His parents were also amazed by the carpenter's craftsmanship.

Rolf and his mates were very excited each time a particular old man came to their community. He was the knife sharpener. In China, people touted their skills by calling out their particular specialty as they walked up and down the street. The knifeman called out "yao he 吆喝". The "yaohe" was drawn out like he was singing and the sound of it drew all the children out to see him working. Rolf showed us how the man sharpened the knife and imitated his "yaohe" in the Tianjin dialect: "Mo jianzi mo dao.". It made me think that it is so sad that the old ways of doing business in the city are slowly dying out.

Rolf also recalled a tongue-twister he learned in Tianjin. When he tried to pronounce every word correctly, he sounded just like the child he must have been 62 years ago. The brothers have made an agreement to send their grandchildren to see Tianjin when they are too old to travel. The bond they have with our city is so special that they want to make sure it is not lost to the family.



The boat race in Haihe River

长假经济

长假制度的初衷是为了刺激消费者花钱。但随着中国人民可支配收入的增多，国内旅游景点开始人满为患，交通堵塞动辄数公里。据天津本地新闻报道，今年十一黄金周期间，全国共接待游客3124.51万人次。中国各地的旅游景点人山人海，虽然很多普通百姓对此感到颇为烦恼，但是对中国的经济来说实际上却是一个鼓舞人心的迹象。

今年，我选择在“十一”期间去香港和深圳旅游。虽然我对酒店价格上涨已经做好心理准备，但是询问之后，忽然发现所有平日价格亲民的酒店全部超出我的预算。摸了摸自己干瘪的钱包，我只得悻悻离开，搬进香港街边一家不起眼的小旅店。旅店房间之小、环境之差，简直令我震惊！

回到天津之后，朋友们都对我的“十一”遭遇感到十分同情。我却对此不以为然，这种现象从一个侧面说明中国人民生活水平已经得到普遍提高，旅游经济发展已经到突飞猛进的阶段。以下是我从当地新闻收集到的数据：

今年“十一”长假的前两天，中国主要旅游景点游客数量较上年同期增长18.8%，略低于去年“十一”长假期间21%的增幅。但据美银美林(Bank of America-Merrill Lynch)经济学家陆廷说，今年的增幅高于2011年的8.8%和2010年的6.5%。

其他数据也显示了类似的状况。10月1日，也就是“十一”长假的第一天，中国铁路客流量达1,030万人次。据政府数据显示，这较上年同期增长了13.2%。

和旅游景点一样，对中国旅游类股票的投资也人满为患。举例来讲，旅行预订网站携程旅行网(Ctrip.com International)今年以来股价上涨了一倍以上，目前(根据今年的预期每股收益计算的)市盈率超过63倍。投资者仍应该对强劲的旅游数据感到高兴，因为它显示出中国消费者非常活跃。

作为衡量消费活动的一个指标，旅游数据可能优于官方发布的零售额数据。零售额数据由中国国家统计局发布，政府统计人员剔除了各种消费服务的数据，而将一些政府采购包括在内。2013年前八个月的零售额较上年同期增长了12.8%。

因此，我对中国旅游经济发展的上升势头一点也不担心。相比之下，我反而更加关心另外一个问题：中国是否应该考虑抛弃现行长假安排呢？

BUDGET TRAVEL

by Paula Taylor



Tianjin Bin Jiang Dao

I know that weekends and holiday times are the most expensive time to travel and to stay in hotels, and I wonder why this is. Is it because they have to pay staff extra? If it is I can understand this, but why is it so much more expensive?

Recently I went to Hong Kong when it was the national holiday in China. The plane tickets usually costs around 1,600 rmb to fly directly to Hong Kong. This time however it was 2,400rmb and that was just to fly to

Shenzhen, so I also had to add the long distance coach fare both ways. If that wasn't bad enough hotel prices were also sky high. I usually stay in a three star hotel which normally costs between 350 and 450HKD per night. This time they were asking almost 700HKD. That particular hotel just wasn't worth it, but all the other hotels had dramatically increased their prices too.

This led me to have an interesting experience. My friend found a very cheap

hotel for me which, I recognised that by its name was part of a famous American chain of hotels, so I thought it would be fine. Its name was **** Hotel. When I got to Hong Kong I had difficulty finding it and I was besieged on all sides by people asking me if I wanted to buy "Rolex" watches or have clothes made. Then suddenly a man asked me where I was looking for and I told him the name of the hotel. He said "Follow me", which I did as it was broad daylight, but he led me into a warren of a building, where there were lots of vendors all jumping out at me. The corridors twisted and turned and I was starting to get worried. Finally we reach a set of elevators and he told me to go up to the 10th floor. I noticed on the sign my hotel actually said **** Hostel, not Hotel. There is a big difference between a hostel and a hotel. I realised I had let myself be blinded by the cheapness of the place.

At reception they were pleasant enough and asked for a 20 HKD deposit. That also should have alerted me to what kind of place it was. After all if it was only possible to do 20 dollars' worth of damage, what on earth would I find in the room? He gave me a tiny key, like a locker key. When I opened the door to my room, I realised that actually the key was suitable as the room was indeed a locker! It was so small that I could lie on the bed and touch the opposite walls without even stretching my arms out. I asked where the air conditioning was and I was shown an electric fan. I also had to ask to rent a towel as there were none in the room, but they provided one free. I was really shocked by the size and decided to ask at another "hotel" in the same building with the promising sounding name of "Royal ***** Hotel". It was even worse than the one I was staying in. I was totally depressed and went for a walk. Suddenly I spotted a decent hotel and decided to go in and check their room rates. For a normal room on that Saturday night it was 2,600 HKD. After the receptionist told me the price, I tried not to let him see me gulp, gathered up my dignity and walked out. He probably knew I was not the kind of person to have enough funds so as to be a guest at that hotel on that particular night, although normally this hotel would not be out of my price range. I sensed a certain pride in his voice as he quoted the price to me, as if to tell me that they were a high class establishment (at least for one day) hence the high price.

Back at my "hotel" the Manager told me I was lucky that I had pre-booked as their prices had gone up this weekend too. When I asked why, he told me it was because it was National Holiday in Mainland China, but was it a holiday in Hong Kong too, or were they just cashing in?

From my "cell", I mean room, I Skyped my friend and told her that the hotel she had helped me book was a nightmare

From my "cell", I mean room, I Skyped my friend and told her that the hotel she had helped me book was a nightmare. I was typing such things like "I am afraid someone will murder me so I have wedged my suitcase up against the door". She thought that she might never see me again. I did however survive the night and when I went to check out the Manager asked me how everything was. I told him it was a little noisy, backpackers had arrived at all hours of the night and seemed to be congregating outside my door, or, actually it is more accurate to say they had not particularly chosen my door as a meeting place just to disturb me, rather, as the place was so small, they had no choice. The Manager told me many people booked rooms at his hotel but left immediately after seeing how small they were.

I found myself defending the hotel. "What do they expect for that price? If they want a five star hotel, they will have to pay five star prices. The main thing is this hotel is very



Travel Industry Going Up.

clean!" The Manager gratefully thanked me and I realised that actually it wasn't that bad. Upon reflecting I now think that it was a very interesting experience and one I wouldn't mind repeating. When I got back to Tianjin my friends started to sympathise with me, but I told them that we should all book rooms there. "But you said it was terrible, why would you want to go back?" they asked me. Apart from the fact that I was worried about being murdered, and that the room was tiny, and the corridor noisy etc. it really wasn't bad, particularly because of the low price (usually 160HKD), where can you find that kind of price in Hong Kong? I think I will go back just to prove it wasn't a dream. I am fascinated by

the fact that they can turn such a small space into a room. My Japanese friend did not think it was strange, after all Tokyo has had capsule hotels for a long time so they are used to small rooms.

After this I stopped over in Shenzhen as I had an early flight from the airport there and the hotel was just five minutes away. I had booked a deluxe single room for 228rmb but when I got there I saw there also had king size rooms. After the Hong Kong experience I wanted a larger space so for just an extra 50rmb, I upgraded and they gave me a huge room that was more like a suite with a huge bathroom and a desk with a computer. Sometimes budget travel is exactly that, no frills and just the basics, but sometimes you do get frills, and good service is priceless.



Holiday Economy

I sensed a certain pride in his voice as he quoted the price to me, as if to tell me that they were a high class establishment (at least for one day) hence the high price.

关键的一步

最近我参加了一个关于新兴经济体之间差异的论坛。这个论坛把新兴经济体分为几个类型：最不发达市场、发达市场和发展中市场。其中讨论的最多的是发展中市场的问题，这些经济体如何能进一步发展成工业化经济体，是经济增长率，出口量，还是人口素质？经过几个小时的讨论，我们达成了一致的意见。发展中经济体需要变革，这种变革不在于政府，而在于各个企业自身的机制改革。有几个问题是企业必须注意的，否则很有可能倒退到不发达经济的状态。

(1) 外来务工人员：例如在中国，越来越多的农业人口进城务工。同时，他们的流动性很大，企业往往要每隔几个月就对新员工进行一次培训。所以不妨多雇佣本地工人，哪怕他们的技术水平略逊一筹，但他们更加稳定。(2) 企业扩张：真正的扩张不在于新盖了多少办公楼和厂房，而在于优化运营，减少成本的同时提高质量和生产力。(3) 组织架构：由于文化的原因，亚洲企业内部的组织架构是纵向的。任何决定和决策都是从最高管理者层层下达的。这样的中央集权架构往往使决策传达和实施的速度都变得很慢。(4) 材料供应：虽然我们都知道大规模采购原材料可以获得更优惠的价格，但是这也存在弊端，因为买卖双方都必须保持运营的持续稳定。所以保持稳定的订货量才是最佳政策。(5) 文化：亚洲人对“面子”十分看重。在企业里，很多时候也因为要顾及大家的“面子”而很少公开讨论某个人的错误。所以，很多时候企业宁愿花钱掩盖也不愿意损害员工的“面子”。(6) 工人：很多企业对于基层工人重视不够，认为他们可以随时被取代。这样的想法会降低工人的忠诚度，长期以往对企业十分不利。(7) 奖惩制度：很多企业的评优评奖都是由主管决定的，但这很容易因为主观因素产生不公平的结果。其实这是因为企业对主管缺乏有效的激励，而导致完全凭经验论资排辈。其实，无论年轻与否，只要有出色的技能和能力就可以当领导。

The New Leap Forward



Manufacturing is a major economic support in China.

I recently attended a seminar discussing the difference between emerging and newly industrialized nations. I especially enjoyed the following workshop which concluded with the finding that the world economy is now mostly divided into four market categories as follows:

- Least developed markets; which are those known for high poverty, low human development, economic vulnerability and high risk. These are the absolute frontier of

economy and trading these markets must be with extreme care and under studied and controlled conditions. Examples are Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

- Advanced markets; which have developed economies and fully functional financial and legal systems ensuring smooth economic operation. These are the safest but also least profitable investment targets since they have reached or nearly reached the level of saturation in most services and products.

Examples are Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

- Developing markets; which are the countries where most investment is going on these days and where risk is generally acceptable compared to the potential revenue. This category is divided into two sub-categories:

- Emerging countries; that are moving steadily towards an advanced economy and can potentially graduate one day to become an advanced economy. These countries usually have a long way to go before they are ready for final transition and usually have shortcomings that need to be addressed. Examples are: Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand.

- Newly industrialized countries; that have moved closer to becoming advanced economies and only have few adjustments needed to overcome. These countries might within the next two decades be able to graduate to advanced economies if swift measures are taken. Examples are China, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The discussion about least developed and advanced markets was short and to the point. We all knew what was what. However, when it came to discussing developing markets and classifying the difference between emerging and newly industrialized markets, the discussion grew hotter.

What makes an emerging market move up the ladders into an industrial nation? Is it just growth rate? Is it human development? Is it export amount? Well, through several hours of discussion, we reached consensus on what would change emerging countries into industrial ones. The changes in our opinion are institutional rather than governmental. In other words, if every company or factory implements these changes, then the whole country can move forward. This also applies the other way around, in other words, if industrial nations fail at implementing these measures, they risk falling back the ladder and returning to emerging status. So here are the seven issues that need to be addressed at the company level to advance the economy at the country level.

1) Migration: It might not be viewed as a problem, but the constant migration of workers from the countryside to the more advanced cities can cause long-run problems to corporations and even the government. It seems that low-skilled workers who migrate from around the country to larger cities do not have a strong relationship with the location and after the yearly migration during the Chinese New Year, a large number might

not return to their employers simply because they have found a better job elsewhere. This makes the workforce insecure and results in management constraints when planning training sessions for example because the management is not sure whether they will have to repeat the whole thing again in some months' time. The solution for this is to try to hire local workers as much as possible even if they are less skilled or would take a higher wage. Training them would pay because they will be more attached to the location and would think twice before leaving to a different location if they have a good job close to home.

2) Expansion: Treating expansion as a purely investment issue is a problem that needs to be faced ASAP. Companies have and will always be able to expand without paying for new building, factories and hiring more workers. True expansion lies in operations optimization and cutting costs while increasing quality and productivity. True profit lies in making more money without spending any. Optimization is the key.

3) Organization: I know that each part of the world prefers doing things in their own culturally sound way, but there are some severe short comings in Asia when it comes to organizational structures. Namely, the pyramid vertical management and decision making system. This is when every manager leads a team according to directions dictated from the manager above who in turn gets orders from directors who take orders from the top of the organization. This is a highly centralized method of decision making and a strong functional management system that has been upgraded gradually into the matrix structure in most western organizations. The

The idea that workers HAVE to work because they need the money and the idea that a worker can be replaced by any other worker in-need is disastrous on the company before the community.



main problem with this systems is that it takes a long time to take decisions and even longer to implement them. Horizontal and matrix organizations have a strong advantage when it comes to being dynamic and taking quick steps for sudden changes.

4) Supply: It's common around the world that buying any product of material in large batches can offer better pricing but there is a downside because both the buyer and seller are then required to run their factories continuously for the duration of the product manufacturing and then either stop the lines or start manufacturing a different batch of the same or a different product. This is a nightmare from the hiring, purchasing and operations point of view. The concept of continuous supply is a definite alternate that needs to be studied here. If the same batch is ordered but manufacturing and delivery are divided along a time frame, then it would provide continuity and steady operation for both the buyer and the receiver.

5) Culture: It is widely known that in some nations culturally acceptable actions might not be in an economic sense. For example, the notion that "business is business" might be unclear to some managers and policy makers. Take the "Mianzi" idea for instance. It means "face" which is an important concern to Chinese managers and workers alike. Openly discussing mistakes made by an operator for example might lead to "losing face" which is comparable to the western idea of "humiliation". The difference is, when you make a mistake in a western company, you know what's coming for you and if you're a professional you'd take responsibility for your action without feeling that you have lost your dignity and can't in the future "face" your co-workers. This issue can cause many factories and institutions to lose money in order to avoid infuriating the entire work force which can be a disaster especially in advanced manufacturing facilities where skilled labor is a rare finding.

6) Workers: All companies and governments talk-the-talk about how workers are an important aspect in advancement. However, when it comes to walking-the-walk, many are quick to consider skilled labor a secondary element and insist on using machines whenever possible before resorting to training and paying more attention to the workers well-being. The idea that workers HAVE to work because they need the money and the idea that a worker can be replaced by any other worker in-need is disastrous on the company before the community. This reduces worker loyalty and would certainly come back to bite the company and maybe the country. "Workers come before machines" is what I always say and I stand by it till the end.

7) Compensation: The salary system used by most companies in China might be open to some modifications that can boost quality and productivity. For example, I have been faced many times with companies that refuse to implement a bonus system. The reason they have is that "internal competition" might be bad for worker morale and that operators might feel that such system would be unjust or unfair. The problem lies in operators working at a lower than optimum pace and quality because there is no real incentive to give their best. Relying on experience alone to decide who is best is an old way of doing business. We are in the age on the young and if a young worker is giving me better work than an older colleague, then by all means the younger worker should be the boss to be able to supervise and help the struggling operators improve themselves and become better achievers.

Any country aspiring to become a world leader must ensure that such policies are put into action by all institutions, small and large if they intend to become an advanced economy and the ones who can do this now will be the ones we celebrate into the advanced economies club within a decade or two.

酒店业的励志哥

现在人们已经习惯于看到管理五星级酒店的是一位西方面孔。但是，一位土生土长的中国总经理会在即将开业的天津帝旺凯悦酒店亮相。

杜忠选是西安人，毕业于西安外国语大学。上世纪八十年代他赴美求学，毕业后进入凯悦酒店管理集团，开始其酒店职业生涯。

作为外来移民，杜忠选只能从对语言要求相对较低的客房服务做起。怀着一颗平常心，他心里想的只是把职责内的工作认真做好。虽然美国的酒店业竞争激烈，但杜忠选的每一步都走得十分平稳。

在南卡罗来纳州一座度假小岛的酒店里，杜忠选度过了与世隔绝的6年时光。在这段期间，他每天只和客人和同事接触，让自己完全沉浸在当地的环境里，文化上的差异渐渐消失，他的事业也得到了提升。

18年之后，杜忠选被派到中国工作。他把西方的管理模式带回祖国，同时又在管理中注入东方人的细腻和感性。他对待下属亲如兄弟姐妹，但在工作上的要求却丝毫不打折扣。

杜忠选希望提升员工的服务意识并以自己的经历鼓励年轻人，因为一切皆有可能！



An Oriental Face among Top Hotel Leaders

By Monica Wang

Although there are more and more high-end international hotels opening in Tianjin people still assume that the best of them must be based on the western style of luxury. This usually means that the person at the helm of the hotel is also a westerner. However, the General Manager of the Hyatt Regency, Tianjin East, Du Zhongxuan was originally from Xi'an. His experience in the industry is an inspiration for young people who are determined to reach the peak of careers in the hospitality industry.

Graduating from a Xi'an Foreign Studies University in the 1980's, Mr. Du started work as a tour guide for foreign tourists. In an era when the best hotels were only open to foreigners, Mr. Du had the opportunity to familiarize himself with them and the way they operate. He went to America for further study and after graduation, learned that the Hyatt Hotel Group was having a recruitment campaign at his university. Since he was familiar with hotels in China, he decided to take this opportunity.

As a non-native English speaker, he had to start at the bottom – in housekeeping, which required little language skills. As a non-native, he had to work better than the local people in order to keep his job and get promoted. It was not easy because hospitality was and still is, a popular industry in America. The competition in every sector was very intense.

"It was a long way from the bottom to the top" said Mr. Du. "There is no career

shortcut in the hotel industry is what I always say to the young people." For Mr. Du, working in hotels means a lot of responsibilities. He believes that the value of the general manager lies in performing well in difficult conditions. "One must have the experience of working in all the departments in a hotel before having the ability to manage it all and it takes a long time".

We were curious how he adapted to working with and his relationship with his western colleagues. Mr. Du said: "For five years, I was the only non-American in a hotel. I had no contact with any Asians at all." This was on an island resort in South Carolina where he was totally isolated from the outside world. This complete immersion in American culture changed him completely.

When asked about how much effort it took to stand out from his American colleagues, Mr. Du didn't tell us a moving story about his struggle. Instead, he had a common sense approach to his job. "There was only one shuttle bus that linked our island hotel and the town. My colleagues had to rush away at four in order to catch the bus. But I didn't have to worry about that because I lived on the island. So I could take my time to do my job better," said Mr. Du.

After being transferred back to his mother country, Mr. Du brought back a westernized management style. He thinks that the biggest difference in management between east and west is the relationship between the boss and the employees. "In the

west, the higher the rank, the humbler one becomes." Like everybody else in the business, he is just a member of a big family. However, he must have the competence and wherewithal to earn dignity and the trust of his employees."

Mr. Du was confident about the new Hyatt Regency that will be unveiled soon. "Before I came to Tianjin, I've learned that Hyatt was the first international hotel brand established in Tianjin and local citizens all knew about us," said Mr. Du. His job is to continue the Hyatt's glorious history in Tianjin. The new hotel sits at the Wei Guo Dao in Hedong District. "I found that in China's big cities, traffic is the biggest headache. It's not a problem for our hotel," said Mr. Du. Although this is not a central area in Tianjin, the adjoining transportation hub means it is only a 15 minute ride to the airport, a 10 minute ride to the train station and the downtown area is also only ten minutes away.

These advantages of the location determined that the hotel will target more business travelers, conferences and banquets. "The Grand Ballroom in the new Hyatt hotel is the best of all the Hyatt hotels I have managed. The foyer is almost half the size of the Grand Ballroom so the guests have a wonderful chance to mingle and socialize prior to their functions," said Mr. Du.

Mr. Du hopes to enhance the awareness of excellent service among his employees by asking them to greet and smile at every guest in the hotel. He also wants to inspire the young people who seek a career in the hotel industry with his own story. As he says, "Nothing is impossible!"

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烤牛柳, 烤鸡肉, 德国香肠, 西兰花和意粉 **¥148**

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B1F TEL: 022-6554-1039
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ADD TEDA MSD No.62 2nd Avenue TEDA Tianjin
Tel:6527-1111 Hrs:11:00-21:00(Restaurant 11:30-22:00)



European Chamber
中国欧盟商会

EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

2013 European Business Gala Dinner - One Night in Europe

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China Tianjin Chapter hosted the 8th Annual Gala Dinner on 11th October, 2013 in ST. Regis Tianjin Hotel.

The Gala Dinner is the region's premier networking event of the year, with a night of European food, drinks and entertainment. The event was attended by almost 300 guests from Chamber-member companies and friends from the European business community.

With the Cruise traveling theme this year, guests were greeted with romantic cocktail reception along Haihe River, then checked on Board at 7:30pm with the invitation of the Captain. The food was also special designed by "The Arctic North" and "The Mediterranean Sun and Sea" buffet to well match the Cruise traveling atmosphere. All the guests enjoyed a First Class Journey to Europe throughout the night with image films of their own country, quiz of travel destinations to make them feel home sick, and of course plenty of valuable travel related lucky draw items. It proved to be another memorable European night!

We would like to take this chance to thanks all our sponsors for their support:

Airbus, Cintas, Goglio, Heng An, Jones Lang Lasalle, SIP, Siemens, Caissa, Royal Caribbean, Chantal, Heneiken, Business Tianjin, JIN, Taylor Printing, H&B, CITS, Indigo, Westin, Nikko and ST. Regis hotels in Tianjin, Beijing, Chengdu, Sanya and Bangkok.



The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin Chapter
中国欧盟商会天津分会
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天津市南开区滨水西道奥城商业广场17座2415室

Tel: +86 22 2374 1122 Email: tianjin@european-chamber.com.cn Website: www.european-chamber.com.cn



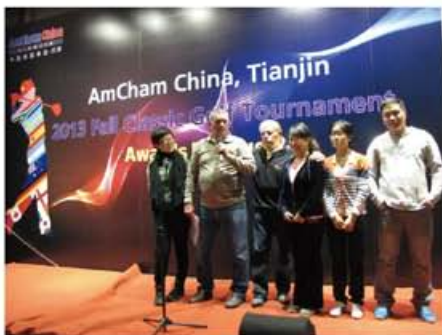
Past events

AmCham China, Tianjin

2013 Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament

10:00AM – 8:30PM, Saturday, October 19th – The World Golf Club

Golfers from Tianjin and Beijing came out to join AmCham China Tianjin's 2013 Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament on October 19th. The tournament was held at the World Golf Club. After an exciting day of golf, members and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner, awards ceremony, prize drawings, and live band from the Westin Tianjin. We would like to thank all of those who came out to golf, join in the dinner, and especially the sponsors, such as American Airlines, the Westin Tianjin, Taylor Printing, Northern Lights, Hank's Sports Bar and Grill, Jones Lang LaSalle, Rex Group and the Hyatt Regency Tianjin East. The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin and many others were able to give other forms of donations that helped create a successful night.



Winners:

1st place: Jens Purup and Claus Nicolajsen 77
2nd place: Tim Beagle and Chan Tran 78
3rd place: Oliver Rochefort and Sean Filson 79
Longest drive: Jeff Xue
Most accurate longest drive: Xia Gang
Nearest to Pin: Jens Purup
Claus Nicolajsen
Winner of Putter Contest: Zhongxuan Du



Past Event

Breakfast Seminar - Salary Developments 2014: Presentation of the 6th Wage and Salary Survey **Wednesday, October 9, 2013**

The Annual Wage and Salary Survey of the German Chamber of Commerce in China aims to provide a timely benchmark of general trends regarding wage and salary developments as well as other HR related issues for German companies in China. It is an important tool for all Sino-German HR executors to get an overview about the HR situation and to plan their HR budgets for 2014.

The seminar mainly focused on the aspects like wage development for 18 job categories incl. variable pay, general labor market environment and expected development and turnover rates etc. About 20 participants joined us during the event for an in-depth discussion about the wage and salary developments of their employees for 2014.



InterChamber Workshop - The Strategic Leader: Simple Techniques to Enable Managers to become Successful Future Leaders

Monday, October 14, 2013

Everyone recognizes Strategic Thinking as an important leadership capability, but just how important is it? In this highly interactive workshop we have shared key findings based on the leadership practices and effectiveness of over 40,000 managers and leaders across 144 countries and 27 industries.

During the workshop the participants had the opportunity to assess their own leadership capability and identify strengths and areas of development with the aid of the 22 leadership practices of the Leadership Effectiveness Analysis (LEA) Model. Mr. Robin Ball, MDS Founder and Head of Learning and Development, also gave the answers to the key questions like the importance of a Strategic Approach in Leadership and the methods of developing our own Strategic Approach etc.





TIANJIN HR CLUB



Welcome to register HR MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED COURSE

HR Club has launched HR MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED COURSE officially since 2010, aiming at finding out human resources talents, supporting them on individual training and improvement in HR relative field. All trainers invited are the senior HRMs or HRDs of most famous foreign companies currently, who will deliver consulting oriented seminar with sharing their personal knowledge and experiences in core functions of HR, like recruitment, C&B, training and development, performance management and employee relationship etc.



The COURSE will be started from November.
Welcome your register now!
Registration Line: 022-24236220

2013 Tianjin Blue Collar Labor's Salary Survey Report Conference was held on 23rd of September successfully. Highly appreciate the supporting team members, professors of Nankai University and HR professionals in Club member companies!
Please contact HR Club office getting more survey result.



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投身酒店行业

身边的朋友、同事都知道我对酒店有多么热爱。我喜欢住在酒店，去酒店餐厅吃饭等等。由于工作的原因，我可以更加深入的了解天津酒店行业，近距离采访到许多酒店的总经理、高管，而且对他们的职业羡慕不已。同时，我也深知，没有多年的努力工作和专业培训，他们是不可能在职生涯当中取得如此巨大的成功！

其实，在没有接触到蓝山国际管理学校之前，我确实并不知道有大学专门培养并输送酒店业的人才。澳大利亚蓝山国际管理学校分为两个校区：卢拉和悉尼。卢拉校区位于蓝山山脉，距离悉尼90分钟车程。蓝山山脉是澳大利亚的顶级旅游胜地，为本科学生提供扩展课堂，以拓展学业。悉尼校区位于悉尼的核心地带，紧邻市政厅。同时，悉尼是一座世界闻名的安全友好城市，拥有迷人的海滩，众多港畔公园，也是世界领先的旅游和商务合作的核心地带。因此，学生可以获得多种酒店和旅游业职业机遇。这一切让学生在学习和行业实习期间获得宝贵经验。学生招募面向中国和外籍18岁以上高中毕业生。

据了解，1991年以来，蓝山国际酒店管理学校因提供紧贴行业的酒店和活动管理课程而获得优异声誉。在一份2010年度国际招聘经理的调查显示：在国际职业方向上，蓝山是澳大利亚和亚太地区排名第一的国际酒店管理学校。

也许，下一次我入住酒店的总经理就是从蓝山国际酒店管理学校毕业的！

another award, the Education and Training Award at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, which recognised Blue Mountains as the leader in hotel management education in Australia; In 2010 it was the Winner of the Best Communications at the World Hospitality Awards in Paris. The list goes on, finalist for Best Education Innovation; in 2009 it won the Gold Award for Tourism Education and Training at the New South Wales Tourism Awards. As well as this impressive pedigree it ranked number 1 in Australasia in a survey of international hotels hiring managers for an international career by TNS.

Actually I didn't realise that there were specialist schools for this kind of thing, but I have recently discovered the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, of which there are 2 campuses, one in Sydney and the other one in Leura, NSW Australia

HOSPITALITY CAN BE LEARNED

by Paula Taylor



Hospitality

It is no secret amongst my friends that I really like hotels. I like staying in them and I like going to them for lunch etc. For this magazine I often have to go into hotels to interview Managers and I really envy them their jobs. I think the hospitality business must be very exciting. Of course to rise to the top to become the Manager of a quality hotel needs hard work and also good training. Managers have to rise through the ranks, usually starting at the bottom and working their way up. This prepares them well, as it will make them understand fully what is involved in every aspect of hotel life. A good education in hotel management no doubt assists them greatly.

Actually I didn't realise that there were specialist schools for this kind of thing, but I have recently discovered the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, of which there are 2 campuses, one in Sydney and the other one in Leura, NSW Australia. This school provides such quality training that its reputation has been recognized by the hotel industry and it has won numerous awards over the years, including: in 2011 it was in the top three hospitality schools for Best Educational innovation at the World Hospitality Awards; also in 2011, it was awarded the Silver Award for Tourism Education and Training at the New South Wales Tourism Awards; in 2010 it won yet

It seems then that if someone is looking to get a foot on the rung of hotel management, this school is a good place to start. There are also other compelling reasons to sign up with them. I asked Maggie Wang the School Representative in China for the school, why someone should consider going to their school. She told me that for Chinese students who have lived in a protected cocoon, living and studying abroad requires them to be independent. Of course it's very different to living in their own country, for instance in China it quite often can be seen that the kids are well taken care of by parents and other family members. This is not good the students as they rely on too much on others. Living in a foreign country offers an opportunity for them to face challenges alone, improve their problem solving skills



Employees in Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin

and increase their self-confidence. But they don't necessarily need to go to Australia to live independently. Maggie told me International students enjoy the easy-going, laid back, 'no worries' nature of Australians and the Australian lifestyle. Chinese students find integration into the Australian culture relatively easy. This is not surprising as they are well used to foreigners there, after all, a large percentage of the population was born overseas, over 24% actually, and over 200 different languages and dialects area spoken there. Add to that spectacular natural beauty and scenery and also the fact that Sydney is one of the most work's most popular tourist destinations Maggie told me there is yet another strong reason to go there, it offers students outstanding employment opportunities, both upon graduation and through placements while they study.

It does sound like a good place, but even so there will be the inevitable culture shock and loneliness to face, I wondered what the school does about that. I was told Leura is regarded as the backyard of Australia, and there are so many activities both there and elsewhere, and Sydney has a lot to offer, from dining, shopping, entertainment, and sports. Students will not feel lonely as there are plenty things to do. Most importantly the school schedule is pretty intense so they will find very little time to feel lonely or bored. The faculty and staff are happy to help students

with issues. Students also have many chances to be placed in groups to finish study projects, so it's easy to make friends. The school also has an orientation week for new students to fit in, including introduction of the school surroundings, lifestyles, facilities in the school, term schedules, and teaching methods etc.

I have heard of the famous Aussie laid back culture, but I wonder if it is conducive to study, after all if there are all these activities going on, why would anyone want to be in a study environment, surely they would much rather be on the beach. I asked Maggie what would happen if a student was having problems with his studying, e.g. he is enjoying himself too much to study. Of course the teachers and staff in the school will be there to help students with any issues.

I also asked what kind of students go to their school, they surely must all be from wealthy families but she replied "Not all students are from wealthy families; the school tuition is reasonable and in comparison with other schools in the same category, Blue Mountains has a better value. It is considered to be a first class school with a mid-class tuition fee.

I wondered what their success rate is. She told me "Most students succeed as long as they work hard, focus and complete all the units in accordance with the standards of the school. Students are required to redo any units in which they do not attain a high score.

This can be done in various ways such as assignments, retaking the test, submitting essays...etc., and the teacher guide them through the process. Student can also consult former students who are always happy to help as well.

I would also like to add that Undergraduate students live on campus during the first 2 years of their degree and learn in a simulated hotel environment – students are both the guests and staff. In the final year students complete their studies at the Sydney campus". Yet another reason to study there is that doing so will give them many options as to their chosen pathway, not just whilst they are studying, but after graduation too. The school has other partners, which means that students can complete a semester abroad at one of their Laureate Hospitality Institutions in Switzerland, Spain, China or the United States. Naturally units completed during the semester abroad will be credited to the Blue Mountains program. For those to want to study even harder there is also the prospect of being able to complete a double degree at one of these institutions. Also the school will give a visa that allows students to work for up to 20 hours per week in order to support themselves.

Next time I stay at a hotel, maybe the Manager will be a former student of Blue Mountains school!



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6 pieces RMB 798
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Perfect delicious sauce
Homemade vinegar, ginger slice,
5-year Shaoxing rice wine



Hopeland International Kindergarten 2013 Halloween Party

Halloween is a mysterious festival in children's eyes. In order to enrich children's knowledge and stimulate their imagination and creativity, Hopeland International Kindergarten organized 2013 Halloween Party. The children learned about the festival in various games and activities and experienced the charm of western culture.

The children dressed up with all types of costumes and put on bizarre masks and came to the party with a Jack-O'Lantern in their hands. Children had an exciting and fun time in Halloween dance, cartoon show, and games like Trick or Treat and mysterious haunted house.

荷兰国际幼稚园2013万圣节狂欢Party

万圣节在孩子们的眼中，是一个充满神秘色彩的节日；为了能够让幼儿拓宽学习领域开阔视野，激发无限的想象力和创造力。荷兰国际幼稚园特别策划并筹备了2013年的万圣节狂欢Party，在欢乐之余，寓教于乐，让孩子们了解并感受西方文化带来的魅力与创意。

喜爱发挥创意的老师和小朋友们，在这一天则极尽所能的将自己打扮得鬼模鬼样，让鬼节变得趣味十足。

10月26日，孩子们早已迫不及待地穿上五颜六色的化妆服，戴上千奇百怪的面具，提着“杰克灯”赶赴万圣节活动。万圣狂欢舞、百变卡通秀、“Trick or Treat”的经典游戏、走秀、神秘鬼屋，令孩子们激动不已……





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SEVEN DAYS
天津和平区南京路108号天津伊势丹7F
7F, Tianjin ISETAN, No.108, Nanjing Road, Heping District, Tianjin
TEL 2781-8384
OPEN 11:00-22:00



SEASONS
天津市河西区平江道与纬鑫路交口天津博物馆1F
1F, Tianjin Museum, Intersection of Pingjiang Dao and Yuesiu Road, Hexi District, Tianjin
TEL 8388-3017
OPEN 11:00-22:00

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.

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.



FLAG by Seven Days
天津市和平区大沽南路和开封道的交口1902欧式风情街G-1号
No. G-1, 1902 European Style Street, intersection of Da Gu Nan Road and Kai Feng Dao, Heping District, Tianjin
TEL 2339-8428
OPEN 11:00-22:00

Opening hour: 10:00 ~ 01:00

Happy hour: 14:00~19:30

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The purity of quality always be acted on Irish food and service by the magagement of DUBLIN Irish PUB. You might enjoy Irish style of the decoration and be fascinated by Irish hospitality. Beside the fine food, the air imported Guinness is our another treasure.

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TEL: 8622-23307233



滨海店地址: 天津经济技术开发区第三大街翠亨广场137号
(与新城西路交口)
Add: No.137, Cuiheng Plaza, 3rd Avenue, Binhai District
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The exhibition attracted a lot of senior citizens

“老物件”讲述百年记忆

本月13日至26日，“百姓生活老物件互动展”在文庙举行。这是一个让天津市民牵挂和好奇的展览。因为所有4000多件展品，都是从天津市民中征集来的，他们中有的把老祖宗传下来的旧家具搬来；有的把几十年前曾经使用过的生活用具拿来；还有的将多年潜心积累的珍贵藏品送来，可以说每个老物件的背后都有一段耐人寻味的故事，每一个老物件都是一个时代的符号，它折射出天津百年的变化，也勾起了人们对历史文化的记忆和怀念，更展现出天津民风民俗的坚守与传承。一位来参观的市民说：“如此大规模的老物件展览前所未有，这些看似普通的生活家什，都是一路伴随着我们走过来的，都有着浓浓的情愫。”

Old Household Item Exhibition Brings back Century-old Memory

An exhibition of old household objects organized by Jinwan Newspaper, one of Tianjin's major newspapers, attracted thousands of interested locals in October. All 4000 exhibits were collected from Tianjin citizens. The newspaper has received lots of responses in its call for displays since the exhibition was announced. Among the items was antique furniture passed down through families for several generations and many

domestic articles decades old, as well as family treasures collected over many years. Each object has a long and interesting story behind it and was a good representative of its era. The exhibition also reflected the dramatic changes in Tianjin over the past 100 years and many of its folk customs. As one local visitor said, "These ordinary domestic articles tell the story of our lives."



Telephones used 50 years ago



Thermos in different times



Volunteers in costumes of 1940's



An ordinary Chinese household layout in 1970's



Treasure boxes for domestic use



Visitors are taking pictures of the exhibit.



Discarded old TV sets



Imitation of vendors crying out for touting in old times

市场不同，口味各异

有报道说，风靡全国的海底捞火锅在北美地区开的第一家分店受到冷遇。海底捞最出名的周到服务不但没有让美国人感到温暖，反而遭受了他们的白眼。这让有意扩充西方市场的本土餐饮品牌不得不三思而后行。其实，任何一家外来品牌想要取得成功，都必须注意在保留正宗品质的前提下适应本地人的文化习惯。

在中国的很多高档餐厅里，服务员会站立在客人身边等待客人点单。但在西方国家，这样做是很不礼貌的，有催促客人的意思。北美国家的人觉得外出用餐是一件很休闲放松的事情，并不急于点餐用餐，所以一顿饭的时间会拉得很长。但在中国，上菜的速度就像机关枪一样，没一会儿，你的菜就都上齐了。

这反映出两种文化节奏的不同。中国正经历高速发展，所以一切事情都要快。你有没有发现，在电梯里，人们总是喜欢按关门键，甚至连续地按。但在加拿大，我发现人们更乐于按开门键，以保证没有人被关在外面。有的电梯甚至没有关门键。而有些中国电梯还可以双击取消按错的楼层，由此可见，这里的一切都追求高效。

除此之外，菜品品种也需要本地化。动物的内脏、肠子、食管还有血豆腐都被中国人看成是美味佳肴，但你说很难说服西方人也这么吃。他们一般都会把这些东西扔掉，或留给家里的宠物吃。

在口味上，风靡中国大地的水煮鱼、馋嘴蛙等川菜都是又刺激又过瘾的美食。但是那些吃土豆和肉长大的外国人光是看到盘子里的那些辣椒就已经被吓死了。但其实你把那些作为配料的辣椒拨开，会发现无论是鱼还是肉，都鲜美无比。不过要想赢得西方客人，少油少盐无味精是必须的！

其实，即便是西方餐饮品牌到了中国以后也会有很多本地化改良。在北美的肯德基你肯定不会找到皮蛋瘦肉粥这样东西。必胜客也采用口味更淡的芝士，开发中餐风格的披萨，很受大众欢迎。

其实我觉得咱们天津本地小吃到了北美应该也很有市场，比如煎饼、水饺、狗不理包子、锅贴，便宜又快捷。

Different Markets May Have Different Tastes

By David Wong



Hai Di Lao

Recently the very successful Chinese chain of hot pot restaurants, Hai Di Lao 海底捞 opened a restaurant in the affluent Los Angeles neighborhood of Arcadia. It has over 75 restaurants in China.

The concept of hot pot is like fondue, but instead of wine-spiked cheese, various forms of broth - from tongue-numbing spicy to a more mellow herbal broth - are brought to boil to cook an array of meats, seafood, vegetables, bean curd and noodles, which are then dipped in various sauces and eaten.

Hai Di Lao, which began in Sichuan in 1994 and opened its first international branch in Singapore last year, brings a VIP element to the hot pot tradition. Customers are treated to a variety of benefits and services, which help appease potential frustration over wait lists for tables that can average 50 to 75 parties during peak hours.

While they wait, patrons can nibble unlimited free snacks, check e-mail at Internet terminals, play chess or other board games, or get pampered with a shoeshine, manicure or hand massage.

In the dining room, customers are treated to hot towels, eyeglass wipes to clear away fog build-up, hair ties, plastic bags to protect cellphones from hot pot splatter, and the highly entertaining "noodle dance".

Noodle masters train an average of four to six months before they perform great acrobatic feats with lumps of dough.

Through choreography reminiscent of a rhythmic gymnast wielding a fluttering ribbon, a noodle master stretches the wedge into a long, thin continuous noodle by whipping and swirling the dough around in the air. The noodles are eventually tossed into the broth.

However, recent reports of customer comments were negative to this first opening with comments of high prices, manicurists offered in a restaurant and service complaints. Most of these are standards proven to be successful in China, so why are they not accepted in North America?

This is not surprising as I am sure that the clients in California would include a wide array of cultures. Although there is a large ethnic Chinese population, I would guess that the majority of customers would certainly be non-Chinese. The key for success of any ethnic restaurant would be to be authentic but also be acceptable to local cultural norms.

Most Chinese restaurants have a high service standard where the server stands at your table holding his or her order taking pad or device waiting for your order as soon as you sit down. In most western establishments, this is considered rude and "rushing" the customer. But in China, service is expected to

be fast and people are in a hurry. Restaurants are busy and have a high turnover rate. Customers accept this and believe that this means food is good and fresh.

North Americans feel that dining out is a leisure activity to be enjoyed and not to be rushed. It is a chance to be with family and friends and shared conversation and ideas. Usual discussion at a Chinese restaurant is loud and tables are closer together, dishes come out from the kitchen like a machine gun and in no time, you are told all dishes are complete.

The key for success of any ethnic restaurant would be to be authentic but also be acceptable to local cultural norms.

This reflects the cultural pace of the two societies. China is experiencing tremendous growth, everything is fast paced and very competitive. Have you ever noticed that in an elevator in China, everyone pushes the close door button – not just once but several times? I was recently home in Canada and while in an elevator, I paid attention to the passengers. No one pushed to the close door button; they were more inclined to push to “open door” button to ensure the passengers entering had enough time. In fact some elevators did not even have a close door button.

In China, I noticed that some newer elevators have the ability to cancel floors if you hit the floor button twice. Everything is a much faster pace.

Different food items also need to be considered when trying to introduce traditional Chinese cuisine into western tastes. In China, animal offals or internal organs are considered a delicacy but you would have a difficult time convincing local westerners to accept this. Cooked blood from pigs, chicken, duck and lamb are a treat for most Chinese when they have hot pot or other types of dishes. Also intestine, lung, stomach and esophagus are very acceptable and usually high priced. But in America, these items are usually discarded or used for pet food.

In North America, you will never see chicken or duck heads served with the meat



KFC congee

dish; or even fish head with the fish dishes. The westerners are just not used to this. However in China, this is common practice and shows that the dish is fresh.

I have also heard from my Chinese friends that they find western food to be bland and no taste when compared with the pungent flavors of Chinese cuisine, especially northern and Sichuan cuisine. Have you tried the Sichuan dishes: Boiled Fish - Shui Zhu Yu 水煮鱼 and Chili Frog - Chan Zui Wa 馋嘴蛙. Don't let the sight of the red chili peppers scare you. Once you avoid eating the peppers, the flavor is incredible and you can understand why the Chinese have a problem with sinking their teeth into a fried steak and potatoes. On the reverse, if you can imagine if you have been raised on meat and potatoes, Ma La Hot Pot 麻辣火锅 a hot-numb spicy hot pot should not be the first try at a Chinese cuisine experience.

Obviously there needs to be a compromise to local tastes in order to gain general acceptance from local consumers. I find that more Chinese restaurants are accommodating and if you ask for them to use less salt and oil Shao Yan 少盐 – Shao You 少油 and no MSG bu fang wei jing 不放味精, they are willing to pass this instruction to their cook. There are also levels of spicy: little – Wei La 微辣, Medium – Zhong La 中辣 and Very - Zhong La 重辣.

There are also examples of western chains adapting to the Chinese market successfully. You won't find congee and black tree fungus on the menu at a KFC in North America but these are popular items in their China stores. Pizza Hut also has expanded into China, although Chinese patrons are not used to eating cheese products, a milder local cheese and a heavier bread dough crust with local toppings is proving to be popular for local consumers.

I think there are great opportunities for Chinese snacks and specialty foods to be marketed successfully in the North American market. I love the local northern style pancakes or Jian Bing 煎饼 and dumplings: Tianjin's Gou Bu Li 狗不理 and boiled dumplings: Shui Jiao 水饺 and fried dumplings: Guo Tie 锅贴.

One of the popular lunch trends for fast food are hot dogs stands or fish and chips stands, where workers can grab a meal for less than \$10 and less than 10 minutes in the downtown core near the office towers. I can see my local pancake wagon along side selling a Jian Bing for 4rmb (.75cents) and turning them out in less than a minute. We just have to cope with the health authorities and the -30 degree winters.

天津最早的现代博物馆

在近代天津，有两家展示现代自然科学成果的博物馆，在启发民智方面起到了重要的作用。

一座是英华书院博物馆，它坐落于天津外国租界的核心地带—大沽路。这家博物馆隶属于英华书院，1904年开放。其展品摆设参照了伦敦南肯辛顿自然博物馆的体系。英华书院的校刊评价其为华北地区动物和矿产收藏最丰富的博物馆。大英博物馆还向其捐赠了哺乳动物和鸟类的标本展品。在博物馆指南上你能看到欧洲各大名胜地的照片、动物、树木、矿石和昆虫的标本。此外还有现代科学发明，比如偏光器、分光镜、望远镜、电影放映机、发电机等。博物馆每日向公众开放，为更大的社区提供科普服务。

北疆博物院坐落于现在的天津外国语大学校园内，由法国神父桑志华建立。桑志华本身就是一个科学爱好者，他曾经在1914年考察了中国的黄河、白河和滦河。这座博物馆的主楼是1922年由一家比利时公司建造的，1926年由法国公司建造的辅楼用于实验研究。里面的永久展品有动植物标本，可供公众参观。一些特别的展览也会经常举办，并带有相关讲座。这家博物馆还收藏了一些动物化石，这些化石后来被分类运往法国博物馆进行进一步研究。

桑志华在1939年离开中国。1951年2月，这家博物馆正式移交给天津市政府宣传部，后来变成了大家熟悉的天津自然历史博物馆。原建筑现在已经列为受保护的历史风貌建筑，里面的藏品还原封不动地保存在里面，但遗憾的是已经不再对外开放。

这两家博物馆在20世纪初期都起到了传播自然科学的作用，是天津现代博物馆的鼻祖。目前两家博物馆已经合并到位于友道路的天津文化中心。

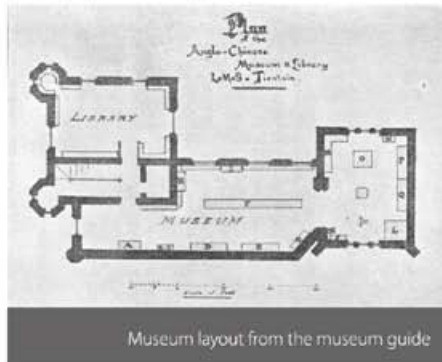
Two of Tianjin's earliest Museums.

By Andrea Klopfer

Today Tianjin enjoys the benefit of a growing number of museums. They follow in the tradition of earlier ones, both of which were attached to educational institutions, their aim being to promote an understanding of both the world and of the God believed to have created it.

Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College Museum.

This museum was the earliest museum in Tientsin and was located in what was then the heart of the earliest foreign enclave on the Taku Road. It was part of the Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College (TACC). It was the brainchild of Mrs Hart, wife of the founding principal, Dr Lavington Hart of the London



Top: TACC Museum . Bottom: Museum showcases. From: College Echoes November 1907 in School of Oriental and African Study Archives.

Missionary Society (see JIN February 2013). She was supported in her far-sighted efforts by a teacher, Mr A de C Sowerby. It was built in 1903 and opened in early 1904 with its purpose clearly painted across the arch at its entrance: 'Consider the wonderful works of God' (see picture). A library, with both English

In 1907, it was considered by the school's magazine, College Echoes, to hold one of the best collections of animal and mineral specimens in North China.

and Chinese books, was adjacent to the museum as a further spur to learning.

Specimens were arranged based on the system used in the Natural History Museum in



South Kensington, London. In 1907, it was considered by the school's magazine, College Echoes, to hold one of the best collections of animal and mineral specimens in North China. Later editions of the magazine make mention of collections on loan such as

that regarding North Borneo and islands courtesy of a Mr Percy Shepphard, and various donations such as the stuffed fish known as a 'hairy todo' from Mr G d'Arc (who ran a local hotel). Trustees of the British Museum in London donated collections of mammals and birds. The guide to the museum shows the wide-ranging nature of the objects housed there: pictures of many well-known places in Europe, especially Britain; models of animals (some 50 in all) and famous places from Nagoya Castle in Japan to St Paul's Cathedral in London; specimens of wood (12), minerals (150), insects. There were also modern scientific machines like a polariscope, spectroscope, telescope, cinematograph, dynamo electric machine. The faith base of the school was reflected in its display of religious models of, among

other things, the Tabernacle and Jerusalem. There were other Bible -related items and Greek and Roman cultural samples. Furthermore, there were some displays from other areas of the London Missionary Society's work such as Papua New Guinea



and Madagascar. The museum was open to the public daily, providing an educational service to the wider community.

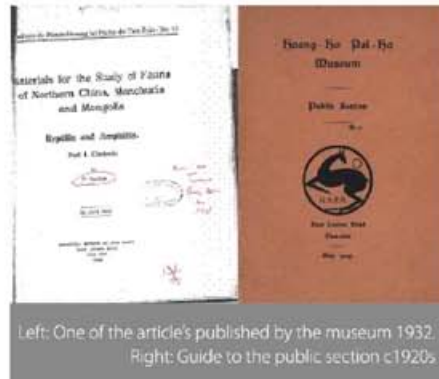
Musee Hoanghe Paihe.

This museum was the brainchild of Father Emile Licent (otherwise known by his Chinese name, Sang Zhihua 桑志华) of the Society of Jesuits. It was built off Racecourse Road (Machang Dao) where the Higher Institute of Commercial and Industrial Arts–Institut des Hautes Etudes - now known as the Foreign Studies University, was also located from 1923. It was constructed to house various collections of natural history, among them those of Father Licent himself. He had enthusiastically explored the basin of the Gulf of Peichihli which included the Hoang-ho (Yellow River), Pei-ho (White River or Hai He), Lwan-ho since 1914. A number of other Catholic missionaries had sent documents relating to Ethnology, Zoology, Botany, Paleontology, Petrography, Mineralogy and various industries indigenous to North China. Permanent exhibits of botanical and zoological specimens were laid out for public viewing while temporary exhibits accompanied by lectures were also made available. The first building, built by a Belgian company in 1922, was for the exhibits. A further building joined by a covered second floor corridor, was built in 1926 by the French Yonghe Construction Company. This was for a laboratory in which research could be conducted. Although students at the adjacent college were initially to benefit from the museum, in fact there was little relationship with the college as the curriculum did not really include pure science in which the museum specialised, and neither Licent or Teilhard de Chardin taught there. Nonetheless, it contributed to the college's prestige. Together with the specimens, extensive collection of documents and a botanical garden, it was hoped to promote data collection and provide material for museums and natural history institutes in Europe. Many fossils collected in 1922-4 were classified and forwarded to the Paris Museum for further study, for example. Father Licent wrote a number of publications on his findings ranging from fossils to birds and plants. Several were co-written with fellow Jesuit, Father Teilhard de Chardin. Naturally the museum required funds and part of the role of the museum's director was to raise

these. Both the French and Italian concessions agreed to contribute some funds to ensure the upkeep of the collections.



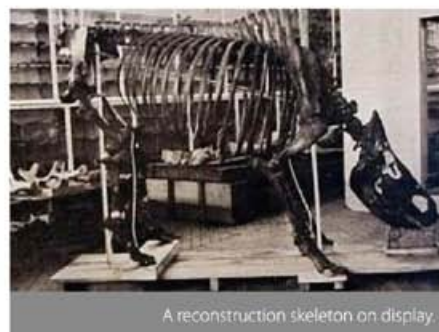
Musee Hoangho Paihe on the campus of the Foreign Studies University, Machang Dao (taken by A Klopper 2013). Top: Back entrance (note walk way to second building); bottom: front entrance to museum section.



Left: One of the article's published by the museum 1932. Right: Guide to the public section c1920s



Left: Storage of specimens. Right: Working with assorted bone specimens.



A reconstruction skeleton on display.

Licent's work was brought to a halt by war with the Japanese. In 1939, when he left China, Pierre Leroy was appointed as Deputy Director of the museum which by then had some 153 783 animal specimens. Until 1949, the museum was inactive. In February 1951, Tanggu College took it over and some months later, handed it on to the Publicity Department of the Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China. The Tianjin Science and Technology Museum was developed based on the original museum. In 1957 it was renamed the Tianjin Museum of Natural History. In 1959, it was re-housed in the former stable area of the British racecourse. It underwent major refurbishment in 1998 and is shortly due to be relocated once more. The link with France has been maintained with the signing of a friendship document with the French National Museum of Natural History in April 2009. The original building is protected as a heritage site by the Tianjin People's Government and apparently still contains many of the original display cases with much of the Quaternary mammal fossils and prehistoric human remains and tools the Licent, Teilhard de Chardin and others discovered. It is sadly not open to the public.



Above: The current Museum, shortly to be relocated.

Both museums were indicative of their times in the early twentieth century when there was a developing interest in nature and the origin of species. People were applying scientific study to the natural world and palaeontology was a growing field of study. As in the Renaissance, people of faith were often at the forefront but were also criticised for ideas that appeared to challenge conventional religious thinking. Both museums were forerunners of Tianjin's modern museums which are currently being drawn together in the cultural centre on You Yi Lu.

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小常识大收益

目前,企业大多为外籍员工缴纳商业保险,如果没有强制规定,这些企业不会轻易选择社保。

因此,人力资源和社会保障部(简称“人社部”)抓紧起草外国人在华就业参保细则,将对外国人参加社会保险的基本原则、适用范围、参加险种、待遇领取等做出明确规定。

今年7月1日起实施的《社会保险法》第九十七条规定:“外国人在中国境内就业的,参照本法规定参加社会保险。”

此条中的“参照”,是指原则上依照《社会保险法》执行,但允许有所变通。在没有变通规定时,外国人应当依照本法参加社会保险。

据人社部人士介绍,对外籍人士征收社保,涉及到与其他国家的双边关系,往往采用双边协议来处理相关问题。

为了避免工作人员在本国和就业国重复参加社会保险,中国与德国、韩国曾经签订过社会保险方面的协定。

根据《中华人民共和国与德意志联邦共和国社会保险协定》,中国与德国养老保险协定从2002年起就开始生效。

按照协议规定,在中国就业的德籍人员,需要提供由德国征收养老保险和失业保险经办机构或联邦职员保险局出具的参保证明,否则需要在中国缴纳养老保险和失业保险。

人社部人士透露,针对外籍人士的新征收办法,会借鉴德国的先例和经验,但是受访的专家认为双边协议仍然存在很多问题。

“目前我国只与德国和韩国2个国家签署了社会保障双边互免协议,协议本身还存在规定数量少且执行不规范的问题。”中国社会科学院劳动与社会保险研究中心主任王延中告诉记者。

清华大学公共管理学院教授杨燕绥则认为,中国和外国之间有关社会保险的双边协定是适用的一大前提。中国和外籍职工国籍国只有签订协议,对社保的缴费、转移、携带、分段计算做出衔接性规定,才能使外国人参加中国社会保险真正落实。

记者了解到,中国欧盟商会在获悉此事后,已经致函中国人力资源和社会保障部,要求将外籍员工缴纳保险设定为可选条款。

根据中国与德国、韩国的协议,上述两国人员解除劳动关系离境时,要在社会保险经办机构办理基本养老保险个人账户封存手续。

从长远来看,伴随企业全球化发展,各国社保必须解决对接问题,中国应该加紧制定相关细则,同时大力推进与别国签订双边协议。

随着越来越多的外籍人士到中国就业,社会保险的法律以及相应配套行政法规没有也不应该把他们排除在外。如果排除在外的话,对一个企业或者一个单位来讲,实际上是对内部员工不平等的待遇和不平等的规则,在法律上也应该公平对待,给予外籍员工国民待遇。

如未获得就业许可或未买社保举报的话,该招聘外籍员工的企业会在出入境管理处留下“污点”,影响其信用评级,最终影响其继续从国外引进人才。

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE GOES A LONG WAY

by Paula Taylor



Foreign Employees in Tianjin

Last month we promised to tell you how to do some important things here that, if you are staying here long term, will make your life that much more easy and comfortable. Our good friend Avais Javed has given us valuable information on how to apply for a social security number.

Many people, even those that have been here for years do not know that if they are here and paying tax, they are entitled to the same privileges as Chinese people. In fact did you know that in 2011 there was new legislation regarding protecting the rights of foreigners as far as pensions and social security benefits are involved?

Because this information is so valuable, most of the report is reproduced below as the impact will be enormous. The reports back then said "China plans to include all foreign workers in its social security system starting from July" a senior social security official said. "The move will ensure foreign employees in China enjoy the same social insurance benefits as Chinese nationals do," Xu Yanjun, deputy director of the social security centre with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, said at a news conference. Target groups include foreign workers employed by Chinese and overseas-funded enterprises, social groups, law firms and foundations that register in China, as well as foreign workers assigned to China by overseas registered companies.

All foreign employees who work in China for longer than six months must be included in the social security system. Foreign workers will be responsible for some of the premiums, but workers from countries that have signed social insurance agreements with China could avoid paying some of the fees," Xu said. So far, Germany and South Korea have signed such agreements. The new Social Insurance Law specifies that all employees will have the right to basic endowment insurance, basic medical insurance, work injury insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance. Take endowment insurance, for example. In China, workers pay 8 per cent of their wages and employers pay an amount equal to 20 per cent of workers' wages each month to workers' pension accounts. Workers must contribute to the pension accounts for at least 15 years to collect a pension after retiring. Workers and employers also collectively pay workers' medical insurance and unemployment insurance, but employers are responsible for paying for work injury insurance and maternity insurance.

As usual one wonders if these new laws will be enforceable, but it is comforting to know the lengths the government is going to make sure that the law will be obeyed "Any

employer who refuses to fund that insurance for employees would incur a fine equal from one to three times the sum of workers' due insurance fees," said Xu. Lu Xuejing, a social security expert at Capital University of Economics and Business, felt that although the government's move will increase employers' burdens, bosses should take the chance to realize that it is their responsibility to pay social security for everyone they employ, no matter where they are from. "The move would help foreign workers enjoy social security benefits in China, especially labourers from developing Southeast Asian countries who could better deal with their medical treatment here," she said.

The good news does not stop there. For someone who has lived and worked here for years paying into a pension, if they return home, all is not lost. The legislation also includes this provision; "For a foreign employee who is eligible to enjoy a pension but has left China, he or she should make arrangements with a Chinese embassy to continue to receive the pension. Chinese law also permits the balance of an individual's pension account to be inherited by his or her offspring". Apparently this can be done in one's own country simply by taking all the relevant documents and proofs to the Chinese Embassy.

The move will ensure foreign employees in China enjoy the same social insurance benefits as Chinese nationals do

There is however a drawback. Lu said that this move might make employers think more about the cost before hiring foreign workers and she predicted that if the law is strictly put into place there might be a fall in number of foreign employees in China. Think about it, if the law is not being enforced, who is more likely to complain about their rights and report their company? Probably not Chinese people, they do not have a complaints and insisting on their rights culture like we do.

Ok now you have all this fantastic information, what can you do with it?



Foreign Employees in Tianjin

Applying for a social security number is relatively easy, although don't be surprised that you will have to make several trips to the various offices. Every district has a social security office so you should easily be able to find out yours from the internet, the Chinese name for this department is *shèhuì bǎoxiǎn* (社会保险). The first thing to do is to establish what their requirements are. Once you know, you can bring the appropriate documents, typically, passport with visa, employment details, proof of residence etc. You will have to pay 5 yuan and then after a short period of time they will give you a letter with a social security number. You then need to take that letter to the Tianjin City Human Resources Department, which is in Hedong District, they have a social security department especially for this. You will need to take some photographs. After 45 days you will have to go back and thereafter you will be expected to make the required monthly contributions. You can either do this in person at the same office, which will be troublesome and if you forget there will be consequences, or a far better way is to let your company handle it, the payments will be taken directly from your monthly salary and you won't need to worry about it. If you change companies your social security number will be 100% transferable.

It really is that simple, easy when you know how! As stated before the only problem, which is not that big, it just really annoying, is that the various departments often don't give you the full picture, so for

instance they will tell you to come back with two documents, and when you present them, they will tell you "Oh you also need..." Then when you go back with that one, maybe they will say again "You also need to bring..." It would be much easier if they had a list ready to hand to you of everything they need.

Rest assured that this problem does not only affect us, Chinese people also have the same problem regarding this giving of partial information. It makes life difficult for everybody. In fact if you can speak Chinese there is a very interesting video you can look at on China News, <http://www.chinanews.com/shipin/2013/10-20/news311643.shtml> It discusses this very problem. A survey was carried out amongst Chinese people, who largely all agreed that "办证难" - meaning it is difficult to get this kind of thing done.

Hopefully this information will prove useful to you and next month we will tell you how to apply for a driving licence.

Sources Xinhua, China Briefing.



Chinese Social Security Card

重庆近郊游

我一直听别人说，重庆有“山城”、“火炉”、“雾都”的别称，来了之后，发现果然名不虚传！这里不仅是中国麻辣火锅的发源地，而且城市街道地势高低起伏，总让我有一种回到旧金山唐人街的感觉。此次重庆之旅，除了市区观光以外，我把大部分时间和行程安排在近郊的一些景点，其中包括：大足石刻、宝顶山、松溉、永川、中山、以及二佛寺等。

其中值得一提的是，大足石刻是大足县境内主要表现为摩崖造像的石窟艺术的总称。大足是石刻之乡，全县有40多处石刻，造像达5万多个。其中最著名、规模最大的有两处，一处叫宝顶山，一处叫北山。这两处都是全国重点文物保护单位，是唐代以后石窟艺术的代表作。

重庆大足石刻以其规模宏大、雕刻精美、题材多样、内涵丰富和保存完整而著称于世，令人印象深刻。这里可说是集中国佛教、道教、儒家的艺术精华，以鲜明的民族化和生活化特色，成为中国石窟艺术中的最宝贵作品。它以大量的实物形象和文字篆刻，从不同侧面展示了9世纪末至13世纪中期中国石刻艺术的风格和民间宗教信仰的发展变化，对中国石刻艺术的创新与发展做出了重要贡献，具有不可替代的历史、艺术和科学价值。此后，中国石窟艺术停滞，其他地方也没有再新开凿一座大型石窟，因此大足石刻也就成为中国石窟艺术建设史上最后的一座丰碑。许多欧洲游客，尤其是法国人，对大足石刻津津乐道、流连忘返。

最后，我想给那些来中国旅游的外国同胞一个建议：尽量少去过度开发、极其商业化的景点，时间充裕的话，就到城市近郊转转，你会遇见地道的美食、美丽的建筑、还有淳朴的本地人。我敢保证，当旅行结束时，你一定会带上许多真实、难忘的故事回家。

Surviving on Stilts: Chongqing's Rural Charms

By Kyle Knutson



Dazu Buddhist Caves

Upon arriving in Chongqing (重庆), China's hot pot capital, there were three things that stuck most with me: the rolling San Francisco like hills, the knotted shoe laced freeways and the mist. Chongqing was certainly a unique Chinese city. But after browsing through some old pictures of Chongqing's almost extinct traditional stilt

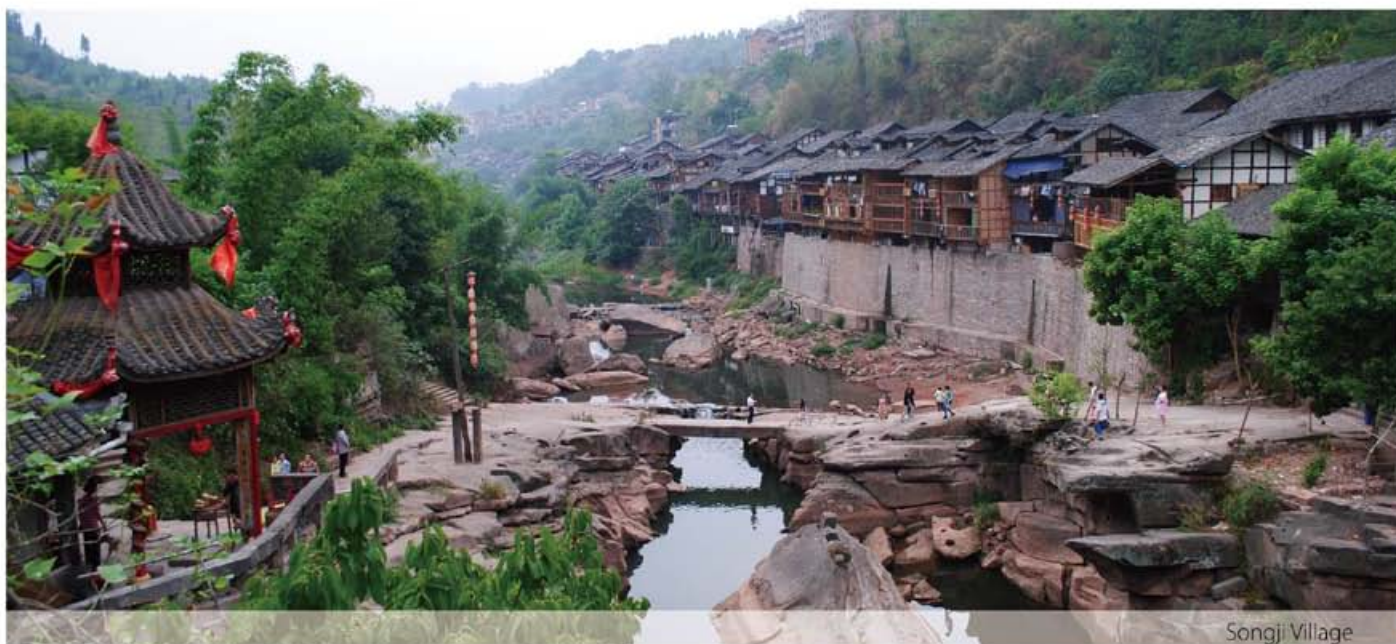
houses, I suddenly realized that there was much more to see in the surrounding area. The Dazu Buddhist Caves, Songji village, Zhongshan Village, and Laitan Village seemed the most interesting to me (Note: All buses to the four destinations in this article depart from the Caiyuanba Bus Station right next to the old train station. There is also the

Changtougichezhan 重庆长途汽车站for buses to Jiangjin江津, the halfway point town to Zhongshan).

So I first hopped on a bus to the Dazu Buddhist Caves (大足石刻) or Treasured Summit Hill (bao ding shan 宝顶山). I wanted to see it all in a day trip so I left quite early in the morning and sure enough, there was a traffic jam. A long, butt numbing wait ensued as the bus crawled every few feet per agonizing second. The driver was cursing through curled lips while shaking his head down at the brakes and gas pedal. Eventually, I arrived at my destination, the old Dazu Bus Station. According to my information, I had to walk to another bus station to transfer onto a minibus that went directly to the caves. The directions were very specific, right down to every corner, twist and turn (I'd have to admire the author for his tenacity). I breathed a sigh of relief when I reached the new bus station but then exhaled an utterance of shock when the ticket lady kindly informed me that buses did not depart to the caves anymore. So a taxi it was.

But it was all worth it. For those who have traveled to the Datong or Luoyang Grottoes, these series of caves, while smaller, still retained a wonderful sense of authentic grandeur. Many of the Buddhist statues were in remarkably good condition, considering they were more recent. Whereas the Datong and Luoyang grottoes were more spread out, these were more condensed in a more sensible way. Many of the statues were colorful and lifelike with one of the longest reclining Buddha statues I had seen. While admiring my surroundings, I glanced at my watch and realized that I had to get back to Chongqing. I ran out the exit, past all the junk promoting hawkers, and found some minibuses that took me back to Dazu city. I couldn't believe what that ticket lady said to me earlier. So there were buses to the grottoes after all. You just had to go to a certain intersection at the eastern edge of Dazu to find them.

After waking up early again, I headed toward the Ming Dynasty village of Songji (松溉), one of the most least visited places outside of Chongqing. And it all really showed. After a two hour bus ride from Chongqing to Yongquan (永川) followed by a 40 minute transfer to Songji, visions of authentic dust, dirt and grime covering many of the narrow roofs, stairs, alleys and lanes of the old village engraved themselves into my memory. The hazy pollution made me want to violently cough but for the long term local elders, they still went about their day to day business as if this was not something new to them. It was easy to get lost in the cacophony of twists and



Songji Village

turns. Eventually, I stumbled upon a fairly pleasant but polluted view of the Yangzi river huddled behind some crooked tiled roofs. Many excellent family run guesthouses provided some tasty home cooked countryside meals. I made my way to the outskirts of town and discovered some very nice walks that connected some of the outside villages. There were plenty of green fresh vegetables fields coupled with the humming of tractors. It was a restful moment for me. OK, back to Chongqing.

But after browsing through some old pictures of Chongqing's almost extinct traditional stilt houses, I suddenly realized that there was much more to see in the surrounding area.

Zhongshan (中山) village was my 3rd stop. This time, I planned to actually stay overnight at a family run guesthouse, since the bus to Jinjiang (江津), where you transfer to another bus to Zhongshan, took a total of over 4 hours. And it did take a long time. I left

Chongqing at about 9am and after patiently tolerating a long road in a cramped, musty, and overly used minibus, I arrived at Zhongshan at 2pm. Thankfully, it was easy for me to find a room there. Zhongshan was almost a completely different experience from the other places. Almost all the dwellings were made of wood instead of stone. While wandering through the wooden alleys, the houses extended even higher into the sky on support stilts. Along the bank of the river a few of the houses also rested somewhat precariously on those skinny poles, which were used to help straighten the rooms from the bumpy rocky land. Almost all of these houses have been replaced now and only traces of their existence have been captured in paintings and in only a few pockets of the Chongqing area.

Spending the night proved to be a dramatically otherworldly experience. The village lights cast a dim halo over the streets. Locals returned to their homes and were calmly and busily chopping up vegetables, tofu and meat for their evening meals. Only one lone tofu seller wandered the streets, announcing his presence by gently striking a gong at around 8pm until the lights went out at 9pm. In the morning, it was time for me to depart to my final village.

From Zhongshan, I took a bus back to Jinjiang and transferred onto another direct bus to Hechuan (合川). After Hechuan, I boarded a bus directly to Laitan (涪滩), yet another quiet and small village with only a few tourists around (I was the only passenger on the minibus at the time). Note: You can also take a bus to Hechuan from Chongqing (about 3 hours).

Laitan certainly exhibited the friendliest

vibe. The village residents were curious and asked me a lot of questions about America. They never once treaded into personal questions such as marriage and family. Lazing around at some of the family run houses felt as if having a hectic travel schedule to follow had no meaning anymore. Also in the village was a large three storey ancient Buddha (二佛寺) carved into a cliff side.

Eventually, it was time for me to return to Chongqing to start my Yangzi River Cruise. And even when I eventually completed that part of the journey, I felt that the cruise was way overhyped. There were so many people.

When reflecting upon those two parts of my trip, I can only feel regret when I think about the kind, gentle faces of the villagers who see far fewer tourists as opposed to the wads of admission tickets I had to pay and the insensitive, endless amounts of pressure to spend money throughout the entirety of the Three Gorges Cruise. I didn't even have to pay a single admission ticket to the Chongqing villages!

For those who really want to see the more authentic side of China rather than those unrelenting and unmerciful tourist traps from the Yangzi advertising machine, by all means, go to the countryside. See the real people, real food, and real architecture. And come back home with real stories.

Note:

All buses to the four destinations in this article depart from the Caiyuanba Bus Station right next to the old train station. There is also the Changtougichezhan 重庆长途汽车站 for buses to Jiangjin 江津, the halfway point town to Zhongshan

明十三陵的神道

我很喜欢带朋友到北京明十三陵的神道去散步。明十三陵位于北京市昌平区，毗邻八达岭长城。我喜欢这里是因为和摩肩接踵的八达岭长城相比，这里要安静许多。

不知道为什么神道总是被游客忽略，但我自己已经来过不下十几遍了。这条路全长一公里左右，一路溜达过来大概30分钟。道路两边排列着许多雕像、石柱和石碑。雕像描绘的大多是现实以及神话中的动物。两端的指示牌上写着这条路和两边神像的历史渊源。

明十三陵是中国明朝皇帝的墓葬群，坐落在北京西北郊昌平区境内的燕山山麓的天寿山。这里自永乐七年（1409）五月始作长陵，到明末最后一帝崇祯葬入思陵止。

说实话，十三陵本身虽然对外开放，却没有什么可看的。沿着狭窄的楼梯一路走下去，只能看到几个空空的墓穴。

景点浏览完毕之后，你可以到附近的农家院住上一天。这些农家院设施齐全，干净整洁，价格也合理。多走几家比较一下，你会找到很划算的价格。虽然这里没有英语服务，但你可以到厨房看看有什么，直接点就可以。因为守着农田，这里的蔬菜水果都很新鲜。有些农家院还有自己的鱼塘，你可以租他们的渔具享受垂钓的乐趣。

冬天快到了，你可以试试睡土炕。这些土炕是用砖或洋灰砌的，有一个烟道直通灶台。煮饭时产生的热气直接给炕加热，冬天睡在上面非常暖和。

the present location in Beijing. He is credited with envisioning the layout of the Ming-era Beijing as well as a number of landmarks and monuments located therein. After the construction of the Imperial Palace (the Forbidden City) in 1420, the Yongle Emperor selected his burial site and created his own mausoleum.

From the Yongle Emperor onwards, 13 Ming Dynasty Emperors were buried in this area. The Xiaoling Tomb of the first Ming Emperor, Hongwu, is located near his capital

The Sacred Way or Spirit Way of the Ming Tombs near Beijing

By David Wong

You can have it steamed, fried or barbequed and with a couple of dishes of vegetables, you will have a great meal for usually under 100rmb.

One of my favorite places in Beijing, to take visiting friends is the Sacred or Spirit Way at the site of the Ming Tombs in the Changping area. It is also near the Great Wall at Badaling so you can easily do both. One of the reasons, I like it is, it is very quiet after experiencing the throngs at the Great Wall.

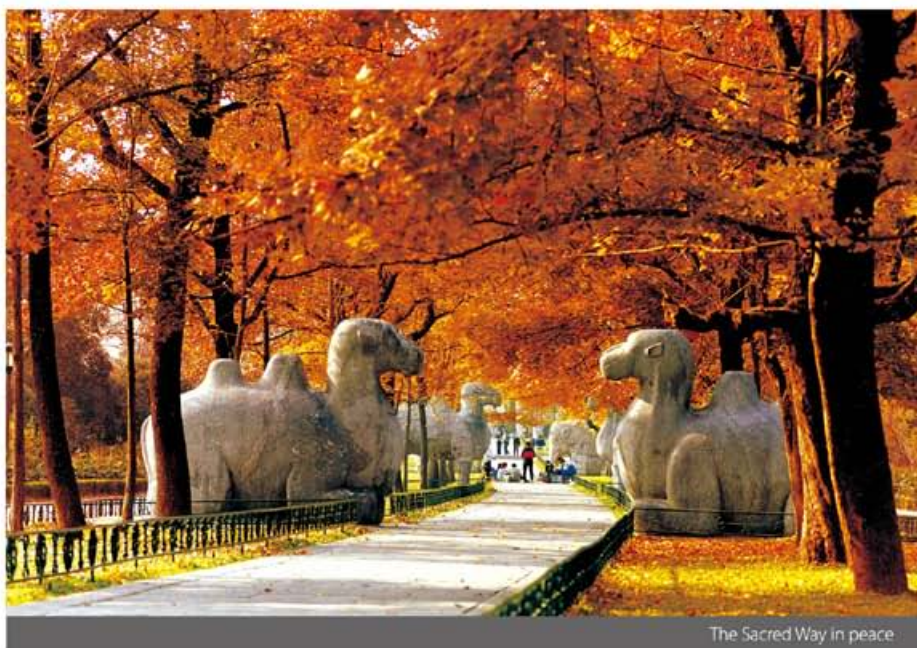
Not sure why not too many tourists stop here but I have visited it over a dozen times and there is never more than a dozen tourists. The path is about one kilometers and I usually drop my friends at the entrance and pick them up at the exit. The leisurely walk takes about 30 minutes and make sure the guests read the descriptive signs at either end of the path, which describes the history and explains the significance of each statue.

A Spirit Way 神道, Shendao, is the ornate road leading to a Chinese tomb of a major dignitary. The term is also sometimes translated as spirit road, spirit path or sacred way. The spirit way is lined on both sides by a succession of statues, pillars and stelae. The statues along the spirit way depict real and mythical animals, as well as civilian and military officials.

The Ming Dynasty Tombs 明十三陵, Ming shísān líng; literally "Thirteen Tombs of the Ming Dynasty") are located some 42

kilometers north-northwest of central Beijing, within the suburban Changping District of Beijing municipality. The site, located on the southern slope of Tianshou Mountain (originally Mount Huangtu), was chosen on the feng shui principles by the third Ming Dynasty emperor Yongle (1402-1424), who moved the capital of China from Nanjing to

Beijing, the second emperor, Jianwen, was overthrown by Yongle and disappeared, without a known tomb. The "temporary" Emperor Jingtai was also not buried here, as the Emperor Tianshun had denied him an imperial burial; instead, Jingtai was buried west of Beijing. The last Ming emperor was buried at the location was Chongzhen, who



The Sacred Way in peace

committed suicide by hanging (on 25th of April 1644), was buried in his concubine Consort Tian's tomb, which was later declared as an imperial mausoleum Siling by the emperor of the short-lived Shun Dynasty Li Zheng, with a much smaller scale compares to the other imperial mausoleums built for Ming Emperors.

During the Ming dynasty the tombs were off limits to commoners, but in 1644 Li Zicheng's army ransacked and set many of the tombs on fire before advancing and capturing Beijing in April of that year.

Frankly speaking, the actual Ming Tombs that are open to the public, do not have much to see. You enter and go down steep stairs about 20 meters to some huge rooms that are basically empty.

Presently, the Ming Dynasty Tombs are designated as one of the components of the World Heritage object, Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, which also includes a number of other sites in Beijing area and elsewhere in China.

After the visit at this site, you can stop at one of the local "Farmer Holiday Resorts". These are farmers that have added buildings and rooms that attract the "City Folk" to spend the weekend to experience the rural life. The accommodations are quite simple, similar to what we would consider a cheap motel in North America. But are usually quite clean and very reasonable, less than 100rmb per night. You should visit a few to compare prices and facilities before making a final decision. Not much English spoke and not likely to have an English menu but just wander to their kitchen and see what is available.

The food is very good, since they are a farming operation, all the vegetables are fresh and good quality. And in the summer and fall, they usually have orchards that features apples, peaches, strawberries and you can pick or buy the products in baskets. The area is also famous for walnuts.

Most of these operations will have a fish pond and if you want to catch your own fish, they have rods and line and bait available. Although not much of a sport to fish from a concrete pool, at least you know that it is fresh. I suggest that you have them clean, prepare and cook the catch on the spot. You can have it steamed, fried or barbequed and with a couple of dishes of vegetables, you will have a great meal for usually under 100rmb.

In the winter, you may want to experience sleeping on a Kang 炕, which is a



A typical kang in north China

bed stove, which is unique in northern parts of China. It is made of bricks or other forms of fired clay and more recently of concrete in some locations. Its interior cavity, leading to a flue, channels the exhaust from a wood or coal stove. The heat of a cooking fire, usually in an adjacent central room which serves as a kitchen, either a low stove or a stove actually set just below floor level, may be used for maintaining comfort in cool weather.

Typically, a kang occupies one-third to one half the area the room, and is used for sleeping at night and for other activities during the day. A kang which covers the entire floor is called a dikang (literally "ground kang").

Like the European ceramic stove, a massive block of masonry is used to retain heat. While it might take several hours of heating to reach the desired surface temperature, a properly designed bed raised to sufficient temperature should remain warm throughout the night without the need to maintain a fire.

The word kang means "to dry", first documented in the Chinese dictionary in AD121. The earliest kang remains have been discovered at Ninghai, Heilongjiang Province, in the Longquanfu Palace (699-926) of BalHae origin.

The Kang was also an important feature

of traditional dwellings in the often frigid northeastern region of Manchuria, where it was known as nahan in the native language of the local Manchus. It plays an important role in Manchu's mourning customs. The deceased is placed beside the Kang instead of the Han Chinese practice, which is in the central hall. The height of the board on which the body is placed indicates the family status or age of the deceased.

The only problem I found was the bed or oven, in this case, is quite hard. So you may need to ask for an extra comforter. You definitely will be warm and toasty! I hope you will enjoy this outing, which is educational, historical and Fun.

Transport:

Driving: Jin Zhong He Avenue 金钟河大街
 Jing Jin Tang Highway 京津塘高速
 Jing Hu Highway 京沪高速
 Jing Jin Highway 京津高速
 5th Ring Road 五环
 Jing Zang Highway 京藏高速
 Jing Yin Road 京银路
 Chang Chi Road 昌赤路
 Zhao Ling Lu 昭陵路

Korean Air's seventh Airbus 380 launches service to Atlanta

Korean Air has added to its fleet an additional A380 aircraft, dubbed "a flying luxury hotel." The national flag carrier now has seven A380s in its fleet.

Korean Air's seventh A380 left Toulouse, France, on Aug. 28 and arrived at Incheon International Airport the next day. The new aircraft then went through the required processes such as flight tests and made its debut flight on Sept. 1.

The airline has operated A380s on four routes, from Incheon/Seoul to LA, New York, Hong Kong and Frankfurt. The new aircraft is flying to Atlanta, U.S., three times a week (Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays).

The A380 is an eco-friendly next-generation aircraft with high fuel efficiency. It is equipped with comfortable seats and has a more spacious interior to give passengers a more enjoyable in-flight experience.

Configured in a three-class layout with just 407 seats in total, the lowest configuration of any A380s operator so far, Korean Air's double-decker A380s features the latest amenities, with 12 ultra-luxurious First Class Kosmo Suites. The upper deck, reserved for the exclusive use of Prestige Class passengers, has 94 fully flat-lie sleeper seats. The 201 "New Economy" seats of Korean Air's A380s were also ergonomically designed for the comfort of passengers. The space between seats is the widest among all A380s currently in service in the world.



Furthermore, the new A380s boasts unique facilities for the enjoyment and comfort of passengers, such as the "Celestial Bar" for First and Prestige Class passengers and the world's first "Duty Free Showcase."

Korean Air plans to purchase a total of 10 A380s, including one more this October and two in 2014, and will continue to upgrade its service as a global highclass airliner, responding to the expectations of passengers who pursue premium services.

Hanjin Group presents hope through sharing books

The Hanjin Group, the mother company of Korean Air, has donated some 16,000 books to a Korean NGO to be used for culturally underprivileged children and people living in rural, fishing and mountainous villages.

The donation was made in a ceremony held at Nonhyeon Information Library in Nonhyeon-dong, southern Seoul, on Sept. 9. Those who attended the ceremony include Seo Yongwon, who leads the voluntary service groups in the Hanjin Group; Emily Cho, vice president of Korean Air; and Kim Suyeon, representative of the NGO "People Who Build Small Libraries."

The Hanjin Group held a book-donation campaign with its executives and employees of the group and subsidiaries from July 15 to Aug. 30. Members of Korean Air's SNS channels also participated. To encourage greater participation, the group cited large donors, and one employee earned the title of "king of book donation" by offering as many as 347 volumes.

A total of 16,000 books were collected through the campaign. They will be delivered to people living in culturally isolated villages through "People Who Build Small Libraries," an NGO founded in 1989 to help build libraries and donate books for people living in remote areas.

Seo Yong-won said he hopes more people can enjoy culture in their lives thanks to the efforts of "People Who Build Small Libraries," adding that the Hanjin Group will continuously expand its social contribution programs in diverse areas.

Meanwhile, the "Hanjin Group Social Service Team" was launched earlier this year under the Hanjin Group's "WITH Campaign," an integrated initiative for social contribution. The company is carrying out diverse social contribution programs in four categories: sharing, children, the environment and culture.



'Green hope' planted by Korean Air in the Kubuqi Desert, China

Employees of Korean Air planted trees Sept. 25-27 in the airline's "Green Ecological Forest" in the Kubuqi Desert, Inner Mongolia, which is a major origin of yellow dust in Northeast Asia.

The airline started planting trees in the Kubuqi Desert in 2007 as part of its "Global Planting Project," under which it plants trees around the world to improve the environment.

One hundred and twenty people participated in the latest event, including 65 employees of Korean Air and 55 students and staff members of Inner Mongolia Teachers University. The trees planted are those that grow well in the desert, such as desert willows and poplars.

Korean Air has been forming the "Korean Air Green Ecological Forest" in Inner Mongolia in cooperation with a Chinese youth association as part of the "Korea- China Friendship Ecosystem Restoration Project," with the aim of planting 1.37 million trees in a forest of 4.5 million square meters by 2016. A total of 1.13 million trees have been planted on a site of 3.73 million square meters until now.

The Kubuqi Desert in Inner Mongolia is seen as the origin of more than

40 percent of the yellow dust blowing from China over Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula. Each year, logging and other causes result in desertification of an area about five times the size of Seoul. Korean Air expects its "Green Ecological Forest" project to help ease desertification in the desert and improve the environment in Northeast Asia.

Meanwhile, the Korean flag carrier has also been forming the "Korean Air Forest" to arrest sandshifting in Baganuur on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, since 2004 and participating in a tree-planting campaign in Los Angeles, the United States, since 2009.



Korean Air provides enhanced air travel comfort for pregnant passengers

Korean Air has launched a new dedicated service for pregnant passengers. Starting from Oct. 1, the airline provides a complimentary in-flight amenity kit for pregnant passengers traveling from Korea to all its international destinations as part of its efforts to differentiate in-flight service.

The newly launched amenity kit for pregnant passengers contains organic blackberry foot cream, organic skin care cream, sleeping socks made of organic cotton, tea for relieving morning sickness and a bag accessory.

All skin care products and sleeping socks are made of organic materials with consideration for the women's health, and the morning sickness tea has been selected from one of the most popular Korean organic brands, "The Organic."

Also, a special bag accessory has been added to the amenity kit to help passengers notify others of their pregnancy when in the early stage, while the pouch has been designed to deliver an environmental-friendly social message.

In order to receive the amenity kit, passengers should notify the airline of their pregnancy at the time of reservation. Once onboard, the kit is

presented by the cabin crew, who also provide dedicated service.

With this new amenity kit, Korean Air hopes to lessen the fatigue of air travel for pregnant passengers.

As a leading global carrier, Korean Air will continue its utmost efforts to provide innovative in-flight services.



LOCALEVENTS

Tangla Hotel Tianjin was bestowed 2013 "International Six Star Diamond Award" in a second time

Tianjin, China-11 October 2013 Recently Tangla Hotel Tianjin was bestowed the "2013 International Six Star Diamond Award" by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences (AAHS) in a second time, and honored to be the sixth hotel in the world and the first Hotel in mainland China to receive this award, following the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Tokyo, Trump Hotel Palm Beach, Peninsula in Hong Kong, Le Meurice in Paris and Dorchester Hotel in London, receiving a new authoritative fame on the glory list.

"International Six Star Diamond Award" is established by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences in 1949 with its headquarters in New York. The organization enjoys high reputation in the global high-end service industry. Through yearly membership study with service, facilities, environment on hotels, AAHS will only bestow to the hotels providing the best service with "International Star Diamond Award" every year.

Tangla Hotel Tianjin is the flagship of Tangla Hotels & Resorts, its own high-end international hotel brand created by HNA Hospitality Group. Tangla Hotel Tianjin adheres to the oriental brand value of "Harmony, Elegance, Excellence and Tranquility", achieving the perfect deep fusion of eastern aesthetics and philosophy. The full interpretation of the hotel beauty revealed from the hotel design, excellent service, and luxurious decoration to the delicate vessels is not only the fantastic artistic conception created and displayed by Tangla, but also the aesthetic philosophy pursued and spread by HNA.

General Manager Fintan O'Doherty commented "I and all the team are humbled and honored to receive such an accolade and it is a superb tribute to the hard work of all our team and the superb support of our Hotel Group and parent Company HNA and their leaders -we will continue to strive for service excellence and to consistently exceed our guests expectations. And deliver consistently our signature Harmony, Elegance, Excellence and Tranquility™"

Café d'Or

Open breakfast & all day dining service for Hotel residents or outside guests. The Cafe is featuring "energy breakfast" and some good local Tianjin and regional breakfast specialties. We are committed to providing you with a Breakfast Buffet Concept that allows you to pick and choose the amount of nutrients you desire. Rich lunch selection service, as in business travel, inter-city journey guests provide a healthy nutrition enjoyment, quickly adapt to the local time added for energy. Fresh Ground coffee, and varied fruit, juice, on site processing, show kitchen a la minutes, a new understanding of chef table concept which deduces perfect private chef enjoy.

Operating Time: 6am-10.30am; 11.30am-2pm
 Seats: 128 pax (including 1 private room)
 Reservation: 022-2321 5888



China Bleu Rooftop Bar



Soaring 49 levels above the ground is China Bleu, the pre-eminent address for entertainment and aperitifs. China Bleu features live music, an extensive selection of fine wines, spirits and cocktails, complemented with panoramic views of the city. Ideal for stunning private events.

Operation Hours: 6:30pm - 2:00am
 Seating: 94 pax

Crowne Plaza Tianjin Jinnan celebrated its 1st anniversary



Crowne Plaza Tianjin Jinnan celebrated its 1st anniversary on October 20th. The celebration was a big party for all hotel staff. Each department prepared a meaningful gift and all the gifts were sealed in a "time box", which would be opened on the 10th anniversary celebration. Everyone received an invitation to gather again 10 years later.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin Held A "Blu Is For Me" Client Appreciation Party



Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin held its "Blu Is For Me" Client Appreciation Party at its lobby on 27 September 2013.

General Manager Mr. Clive Murray and the hotel management team welcomed more than 120 guests to the party. The guests enjoyed great performances from the hotel sales team, wine and dined on the "Blu" themed cocktail party and shared in many lucky draw prizes.

Picture shows Mr. Clive Murray (front center) and the hotel staff team with the clients.

SUBWAY Developer Briefed at AmCham Breakfast Meeting

On October 17th, 2013, Mr. Todd Mischke - Territory Developer for SUBWAY Tianjin, gave a brief presentation about franchising in China at the AmCham breakfast meeting. As a professional and experienced franchising executive, he explained the basic concepts of franchising and also noted the key differences between the franchise business model in Chinese and western markets. Through an analysis of the franchising model in developed and developing countries, Mr. Mischke clearly outlined why he believes that franchising will become a major part of the Chinese retailing sector in the coming years. He ended his presentation with a brief overview of the Subway franchise development strategy for the China market.



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin won 2 awards from Starwood Asia Pacific Division



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin was awarded "2012 The Luxury Collection Brand Ambassador Award of Greater China" and "2012 Regional Public Relations Award of Greater China(North)" two awards from Starwood Asia Pacific Divisional Conference in Macau. With 150 years of glory history, The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel greeted its 150th Anniversary in July 2013. This great event instantly enhances the Luxury Collection effect and brand awareness in Great China. More than 500 domestic and oversea media reported the celebration. Mr. Christian Metzner, general manager of The Astor Hotel said: "All the team members are very proud of these awards. This is the first Starwood hotel from the second-tier city won the Best Public Relations Award, and also we are the first hotel in Great China with Luxury Collection Brand Ambassador title."

Staff Fashion Show at Ritz-Carlton Tianjin

The grand opening of a Ritz-Carlton hotel October 18, 2013 follows a 10-day countdown to the occasion involving the arrival of senior executives and a contingent of 100 expert Ritz-Carlton trainers from around the world.

One of the unique and fun events during the countdown is Fashion Show of the ladies and gentlemen where they exemplify the proper grooming standards, cheer for their friends and colleagues and embrace the company culture. Followed by motivational speeches, technical training and leadership sessions ladies and gentlemen have an opportunity on day one to celebrate their success and each other at the hotel Pep Rally lead by General Manager Vincent Billiard.



Yao Ming Stayed at Tianjin Saixiang Hotel



Yao Ming was in Tianjin Saixiang Hotel as the special guest of the 2013 Tour of China Cycling in Tianjin. Mr. Yao took a picture with the GM Kevin Zhang (on the right) and the DGM Andy Gu (on the left).

Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel Welcomed Wife of Former Korean President



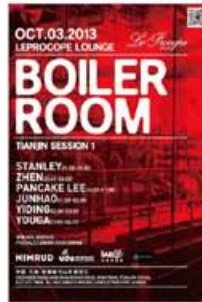
Mrs. Lee Hee Ho, the former first lady of South Korean President Kim Dae Jung has stayed in Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel at 26th September 2013. The Executive Committee of Hotel has welcome her and taken the photo together as well. Mrs. Lee Hee Ho looks great and very friendly when she talking. During the short period of her visit to Tianjin, she has autographed“敬天仁愛” on the guest sign book for souvenir.

High-end Restaurant, Reasonable Price



Top Taste Chinese Restaurant 国台鼎膳酒楼 is promoting a business lunch set menu, which costs from RMB 198 to RMB 498, for four and six people respectively. The set menu selects best-sellers in the restaurant that is specialized in Cantonese and Hunan cuisines.

Nimrud - Boiler Room Tianjin Sessions



A brand new and mysterious promotion team, Nimrud, worked with TIANJIN UNDERGROUND DISCO UNION (UDU) and launched “Boiler Room” themed parties for the first time in Tianjin at Le Procope Lounge, and Garden Lounge last month. In addition, the party at Garden Lounge started from 4pm and ended at 4am, so it was 12 hours of fun time with the trendy European electronic music that made everybody feel good. For more information of fun activities, please call 2711 958/186 2208 0551.

French Restaurant Maxim's Opens in Town

One of the most classic brands of French cuisine, Maxim's de Paris, launched its grand opening ceremony at Tianjin Assembly Hall in the end of September, 2013. As an important part of the development strategy of Maxim's brand on the mainland, the restaurant is located in the Tianjin Wu Da Dao Area, in the International Architecture Exhibition Hall. Maxim's CEO of China Region, Madam Zheng, Maxim's executive chef, restaurant general manager, officers from local government and journalists from the local media all attended the ceremony.

In the late 19th century, Maxim Garcia opened a restaurant, Maxim's, in Paris. On September 26, 1983, a new Maxim's de Paris was opened in Beijing, becoming the first Sino-foreign cooperative Western-style restaurant. The interior decorations of Maxim's de Paris mirror those of Maxim's in Paris. Upon entering the restaurant, you will feel you have entered the French royal palace in the 19th century.

Maxim's de Paris Tianjin will be open to provide top-notch service and food for Tianjin Customers from November of 2013.



Hong Kong China Crowned Champions of Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2013

The sport of polo made a triumphant return to its ancestral home of China in October 5,2013, as Hong Kong China defeated England 11 - 7 to clinch the Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2013. The quartet of Dirk Gould, Joao Ganon, John Paul Clarkin and John Fisher put in inspired performances to overcome an all-star England unit of Henry Fisher, brothers Mark and Luke Tomlinson and Nacho Gonzalez at the magnificent Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club.

The Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup was one of four high profile polo tournaments staged at the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club in 2013. In an attempt to continue to bring more world-class polo tournaments to China, Mr. Luis Lalor, former President of the Argentine Polo Association, has recently joined the Goldin Group, at where he will be actively involved in all aspects of polo development. The Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club is certain to benefit greatly from his experience and influence. “I'm very much looking forward to this new challenge,” commented Mr. Lalor. “I hope to play my part in the growth of the sport here, to encourage more young people to take up polo, and to share its values with a wider audience in China.”



举旗投降!

驾驶员平常最怕的就是看见警察朝自己敬礼,这肯定不会有好事。有一次我从一个水产市场出来,因为道路不熟,又正值晚高峰时间,我犯了个左转弯直行的错误。这时候,有个警察朝我走过来,让我把车停到路边。我非常诚恳地请求他高抬贵手,解释说快开到停车线才看到左拐标示,那时已经来不及并道了。

这位警察似乎有些同情我了,但是他指着其他待罚的车主说:“我不能因为你是外国人就特殊对待,那别人会怎么想呢?”他教育我说,你应该先拐弯,然后再调头。他说的没错,我再次诚恳地承认错误并道歉。

于是,看在我是外国人,认错态度又很好的份上,他提出了一个不用开罚单的办法。他交给我一面小白旗,让我当2个小时的交通志愿者,协助交警执法。我欣然接受了。

我站到路口,很认真地履行我的职责。红灯亮起的时候,我放下旗子示意骑车的人停住。绿灯亮的时候,我举起旗子让大家通过。但是,有很多人都不听我指挥,所以我总要走到他们面前制止他们继续前进。

大约过了30分钟,这位警察朝我招手,示意我可以走了。我问他:“这才30分钟啊,不是2个小时吗?”我正干得起劲呢。警察说:“你往这一站,大伙儿都看你了,你都成了交通隐患了!”

pointed to several other cars that were also pulled over to the side and being issued tickets for similar infractions. He asked me what could he do? He would be criticized for giving preferential treatment to a foreigner. When I tried to use the excuse of the poor inadequate road markings, he replied that I should have made the turn and gone around the block in order to proceed straight. I agreed that he was right and said I had learned my lesson and apologized.

In fact, I was getting upset with bicyclists that did not stop and started to step in front of them to enforce the rules.

By David Wong

Surrender with a White Flag



At this point, the officer showed some empathy and I am sure that being a foreigner and the fact that I showed respect and repent, he would try to help me by offering an alternative. 协助交警执法 Xie Zhu Jiao Jing Zhi Fa Voluntary Assistance to the Traffic Police. He explained that if I would be willing to volunteer to do two hours of traffic control, he would not issue a ticket. I quickly agreed and asked when and where. He replied here and now.

I was issued a white flag and instructed to stand at the intersection next to the bicycle lane and once the red light was on, I had to wave my flag and ensure that bicyclists would stop and not run the light. Once the light turned green, I would wave the throngs on. After some initial tries and comments from the policemen that I was not taking this seriously, I was doing my duty with gusto. In fact, I was getting upset with bicyclists that did not stop and started to step in front of them to enforce the rules.

After only 30 minutes the original officer waved to me that I could now leave. I replied, “Why so early? It was only 30 minutes and I thought I had a sentence of 2 hours?” I was actually enjoying the task and really getting into it. Funny how power can take over a person’s mind.

I did not notice, but there was actually a crowd developing at the intersection as people were watching this foreigner directing traffic. The officer explained that I was becoming a traffic hazard and drivers were paying too much attention to me. We parted on friendly terms and I promised to be more careful in the future.

While visiting a local Tianjin fish market (an excellent market which will be described in another separate article), I was on my way back to Beijing during rush hour. The traffic was just crawling when I realized that I was in a turning lane and according to my GPS, I had to go straight. I tried to merge into the thru lane but had stop for a red light and was placed in the pedestrian crossing.

I knew I was in trouble, when the approaching policeman asked me to pull over

to the side and asked me for my driver’s license and vehicle registration. I pleaded with him for mercy and explained that I had just come out of the fish market and the turning lane was not marked until you reached the red light at the intersection and I had to go straight. He was not very sympathetic but he did look into the car and saw that I had several black plastic bags of seafood and could hear the live crab and shrimp rustling in the bags.

The policeman was sympathetic but he



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