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TIANJIN TODAY 2014/03



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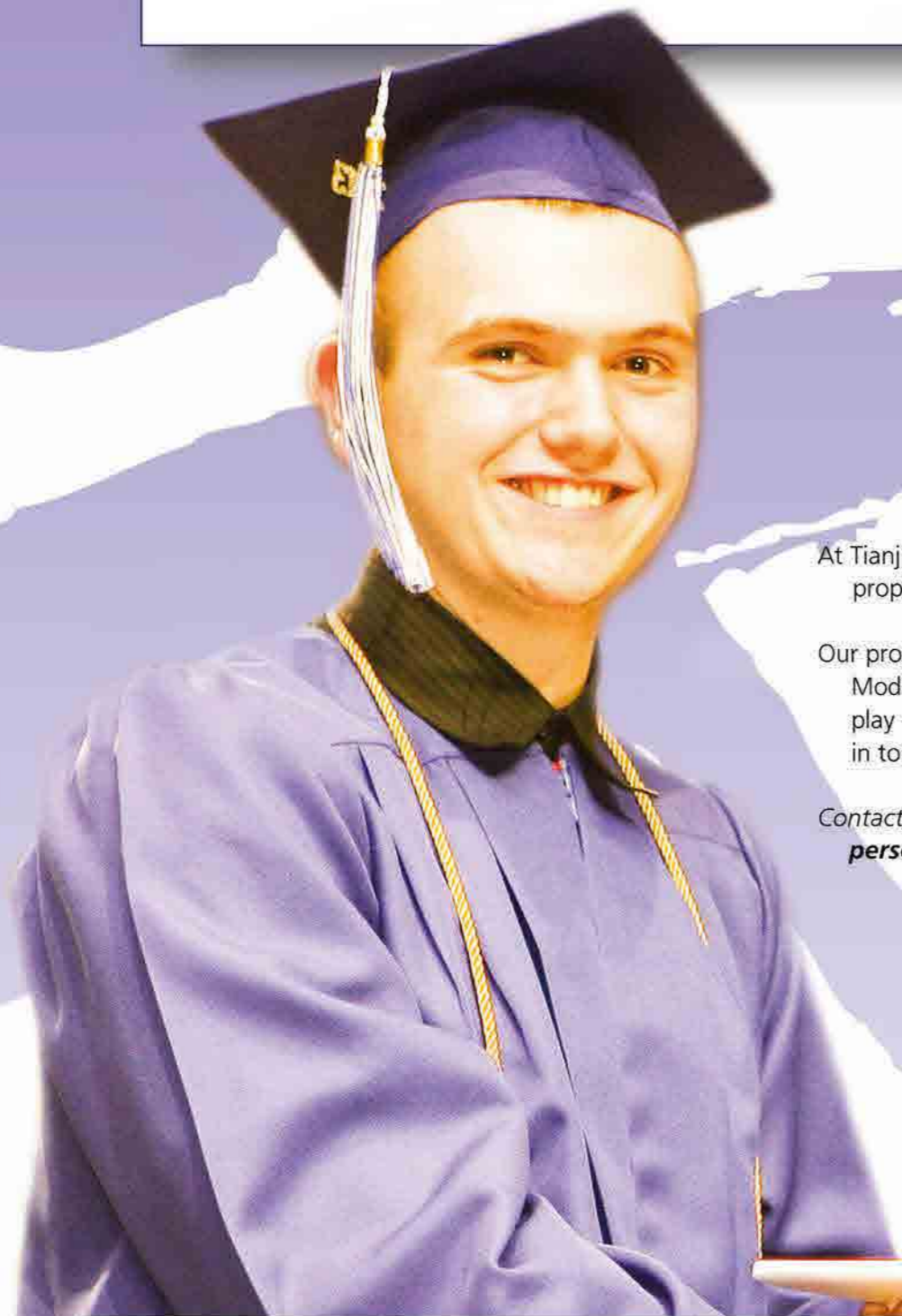
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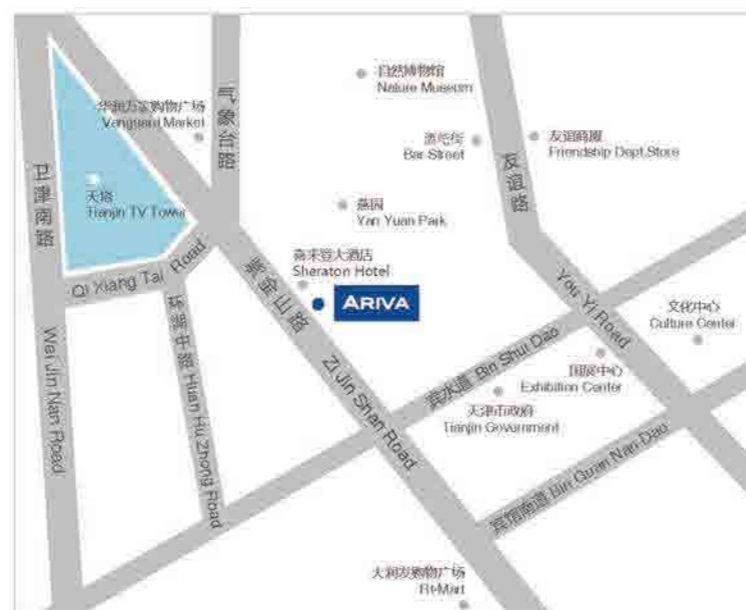


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准备, 起飞!

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Letter from the Editor

March has seen the commencement of a new semester for schools as the rush hour traffic has become even worse. However, this time of year is not only a new beginning for the youngsters but also for the seniors. Believe it or not, it could be argued that senior citizens are actually the most active people in Tianjin. Starting from early morning and throughout the day you can see them everywhere - in the parks, at the food market, on the buses, in banks, hospitals and waiting outside the school gate. Their life in retirement seems even busier than when they were working. You can't assume that just because these people are retired they have lots of time. They have a much tighter schedule than you would imagine and one thing on their to do list is to go to school.

In Tianjin, there is a school specifically for the seniors who have a passion to learn or want to develop an artistic hobby. For only a very small amount, they are able to experience the fun of learning. They are living proof that study is a much valued virtue and you are never too old to learn. Our senior citizens have embraced the opportunity to expand their knowledge and continue to study in their retirement.

Our feature story this month is about these senior citizens. Our contributor, Carmen King, is impressed by our senior's passion to learn. It is obvious that many of them regret that their studies were interrupted, due to historical reasons, and they never had the chance to renew them. Over the years their lives were occupied by work, social and family responsibilities. They never had the chance to satisfy that thirst for knowledge until retirement. Now, you just need to look into their eyes and you can see how desperate they are to learn. Despite their youth being long gone they are still enthusiastic about living and learning.

进入三月份，各个学校都早已经开学了。这个新的学期不仅属于年轻的学生，也属于一群老年人。不论你相信与否，老年人绝对是这个城市中最活跃的一群人。从天色微亮的清晨开始，他们的身影就出现在城市的各个地方：公园、菜市场、公交车、银行、医院、学校门口。他们退休后的生活似乎比退休前还要忙碌。不要以为他们退休了，有了大把时间，你就可以随便打扰他们。他们的日程表要比你想象得满，其中一项就是去上学。

天津有一所专为老年人开设的老年大学。每年只需很少的学费，这些老年人就可以尽情享受学习的乐趣。“活到老学到老”是中国的传统美德。当今的老年人也秉承了这种精神，在退休后继续学习。

我们本期的主题故事就是关于老年人的。作者Carmen对中国的老年人印象最为深刻的是他们学习新知识的热情。我想，除了有传统思想的影响之外，他们现在渴求知识是因为年轻的时候因为种种原因不得不停止学业，后来的人生中又被工作和家庭的责任占据，直到退休以后才有机会专注学习。只要看看他们的眼睛你就知道他们有多渴望知识，他们实际是在弥补逝去的青春。

Monica Wang



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The names of the honorary advisors are listed according to the alphabetical order of the first name initial.

以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列, 排列不分先后。

Tianjin to impose new traffic controls in March

■ 天津3月1日机动车限行:私车每周一天不能开

从2013年12月15日天津市宣布实施“限购+限行”措施以来,有关机动车的购买、限行措施便一直备受关注。3月1日开始,本市限行措施将正式实施,意家的机动车每周将有一天不能随便开。外环线以内尾号限行,即:自2014年3月1日至2015年1月10日,工作日(法定节假日除外)每日7:00至19:00,本市及外环线牌照机动车在外环线(不含)以内道路,实施按车牌尾号区域限行交通管理措施。

Xinhua News Agency has reported that the government of Tianjin will implement new traffic controls starting on the 1st of March and in effect until the 10th of January 2015. This is necessary in order to ease traffic congestion, reduce energy consumption and improve air quality.

Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have already limited the number of vehicles that can be registered each year. Shanghai has an auction, Beijing uses a lottery and Guangzhou has adopted aspects of both schemes.

Miao Hongwei, the head of Tianjin's traffic management bureau, said the city would also follow Beijing's example in adopting a new traffic control scheme.

From the 1st of March cars with Tianjin plates will be banned from the road for one day a week according to the last digit of their number plate reported the Beijing Times. Cars with plates registered outside of Tianjin will be restricted to driving outside of the city's outer ring road during the morning and evening rush hours on weekdays during the same period. Statistics produced by the Tianjin city government show that car ownership has been increasing sharply, with the number registered leaping from 1.2 million in 2006 to 2.36 million last year. The average driving speed on roads in the city during rush hours dropped to 19.5km/h in 2011, 18% slower than the year before.

Nordic Prime Minister Summit in Finland Turku City

■ 北欧总理峰会将在芬兰图尔库市举行

作为天津的友好城市,芬兰图尔库市不久前获得了欧盟委员会欧洲战略中的一个正式席位,以推动波罗的海地区周边国家的有效合作为主要任务。在“2014图尔库波罗的海日”上,图尔库市将成为航海、商务和文化活动的主要举办地,每次活动会有来自波罗的海地区超过1000名专家、决策者以及政治、商业领导人参加。

City Turku has gained a formal role from the EU Commission in the EU Strategy, with the task of promoting effective cooperation with the neighboring countries in the Baltic Sea region.

During the Turku Baltic Sea Days 2014, the City of Turku will be the venue for major maritime, business and cultural events – an arena for over a thousand experts, decision-makers and political and business leaders from around the Baltic Sea region. Among the invitees are also Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

According to the Mayor of Turku Aleksi Randell, all participants at the Turku Baltic Sea Days, from prime ministers to civil society representatives, share a common vision: to make the Baltic Sea region more competitive and to promote the sustainable development and well-being of its citizens – and, thus, make it a better place to live.

China approves 12 more free trade zones, including one in Tianjin

■ 国家新批复12个地方自贸区 天津位列其中

在给予上海市自贸区这一特殊地位3个月后,中央政府已原则上同意批准再成立12个自贸区。中央政府的高层官员已在天津和广东完成实地调研,这两个自贸区很可能在一年之后正式成立。

China may see the emergence of more free trade zones as the central government reportedly has approved 12 new regions to start preparations. They will be following what has already been done in Shanghai.

Citing unnamed authorities, local governments in many of these regions have started research and evaluation after their preliminary ideas for an FTZ received the go-ahead from the State Council and China's Cabinet the Economic Information Daily, a newspaper run by the Xinhua news agency, reported yesterday.

Although the report didn't name them, it said regions including Zhejiang, Guangdong, Tianjin, Suzhou, Wuxi, Shandong, Liaoning, Henan, Fujian, Sichuan, Hefei, Guangxi and Yunnan have prioritized setting up an FTZ this year.

The research and evaluation process usually takes more than a year before a final detailed proposal comes out.

A report by the National Business Daily earlier said Guangdong Province will soon be approved to establish China's second FTZ to strengthen economic ties with Hong Kong and Macau. Xiamen in Fujian Province has also said it's preparing for an FTZ to forge closer cross-strait trade.

Shanghai's pilot FTZ has unveiled several measures to facilitate trade, attract investment and further open the service sector.

Tianjin relaxes one-child policy on February 14

■ 天津生二胎新政策

按照天津市人口计划生育委员会2014年2月17日颁布的《天津市人口和计划生育委员会生育第二个子女审批管理办法》规定,夫妻双方中其中一方为独生子女的可以生育第二个子女;符合条件准备生育第二个子女的可以到女方户籍所在地办理生育第二个子女相关手续。本办法自2014年2月14日起实施。

On February 14th Tianjin Municipality relaxed the one-child policy, allowing couples to have a second child if either of the parents is an only child.

An amendment to the Tianjin Population and Family Planning Regulations was approved at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Tianjin People's Congress, said Zhang Lijuan, the director of the municipality's family planning commission.

Zhang predicts the new rule will result in between 10,000 and 20,000 more births annually over the following three years. Most of them will be born in urban areas.

Tianjin is the country's fourth area to relax the policy, following east China's Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Anhui provinces.

Relaxation of the rule is a significant change to the country's family-planning policy that has been in effect for more than three decades. The move is part of a plan to raise fertility rates and ease the financial burden on China's rapidly ageing population.

Provincial-level governments in Beijing, Guangxi, Hubei and Jiangsu have announced their intentions to relax the policy in March. Others, including Hunan, Qinghai and Shanghai, have promised changes in the first half of the year.

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午马精神龙抬头——西岸昆曲演唱会
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03/07

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No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 022-23263505

03/07

Peking Opera
京剧《四郎探母》
主演: 王平 凌珂 魏海敏
天津大剧院 歌剧院
19:30
Price: 280/180/120/80/50RMB

Culture Center, Pingliang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

03/08

Piano Trio Concert
钢琴三重奏音乐会
20:00



Western Shore Museum
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 022-23263505

03/08

Classical Music Concert
献给母亲的歌——古典音乐独奏系列之4
演出: 天津交响乐团
指挥: 以色列·盖特佐夫
19:30
Price: 50RMB



No. 88, Jianshe Road, Heping
和平区建设路88号 Tel: 2332 0088

03/11-13

Stage Drama: Teahouse 话剧《茶馆》
天津大剧院 歌剧院
导演: 焦菊隐 夏淳
主演: 梁冠华 濮存昕 杨立新
简介: 演出几百场仍一票难求的北京人艺话剧《茶馆》将首次来津, 梁冠华、濮存昕、杨立新等40余位演员讲述一出费尽心思的人间悲喜剧, 解读老舍笔下的大家俗、小社会。
19:30
Price: 1080/880/680/480/280/180RMB

Culture Center, Pingliang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

03/15

The Tianjin Comedy Night

Join at The Astor Hotel Tianjin for an evening of joy and laughter. Comedians from Beijing and the Turn Up Events team are ready to take your suggestions and create scenes that will make you giggle and laugh.

Saturday 15th March 2014
19.00 pm to 22.00 pm
The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin
7 pm to 8pm
Cocktail Reception inclusive Canapés, soft drinks, beer and wine
8pm to 10pm (20 minutes break included)
Improvised Comedy Performance by International Actors
Language: English
Ticket at RMB250 net per person (Cash bar available for all drinks from 8pm and onwards)

Comedy Night Accommodation Package:
RMB1000 for one, RMB1350 for two person including Comedy Show and breakfast.
Purchase Tickets from: The Astor Hotel, Tianjin
Call 86 22 2331 1688 or email christian.metzner@luxurycollection.com
Limited Seats Available



03/15

String Instrument Quintet Concert
弦乐五重奏音乐会
20:00

Western Shore Museum
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 022-23263505

03/15

Peking Opera
元声京剧协奏剧《杨家将》
天津大剧院 小剧场
主演: 凌珂
演出: 天津京剧院
14:00
Price: 180/150/100/80RMB
Culture Center, Pingliang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心



03/14-15

Tianjin Traditional Drum Performance
高原如歌系列之三——天津传统鼓曲
天津大剧院 多功能厅
19:30
Price: 120/80/50RMB



Culture Center, Pingliang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

03/22

National Pole Dancing Team Live Performance
化隆——中国国家钢管舞队优秀作品展
20:00

Western Shore Museum
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 022-23263505

03/21-22

Stage Drama: Red Flag Chronicle
话剧《红旗渠》
天津大剧院 歌剧院
原著: 梁斌
演出: 天津人民艺术剧院
19:30
Price: 280/180/120/80/50RMB

Culture Center, Pingliang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心



03/21

Miyazaki Hayao Cartoon Movie Theme Song Concert
宫崎骏动画主题音乐会
20:00



Western Shore Museum
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 022-23263505

02/28

Hautboy, Bassoon, and Piano Trio Concert
双簧管、大管、钢琴三重奏音乐会
20:00



Western Shore Museum
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 022-23263505

02/30

Pianist solo show
刘特恩钢琴独奏音乐会
天津大剧院 音乐厅
独奏: 刘特恩
19:30
Price: 280/180/120/80



No. 88, Jianshe Road, Heping
和平区建设路88号
Tel: 2332 0088

03/29

Accordion Concert by Italian Musician
噢囉耳朵音乐心-手风琴音乐之旅——巴扬独奏音乐会
20:00



Western Shore Museum
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号
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The Golden Years



By Carmen King, David Wong

最美夕阳红

提到“老人”你会想到什么？白发苍苍、萎靡不振甚至老态龙钟？对西方人来说，直接把上了年纪的人称为“old people”（老人）是不礼貌的。但是在中文里，“老年人”并没有任何贬义，甚至为年长者开办的学校也被称为“老年大学”。老年大学的存在反映了两个问题。第一，人要有活到老学到老的精神；第二，要对比自己年长的人表示尊敬，特别是家庭成员。

对第一点来说，天津很多老人们在亲身实践这种精神。天津老年大学1985年成立，从最初的10个班，552名学生发展到现在的413个班，超过12,000名学生。仅从这些数字中就能看出天津的老年人有多么好学。

对长者的尊敬深深地刻在中国文化里，并在中国人的日常生活中体现出来。在一个家庭中，长者通常具有绝对的话语权。专门为老年人设立的一所学校体现出他们特殊的社会地位。作为来中国生活和工作的外国人，我们应该了解这种社会文化，同样给予老年人应有的尊重。

天津的老人们除了照顾儿孙还有什么爱好呢？那可广泛着呢！老年大学设置了很多的课程，比如电脑、钢琴、声乐、舞蹈、京剧、武术、书法、绘画、摄影、烹饪和园艺。他们可不是每天坐在摇椅上打发时间的一群人，他们的生活非常丰富多彩。

如果你每天起得够早，你就能在小区的空地和花园里看到他们的身影。无论寒冬炎夏，没有什么能阻挡他们出来锻炼。我经常惊讶于他们身体的灵活性，有些太极的动作甚至年轻人也很难做到。中国的老年人注重养生，喜欢饭后百步走。广场舞这种喜闻乐见的运动也是他们热衷的。

很多老人喜欢研习书法。在电子化时代，年轻人很少有写字的机会了。书法需要耐心、内心的平静和专注，老年人明显在这些方面优于年轻人。

我还发现老人们喜欢唱歌。在各种唱歌选秀节目出现之前，老人们就已经开始自娱自乐了，虽然很多人并没有经过正统的声乐训练，但他们从不羞于在任何场合展示自己的歌喉。

另一件老年人非常看重的事就是饮食了。很多上了年纪的人都擅长烹饪，也喜欢研究烹饪，很多海外的中餐厅为了迎合西方人的口味都已经改良了很多，所以如果你能吃一顿天津老人做的饭，那也算没有白来一趟中国。

老人们的晚年生活看似丰富多彩，但他们也有很多实际的问题要担心，有关退

休的话题自然是他们最关心的。最近，有关延迟退休的政策成为中国社会的焦点。

在加拿大，很多职业都没有硬性规定退休年龄，只要你能干，你就可以一直干下去。在美国，无论男女，65岁都是标准退休年龄。但是，社保提供的退休金并不能满足日常开销，所以退休后继续工作在美国很普遍。

在中国，退休年龄是女性55岁，男性60岁。但这一状况将在不久后有所改变。中国政府正在酝酿一系列延迟退休年龄的政策，这在中国社会中引起非常大的争议。一方面，随着中国人口的增长，社保体系需要为更多的退休人员提供保障，但有很多退休人员在现行社保体系建立之前并没有参保，要解决这个问题，要么延迟退休年龄，要么有更多的人参保。

年轻的毕业生和刚刚开始工作的人并不欢迎这项政策，因为这必定导致工作岗位的紧缺和更多竞争压力。一些即将面临退休的人也不希望延迟退休，本来他们已经快熬出头，拿着退休金享受晚年了，现在却突然要再多干五年，这让他们感到很不平衡。

中国的独生子女政策虽然有效控制了人口增长，但劳动力不足的问题也凸显了出来。延迟退休年龄从一定程度上能够保持劳动力供给的稳定。很多发达国家也在不断提高退休年龄，比如英国考虑把退休年龄提到66岁，澳大利亚计划在2030年把领取退休金的年龄提高到68岁。

其实已经有很多人在退休之后仍然继续工作，尤其是家庭负担比较重的人。如果提高了退休年龄，他们会是受益的一群人。在体力允许的前提下，他们可以继续合法工作而不用担心“被”退休，所以收入上也有了保障。

在我看来，很多退休的老人仍然十分活跃。在公交车上经常能看到这些老人，他们不怕没座位、不怕挤，依然兴致勃勃地到他们想去的地方，他们对公交线路烂熟于心，去哪都不是问题。

也许你已经发现了，有很多外国老人也在退休后来中国生活了，他们在这里能干什么呢？不妨学学中国的老人，活到老学到老。天津有很多大学都有面向外国人的学历课程，而且没有年龄限制，至少你可以去学个中文，这样对你在天津的生活很有帮助。对于老年人来说，学习新知识可以让大脑保持活跃，预防老年痴呆，你也可以在天津继续工作，如果你是某个领域的专家，那你一定可以找到用武之地。

The core meaning and message of this phrase is “never stop learning”. For Tianjin seniors this phrase isn’t just spoken, it is lived.

parents working full time the one spending the most time with the children is the grandparents. Thus when it comes to where

to go, what to do, and what to eat, the Tianjin seniors are really the ones in charge!

Outside of looking after the grandchildren, what do Tianjin seniors enjoy doing? Well, pretty much about everything and anything! Based on the courses available at The Tianjin College for Senior Citizens, there is no question Tianjin seniors are busy learning and participating in a variety of activities! The courses for seniors range from computers, piano, zither, singing, dancing, opera, martial arts, calligraphy, painting, photography, cooking, and gardening. Whew, I’m tired just writing that list! Clearly, Tianjin seniors are not just sitting in their rocking chairs watching the grandkids and letting those golden years pass by. Tianjin seniors generally speaking are very active; in fact it appears even more active than seniors abroad.



Attentive in learning



An English study group for the seniors

One of the easiest ways to catch Tianjin seniors in action is to live here and wait for the early hours of the morning to arrive. No need for the rooster or an alarm clock, as you will often hear from the courtyard of your apartment complex the sounds of Chinese Tai Qi music and movements being announced through a speaker as a collection of seniors follow along! Neither the cold nor early hours will keep Tianjin seniors down and out. Day by day they enjoy their exercise and it seems the earlier the better. The movements they do are not simply and often require balancing and flexing into various positions. Tianjin seniors seem quite adventurous in the area of exercise. Compared with the seniors abroad who seem afraid to slip and fall, here these mature folks are stretching and contorting into positions even those young in years may be unable to do, sometimes even balancing on one leg and striking "karate kid" like poses!

As the summer rolls around in Tianjin, parks, and open spaces everywhere around town are full of families, which of course include our dear Tianjin seniors. Tianjin Seniors love post meal walks, early evening dancing and badminton. There is a famous Chinese phrase 饭后百步走, 活到九十九 which literally means "after food one hundred steps walk, live until 99". This phrase comes to life daily by means of Tianjin seniors. Even Chinese seniors living abroad are often the most active in their communities, seen routinely making the rounds after meals, outside getting their power walks in. Another activity Tianjin seniors really enjoy is something similar to kicking a hacky sack back and forth. Many

Tianjin seniors love to kick around a small object with feathers attached to the end of it, in Chinese it is called 毽子 and literally translates to "kick shuttlecock". However this object is not the same as the shuttlecock used in Badminton play. Rather it is specifically designed for kicking back and forth. Be a solo performance or as a group with fellow friends, Tianjin seniors love to kick around this small object and stay active! It takes quite a lot of coordination, balance and physical stamina. For expats staying in

Tianjin who want to get active themselves, find your local park and get into the action with your friendly Tianjin seniors!

The minds of Tianjin seniors are as active as their bodies! The love for Chinese calligraphy is a prime example of their vibrant minds at work. Chinese calligraphy is indeed art. It takes years of study and painstaking practice, thus with age often comes increased beauty to one's calligraphy. Chinese calligraphy takes patience, inner calm and commitment; qualities Tianjin seniors perhaps possess more of than their younger counterparts. Chinese calligraphy is a hobby which does not require a lot of money and in case one is physically limited, can still provide one with a great sense of joy and satisfaction as they practice each Chinese character one by one. In this era of digital this and digital that, many young people struggle to write basic Chinese characters with accuracy and finesse, much less ever come to be called calligraphy masters 书法家. Therefore many of the best calligraphy masters are those advanced in years. It is highly recommended that expats explore the beauty and brilliance which is Chinese calligraphy, which likely will have you meeting some of the friendly Tianjin seniors along the way. The Tianjin College for Senior Citizens has classes helping those in their later years to keep learning and improving their Chinese calligraphy talents.



Young volunteers and senior students

Besides the mind and body, don't forget the vocal cords! Tianjin seniors love to sing! Singing classes also make the list at The Tianjin College for Senior Citizens. Long before the days of The Voice and other popular reality television shows started rising up on the charts, Tianjin seniors have been leading the way with their passion for pop. Granted their choice of tunes may differ slightly, their love for the musical arts does not! Thus, in addition to the structured study of how to sing, many an amateur vocalist can be heard when out and about in Tianjin. Tianjin seniors are not bashful and often put on public performances in parks and courtyards alike. Even when at home, depending on where you live, hearing one advanced in years singing loudly within their home is not out of the question. The singing skills of Tianjin seniors are intimately related to their memory skills. As they can often sing entire songs by memory! Spend a little more time in the parks and open areas of your Tianjin apartment complex and you will be sure to happen upon a live performance!

No discussion of Tianjin seniors would be complete without mention of cooking. Cooking is so intrinsic to Chinese culture. Not to mention if you have yet to come to China or Tianjin, you likely do not know what Chinese food really tastes like. Many so called Chinese restaurants abroad have already greatly altered their culinary cuisine to accommodate the western palate, thus to eat a home cooked authentic Chinese meal in Tianjin as cooked by a Tianjin senior, should be on the list of expats coming to town. Food is huge in Tianjin. In fact, if you ask local Tianjin seniors about what they care about most, one thing that very well will make the list is eating! Eating doesn't happen without cooking, so you will find a large number of cooking enthusiasts here in Tianjin. As to what to cook, Tianjin seniors especially enjoy seafood. Be it shrimp, crab, or the various fish local to the rivers and seas nearby, many dishes include seafood. Soups are a staple to most meals. A typical meal will include several stir fried vegetables, a meat dish, rice and a soup. The soups vary greatly some being light and others eating more like a meal. Don't forget Chinese dumplings, noodles and other wheat based baked goods! Make friends with a Tianjin senior and most likely an opportunity to sample their cooking will not be far off! Tianjin seniors likely cook for themselves every day several times a day. Therefore cooking and eating their own tasty creations is near and dear to their hearts.

In addition to what Tianjin seniors enjoy



Latin dance show

doing in their spare time to enjoy their later years, there are also the practical issues associated with retirement. Retirement 退休 is a topic that pretty much every Tianjin senior talks about and has an opinion on. In recent times, the topic of retirement has become quite the buzz, even more than usual. This is due in large part to some major policy changes as it relates to the retirement age for Chinese men and women, which may occur at some point in the future. What are these policy changes? How does retirement inside China compare with retirement abroad? What are the reactions to potential changes? Let's take a few moments to examine the relative details.

In Canada, most jobs do not have a mandatory retirement age. If you are capable to carry out the job duties physically and mentally, you can continue as long as you wish. In fact, many jobs cannot restrict employment on the basis of age, as this would be considered one type of discrimination. I have several examples of colleagues in public occupations that are still working well into their 70's and one in his 80's. They obviously enjoy and love their jobs and are not working for the sake of money because if they were to retire, their pension would be almost the same as what they are now receiving as their salary.

In America, the standard retirement age is 65 years old for both men and women. At

this point a citizen may apply to the US government for social security. This social security payment made monthly to the senior citizen is typically not considered enough to cover all basic living expenses. Therefore it is very common in the States for those in their 60's to continue working, even though they may be getting social security. Some however opt to not take social security from the government as their personal earning power exceeds the government payment and they do not want to face the tax liability associated with accepting social security.

In China, retirement is mandatory and it is presently age 55 for women and 60 for men. However, this may change in the near future as the Chinese government is considering changing this rule and extending the retirement age. This is becoming a very controversial issue. On the one hand, as China's population grows and becomes more affluent, social support programs are being expected to provide greater services for the population, especially for the retired elderly. But these demands are outreach resources and especially for the recently retired who have not contributed when such programs were not in existence. One solution is to extend the retirement age and have additional contributors into the programs.

They don't want to work another five years and feel it is unfair that they need to wait another five years, whereas their colleagues were able to retire at 55 and 60.

There is opposition to this planned extension because many young graduates and new work force members are finding it difficult to find employment. We have seen recent stories of university graduates having to work as waiters in order to gain employment because of the shortage of jobs. Positions that will be further reduced if the planned retirement extension is enacted.

There are also those that are now near the existing retirement age, those women that are 53 or 58 for men, that have been looking forward to retirement and collecting their pensions in order that they can travel or take care of their grand children. They don't want to work another five years and feel it is unfair that they need to wait another five years, whereas their colleagues were able to retire at 55 and 60.

The situation in China is further complicated by the one-child family policy, which was introduced to control the exploding population. It worked and probably too well, as last year, China's employment pool started to reduce. With fewer contributors to social programs, China needs to resolve the underfunding of these programs, especially old age pensions. One can see the recent easing of the one-child policy, allowing single child sibling parents are now allowed to have a second child and rural parents are allowed to have a second child if their first born was a girl.

The working-age labor force in China declined by 3.45 million people last year, according to the government. The United Nations has forecast a drop of about 24 million in the population age 15 to 59 from 2015 to 2025, while people age 65 and older

will increase by about 66 million. Scarcity is helping push up labor costs, driving companies such as Samsung Electronics to relocate production to other countries such as Vietnam. (Contrary to the earlier example of job shortages, this example of worker shortages is for low skilled jobs.) Raising the male retirement to 65 by 2020 may help keep the labor force somewhat stable, statistics-bureau data show were 41.5 million men age 47 to 51 in 2011. There were 51.5 million women age 37 to 41.

Canada, only has 34 million people and is faced with similar problems of underfunding of social programs. Over half of all government revenues go towards social programs and this is spiraling as medical costs are rising. Canada started their Pension Plan in 1965, much earlier than China and still encounters problems. In Canada, individual tax rate rates are dependent upon income levels and the average tax rate is near 50% for most professionals. Some of my Chinese friends are surprised at this and ask how Canadians can put up with this. I explain that with a small population and such a large country, this is accepted when you see the high level of living standard and support services to the public.

While US tax rates on average are not quite as high as in Canada, they still are quite significant, ranging from 30-50% depending on one's tax bracket. The US is facing huge financial pressure related to the social security program and providing health care for seniors. Some financial professionals have even commented that US citizens in their 20-40's currently should not expect to be getting social security when they reach retirement age, as the US would lack the monetary means to provide it.

Most developed countries experience the problems of reducing employment pools, higher life expectancy and higher living costs. In Canada, pensioners will receive a reduced pension if they apply for payments before they reach age 65 and a larger amount if they apply when they are 70. The UK is considering raising their pension age to 66 and Australia plans to raise their pension age to 68 by 2030.

China is considering similar plans to provide a larger payment if applied for when the citizen is older. In fact, one academic indicated that the government would prefer that their citizens stop working at 50 and collect pensions at 65. It is also expected that this increase will be staged over time.

Perhaps increases of 3 months per year in order to reduce the impact.

An important factor for this is higher life expectancy. Being 50 or 60 is no longer thought of been that old so extending the retirement age does make sense. The average life expectancy in Canada is 82 for women and 80 for men. The China average is 74 for women and 72 for men but as high as 82 for women in Beijing or Shanghai. However, local public opinion appears to be generally negative towards extending the current retirement age.

One reason for this strong objection is likely those ready to retire are in their 50s and they struggled China coming out of the Cultural Revolution and rapid economic expansion which required heavy demands on country and workers and resulted in double digit growth for three decades. The leap has been dramatic, from being the poor man of Asia to the second largest economy in the world. So now most of the populace want a chance to enjoy it.

Not everyone stops working when they retire. In North America, the most obvious example is the Wal-Mart door greeters. They are usually retirees that work part time greeting customers and helping with directing them to find goods.

There are also numerous volunteer opportunities. Check any Canadian airport and you will see retirees helping travellers find the right check in counters or especially International travellers who need help because of language. These volunteers are not paid but are given passes for local city attractions and become great ambassadors for the city while working at the airport only a few hours a week and promoting attractions for tourists. There are similar volunteer opportunities in Tianjin, see an earlier article about Jian Hua Foundation.

The bottom line, some Tianjin seniors want to or need to keep working. Many Tianjin seniors play a major role in contributing to the families overall monthly income. For such ones, if the retirement age for men and women in China is raised, they would benefit. It would actually afford them the opportunity to stay in their jobs legally longer without the fear of being "required" to retire. On the other side, some Tianjin seniors are eager to move on to the excitement and freedom associated with retirement years and the thought of working additional years is less than thrilling. They have already made their "golden years to do list" and do not want a policy change to delay their plans.

One thing is for sure, Tianjin seniors in general are very active. Be it due to necessity or by choice, seniors around town are on the move. An example is how they get around. Many seniors can be seen taking public transportation. They are very capable in getting where they want to go and their advanced age is not slowing them down in any way. This is in the context of Tianjin buses not always offering the smoothest or roomiest ride, yet, Tianjin seniors fear not standing, squishing or holding on for a roller coaster like trip. In this respect Tianjin seniors seem very hardy and capable of taking care of themselves. Also on the transportation topic, the metro system is expanding rapidly in Tianjin. As such, Tianjin seniors seem to be adapting their routes and learning the ropes of this underground travel option, already so familiar to the seniors of Beijing and Shanghai years ago. Included in the modes of travel for Tianjin, seniors ride bicycles, tricycles and drive small electric cars. Cabs and full-size motorized vehicles seem to be the last on the list as it relates to transportation at current. However, with more and more families buying cars in Tianjin, China, and additional regulations in the works on controlling non-licensed vehicles, which take up precious Tianjin road space, in the coming years Tianjin seniors may more than likely opt for the comfy seat of the family sedan.

Outside of the locals, what about the expat seniors? Don't be mistaken, they do exist! While those of retirement years do not always set their sights on travel abroad, the truth is, it may be a real option. As with locals, for expat seniors there is plenty to do in Tianjin.

One option for expat seniors in Tianjin is study. The Chinese government has done a lot to open up Chinese scholarship options for not just the young in years, but the young at heart. With a bit of research online you can find options to apply for a Chinese scholarship in Tianjin. These scholarships are not bad at all. Typically they will include all the costs of classes, lodging, and even a monthly allowance for living expenses. Expat seniors from America, Canada, Korea and many other places have found coming to Tianjin to learn Chinese and experience the culture first hand to be quite interesting and rewarding. In addition under the care of a major university, often most major issues related to finding a place to stay and getting to/from classes can be avoided completely.

In talking to such expat seniors, surprisingly it was found, several had little to



Fan dance at the People's Park

They are very capable in getting where they want to go and their advanced age is not slowing them down in any way.

no Chinese language skills before coming to Tianjin. Yet this did not deter them. Through the help of friends and the Chinese universities, they were able to successfully apply for a scholarship and arrive in Tianjin. This is a great encouragement to anyone intimidated by the thought of learning Chinese and coming to China! Like the Chinese saying noted earlier: "never stop learning" 活到老学到老! Indeed do not let age be an automatic barrier to traveling abroad and learning a new language. In fact some research has even indicated that learning a new language helps tremendously to keep the brain active and prevent Alzheimer's disease. So for the anti-aging benefits or the once in a lifetime experience, perhaps studying Chinese in Tianjin is a great choice for expat seniors.

Expat seniors may also want to consider working in Tianjin. In some cases, you may find serving as a foreign expert is possible. As such, the compensation and provisions made for foreign experts working in Tianjin are typically quite acceptable. In addition to the fact that the overall cost of living in Tianjin is less than in Beijing and Shanghai or back home, a later life work experience in Tianjin may be just the right fit. Tianjin residents' young and old value learning and life experience, so a foreign expert with specialized industry experience or training may find themselves quite in demand. Not to mention, due to the continued dedication and desire to learn English by Tianjin locals, expat seniors will likely find themselves staying busy during their stay in Tianjin with requests to teach English.

As we've seen from our article, one really is never too old to learn! Tianjin seniors are setting the pace and keeping active well into the later years of life. Although possible policy changes may result in some Tianjin seniors working a few extra years, in general having something to do is far better than sitting around with nothing to do! So too, expat seniors looking to spice up their later years can also consider coming to Tianjin for study, work or travel!

准备, 起飞!

很多孩子都有一个飞天梦, 希望有一天能驾驶着飞机翱翔在空中。中国民航大学就是培养飞行员的高等学府, 而美国人Todd Wichmann就在这所大学任教, 用他19年的飞机驾驶经验帮助中国的学生实现他们的梦想。

Todd是这所大学唯一一名外籍老师, 来天津已经5年了。说起为什么当初选择来天津, Todd说: “天津依然是一个混合了东西方文化的地方。在北京和上海, 有时候你感觉不到是在中国。”他会继续在天津生活, 因为只有在这里他才能感受到地道的中国文化, 品尝天津的美食。

在美国, Todd是救生飞机的专业飞行员。所以, Todd不仅有理论储备, 还有实际操作经验。无论天气条件多么恶劣, 只要接到求救电话, Todd都必须立刻出动。同时, 他还要保证把急救病人安全送到医院。19年来, Todd一直在高压环境下工作。所以他决定改变一下生活状态。在朋友的建议下, 他来到中国开始了教书的生涯。

他的资历能让他在中国轻松地找到一个不错的工作。Todd对自己的薪金非常满意。他的工资能让他过上很舒适的生活, 所以他几乎很少回美国。

Todd每年大约要给800名学生讲授飞行知识。他发现中国学生学习非常认真, 出勤率很好。每个学期的第一个月, Todd都把他的学生形容为一个紧闭的蛤蜊, 他们不太知道怎么和外国老师打交道。于是Todd就经常和他们开玩笑, 让他们放松。他从来不会对学生大吼大叫或严厉斥责, 而是慢慢启发他们, 让他们逐渐打开外壳, 露出里面的珍珠。Todd喜欢和学生打成一片, 他认为只有这样, 学生才能消除对老师的紧张感, 全心投入到学习中。Todd觉得这些未来飞行员都有很好的资质, 基础知识扎实。有超过77%的学生毕业后会去国外接受进一步训练。2013年, Todd还迎来了建校以来第一批女飞行员。

Todd来中国后娶了一位中国太太, 两人一起抚养两个孩子。这是他在事业以外的收获, 享受爱和天伦之乐。

Ready, set, fly!

By Carmen King

For some from the time they were a tot there was but one dream, flying. Helping turn Chinese childhood dreams of flying into adulthood reality, Mr. Todd Wichmann from Washington D.C., USA is calling Tianjin, China

home these days and punching the dock at the Civil Aviation University of China located in the BinHai District of Tianjin.

Todd holds a very unique position as the only foreign teacher teaching aviation at the Civil

Aviation University of China. Seeing as many expats get locked into the role of “English Teacher” for life, Todd is leveraging his unique professional background along with his desire to set sail for the seas abroad to find job security and a rewarding teaching career in Tianjin.

Todd was kind enough to share with JIN magazine the tips, tricks and advice his time in Tianjin has allowed him to acquire. For those thinking about living, working, studying or traveling to Tianjin, these words of wisdom should prove useful, especially if you are considering making Tianjin home for more than a few weeks or months.

As mentioned Todd arrived in Tianjin from the US capital of Washington D.C. He has called China home for last 5 years, with virtually the entire part of those 5 years being spent in Tianjin. This led to a question right off the bat, why did Todd choose Tianjin instead of the bigger cities of Beijing and Shanghai?

Todd mentioned that Tianjin is the right blend of the east with the west. Namely, in some parts of Beijing and Shanghai, it has become less and less obvious you are in China. Foreigners are a plenty, foreign brands and goods are everywhere, therefore for Todd, the interesting aspects of being in China become less and less. For Todd he feels Tianjin provides the balance he is looking for. As he mentioned, when you want

to get some real Chinese food, he has more choices than imaginable, and too he said he has never been disappointed. On the other side, Tianjin is not your back country cabin. Tianjin does have its fair share of foreign folk and foreign food. However it is not so overrun with such that you will find yourself wondering if you are even in China. Todd mentions he would never choose to go to Beijing or Shanghai, rather plans on calling Tianjin home for the foreseeable future as it gives him plenty of opportunity to enjoy the local Chinese cultural and tasty treats while having access to the food and goodies of his previous place of residence the USA.

Instead he slowly but surely draws them out and little by little helps these “clams” to open up and reveal the “pearls” they possess inside.

How did Todd find his way to Tianjin China? Todd had a Chinese friend who passionately recommended him coming to China and trying his hand at life abroad. Originally Todd's friend helped him secure a teaching position at the TangShan Medical College, however that tenor was short in duration. Todd's unique professional background caught the attention of the Civil Aviation University of China located in the BinHai District of Tianjin. What is Todd's work history?

Todd has 19 years of professional flying experience. In the US as a professional pilot, Todd flew for Life Flight, also known as air ambulance. Flying an emergency rescue helicopter year after year, Todd doesn't just have classroom teaching skills, he has real hands on flying time. Essentially, be it rain, snow, wind or else, when the call comes for an emergency flight Todd was on the move and to the skies. In addition, if the pressure of the terrible weather were not enough, he had the precious cargo of a human life in desperate need of medical attention onboard. After 19 years of such thrills, Todd under the advice and guidance of a Chinese friend decided for a change of pace, namely come to China and use his aviation skills to teach Chinese students yearning to take to the skies themselves. With such a stellar resume Todd had no trouble finding work. In 2009 Todd arrived in China and has yet to go back to the States, even once.

When asked why, Todd said, “simply no need, everything I need and want is right here in Tianjin!”

Having come to Tianjin China for the principal reason of work, Todd has much to share about making a successful career in Tianjin. As to the big topic, let's talk dollars, or should we say Chinese Yuan! When it comes to compensation, Todd is quite satisfied. He feels the money he is being paid lets him live a comfortable life. Stating Tianjin offers a lower cost of living when compared with the States along with less overall work hours, Todd finds working at the Civil Aviation University of China quite satisfying. In addition to the pay package, Todd is very pleased with the vacation time, stating he has more time off here in Tianjin than back in the US.

Apart from the financial benefits of working in Tianjin, Todd also spoke on the nature of his work and Chinese students. Incredibly, Todd teaches approximately 800 Chinese students per year how to fly! He finds Chinese students very attentive and excellent in their attendance. In the first month of class, Todd describes students as “clams”, all sealed up. They are unsure how to take him, as again he is the only foreign expert teaching aviation on campus. Todd puts them at ease by joking around with them, not to embarrass them. He doesn't yell or chastise them. Instead he slowly but surely draws them out and little by little helps these “clams” to open up and reveal the “pearls” they possess inside. Todd does spend time socializing with his students, something a bit different than back home in the US. He has eaten many a meal with them and even introduced them to a lot of tasty western foods. Todd finds making friends with the students invaluable in achieving the overall goal of becoming great pilots. They need to learn what Todd teaches, and the more the students relax and focus on the material instead of the teacher and being nervous, the better. Todd describes the Chinese pilots as above average, each having a solid foundation in ground theory, radio, telephone communication and aircraft 101. Not to mention over 77% of the students Todd teaches will go abroad for additional aviation

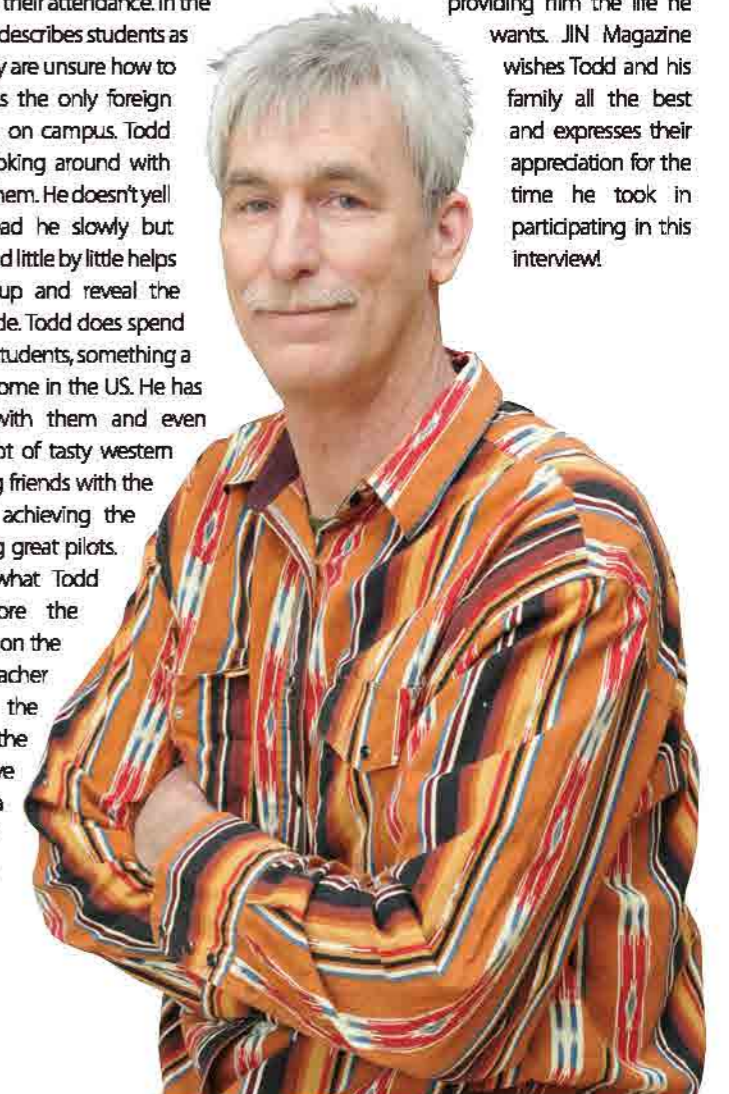
training. These pilots are well trained and suited for international aviation. The remaining 20% of the student base will work in China for regional airlines. Todd's teaching made history in 2013 as well, as for the first time in the history of the school, 36 Chinese females were welcomed to the aviation training class.

Todd has found a home in Tianjin both personally and professionally. In recent times he has married a local Chinese woman from Tangshan. Together they are raising two children, a son in his teens and daughter who will turn 3 this year. On the personal side Todd finds his new Chinese family to be very welcoming. They treat him with respect and enjoy spending time together. All said, Todd has found a rewarding career utilizing specialized skills to enrich the Chinese youth and future pilots of the world, likewise found love abroad and has come to know the joys of fatherhood. Todd does not plan on returning to the US anytime soon. With good pay and plenty of spare time, Todd feels Tianjin is providing him the life he

wants. JIN Magazine wishes Todd and his family all the best and expresses their appreciation for the time he took in participating in this interview!



Todd is talking about his favorite helicopter.



天津咖啡市场竞争日趋激烈

在哪可以同时品尝来自英国、美国、韩国等不同地区品牌咖啡? 答案是: 天津。具体来说, 是天津西开教堂前面的南京路国际风情街。在这里你可以找到英国品牌连锁咖啡Costa、美国品牌Starbucks、以及韩国品牌Caffe Bene。由于天津经济的不断发展、低廉的运营成本以及巨大的消费群体, 这座城市引起海内外投资者们的极大兴趣, 越来越多的国际大品牌涌入天津市场, 比如咖啡这一类西方人士的生活必需品。

近年, 天津的咖啡餐饮业得到了飞速的发展, 市场上既有本地自主品牌外滩风尚咖啡厅, 也有诸如Starbucks这样的海外品牌进驻。咖啡厅从原来的“白领专属”渐渐变成让其他阶层的人也乐在其中, 常常用于好友聚会、相亲约会、读书自习、甚至商务洽谈。过惯了公司、家庭两点一线生活的市民越来越注重生活的品质。因此, 咖啡厅这种融优雅与休闲于一体的场所成为职场中人的又一重要“栖息地”。

当然, 投资者千万不能过于乐观或者急于出手。根据笔者在国际风情街作出的一番观察和市场调查之后得出一些建议, 或许可以成为投资者的参考因素。首先, 天津消费者对大品牌情有独钟, 品牌名气越大, 对消费者吸引力越大。在同一时段、同一地段, 笔者观察到在Starbucks里面有30名消费者, Costa有10名, 而Caffe Bene则一名顾客也没有。其次, 环境装修很重要。大多数咖啡厅对自身的定位不是非常清晰, 即目标客户群定位不清。倘若针对的是学生, 应进行年轻时尚定位; 倘若周边高档住宅多, 针对高端客户群, 应进行成熟休闲定位; 周边商务写字楼多, 要进行商务消费定位; 周边人员流动性大, 可以进行简便快捷定位等等。只有明晰了咖啡厅的客源, 才能根据需要进行风格设计。

总之, 打算在天津开公司或经营自己的事业, 首先一定要做好市场调查和目标客户的定位。然后, 就是要做好心理准备: 这里的市场竞争也很激烈。

Coffee in Tianjin Competition Comes Knocking

by Carmen King



Where can you find a taste of England, America and Korea all in one spot? Tianjin! More specifically, on the small pedestrian street in front of the Tianjin XiKai Catholic Church 天津西开天主教堂, you will find Costa Coffee, Starbucks, and Caffe Bene.

Who's who?

Costa Coffee beckons from the UK, London that is. Costa was founded in 1971 by two Italian brothers. Now with over 1,600 locations, it is the Brit's largest coffee conglomerate.

Starbucks is nestled in none other than

Walking back and forth between the three locations, thinking, observing and asking questions, there was so much to learn.

the cradle of grunge, Seattle Washington, USA. Before Kurt Cobain and Eddie Vedder gave a name to all the angst, in the same year Costa was cracking open their coffee can, that is 1971, Starbucks started its journey down coffee lane as well. Starbucks now has 18,000 locations.

Caffe Bene calls the slick, social, soul of Korea that is Seoul its haven of sanity. Late to launch but fast to follow, founded in 2008, Caffe Bene has 1275 locations worldwide.

Outside of coffee, what do these three coffee power houses have in common? The answer yet again is... Tianjin. Tianjin the little brother oh so near to the Beast of the East known as Beijing, is slowly but surely drawing big brands and foreign investment. With a massive population and lower cost of development, big businesses are looking into Tianjin. Costa, Starbucks, and Caffe Bene aren't looking, they've arrived. With these three coffee connoisseurs competing side by side for Tianjin coffee customers, there's a bit to be learned.

First, Tianjin is on the move. It is growing, changing, and making its transition from little brother overshadowed by big brother Beijing, to its own legitimate city. The fact that three major coffee brands like Costa, Starbucks, and Caffe Bene choose to invest in Tianjin and invest big, is just another notch in the "draw foreign investment" belt of Tianjin.

Second, be it coffee or any other industry, if you plan on opening your business in Tianjin, be ready, competition will come a knocking. Don't think you can open any old store and people will flock to you and fill your pockets with their hard earned RMB. You are going to need to be creative, bring not just a brand but some muscle, proving you are here to stay and can outlast, outwit, and outplay the competition. Reality TV. like competition is in Tianjin everywhere you look. In less than a stone's throw distance you've got three major coffee shops all fighting for the same Yuan.

Third, same place, same time, oh so different result. Here's a reality check for all you expat business folk looking for your opportunity to cash in on Tianjin. At the same place, the small pedestrian street in front of the Tianjin XiKai Catholic Church, at the same time of day, three coffee shops were getting dramatically different results. What results? Costa has less than 10 customers, Starbucks close to 30 customers and well, sorry Mr. Caffe Bene... 0 customers. Yes, from 0 customers to nearly 30, the difference was shocking.

Walking back and forth between the three locations, thinking, observing and asking questions, there was so much to learn. For the bosses behind the brands, these stats are gut wrenching. The questions is, why? Why were these three establishments getting such different consumer reactions?

Here are a few keys:

First, brands are big in Tianjin. Who's bigger is often who's perceived as better. Look at the stats above, sure Costa and Starbucks both got their start in 1971, but looks like Starbucks has been on steroids and Costa is just a spectator. With Starbucks out pacing Costa to the tune of nearly 16,000 more stores, ah, is Costa even trying?

Caffe Bene, trying hard, but paling at roughly 1,200 stores, candidly there is no comparison between the size and scope of these brands. Yet, respectfully, in the UK and Korea, their home turf, neither Costa nor Caffe Bene is a joking matter.

The issue at hand though is Tianjin China. If you want to take on Tianjin, then you need to come big. Bring your brand and everything it has to offer, Chinese consumers and Tianjin locals do take note of brands and they like big. After all with a country population breaking a billion, you've got to be big to be noticed. Thus you better understand not just who you are, and what your brand is, but how big or should we say "bigger" the competition is, after all, from Starbucks at nearly 30 customers, Costa less than 10, and Caffe Bene dead in the water at 0, ironically this moment in time perfectly reflected the three brands and their actual relative size as it relates to each other. Coincidence?

Second, 环境 "environment" matters. What environment? Namely, it is about the ambience, the feel, the mood, the mojo, the surroundings, and the vibe inside the store. Take our three coffee chaps for example, Starbucks, leading with nearly 30 customers consuming their brew at the time of visiting, offers their clientele a two floor comfortable, cozy consuming cocoon.

Costa, with less than 10 customers had a relatively small one floor location. It had two

Conclusion, environment comes second in things to consider when doing business in Tianjin.

ways in and out of the store which resulted in quite a cross wind, this drafty dive was not welcoming. Plus the main walls were glass which left customers catching a cup of Joe inside feeling more like a fish in a fishbowl put on display for the pedestrians walking to and fro outside. Still, it wasn't the worst showing, as we have our bronze finalist, namely Caffe Bene.

Caffe Bene from an environment standpoint was not the worst, however it was the worst as far as the numbers go. Their location is also two stories, with the cashier and ordering happening on the first floor and main seating above, really almost an identical layout to Starbucks. Copy cat? However, despite its best attempt at duplicating



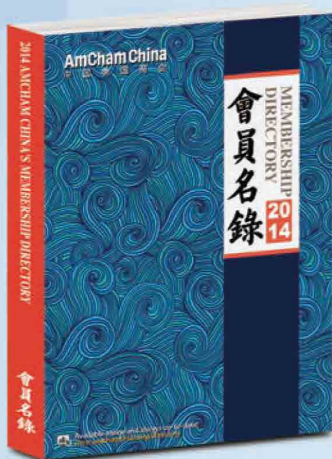
Starbucks posh pad, no one was in there.

Conclusion, environment comes second in things to consider when doing business in Tianjin. First, check your brand and see if you have what it takes to battle with the big boys; second, create a comfortable consumer experience by offering a well designed and suitable in-store environment.

Coffee anyone? In Tianjin both expats and locals alike are not short in finding a shot of espresso or fancy frappuccino. Tianjin has plenty of mega brand coffee houses like Costa, Starbucks and Caffe Bene. So if you are stuck in Shanghai or beat in Beijing why not try a trip to Tianjin? A first class bullet train ticket to Tianjin and a cup of coffee can be had for less than 100 RMB. A simple experience aside, study up on the city, as Tianjin is calling more and more foreign businesses home. Reduced startup costs, large consumer base and rapidly expanding transportation infrastructure also make the list of reasons to consider Tianjin. Yet, buyer beware, expat or local, if you plan on doing business in Tianjin, brush up on your market research as you sip the caffeinated coffee of choice and remember, be it coffee or something else, in Tianjin competition will come a knocking.

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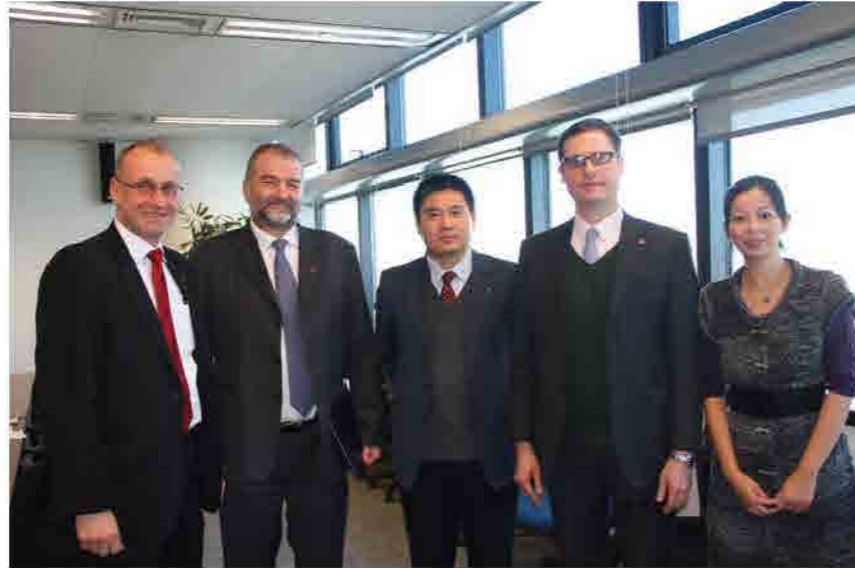
European Chamber
中国欧盟商会

EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

Working meeting with Mr. Xu DaTong President of Commerce Commission, Tianjin Binhai New Area 21 January, 2014

On 21 January, the European Chamber Tianjin Chair Mr. Castaldi along with other board members and staff had a fruitful working meeting with President Xu Datong, Commerce Commission of Tianjin Binhai New Area.

The both sides agreed to reinforce further communication and cooperation, and worked out a specific working agenda during the one hour's meeting. It includes the regular high level meetings with Heads of Tianjin Binhai New Area, working level meetings and activities for policy updating and emergency meeting to help out member companies' for their individual problems.



GM Briefing: Asymmetry in the Development of EU and China 23 January, 2014

On 23 January, The European Chamber Tianjin Board welcomed H.E. Mr. Alberto Bradanini, Italian Ambassador to China's visit to Tianjin and invited him to deliver a speech during the GM Briefing dinner event with more than member companies.

Ambassador Bradanini's introduced the status of the Sino-European strategic partnership, which reached its 10th anniversary last year, celebrated within the 16th EU-China Summit (Beijing, 21st November 2013). He also touched upon the dynamics of bilateral trade and direct investments, which have largely benefited China for more than a decade now and have been characterized by deep and lasting competitive asymmetries. Stress was laid on the Italian contribution as well as on the strategic importance of identifying realistic routes, in order to balance current trade moving from the results of the 3rd Plenum of the PCC Central Committee and from the existing complementarities between China and Europe.



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Promotion period:
March 8 (Thursday) to 9 (Sunday)

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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)

Upcoming Events

Tax Seminar - Individual Income Tax Management (in Chinese)
Friday, March 7, 2014 | 15:00 - 17:00 | German Chamber Tianjin Office



个人所得税作为与雇员利益联系最紧密的税收，从来牵动着企业人力资源和财税经理人的心弦。因此，作为企业个税申报和处理的负责人，如何既能够满足合法合规的报税，又能明确清晰的向雇员解释其个税处理情况，并提出改进意见无疑是近期工作的要点。

此次我们特意邀请普华永道的专业人员为您梳理2013年个税最新的动态，分析代表性的典型案例并提供参考意见和策略分析，在征管力度不断加强的大环境下，让企业实现全面合规与税收优化。

讲师：杨治中先生，普华永道税务部合伙人
董昊先生，普华永道个人税务咨询经理

Seminar - How to Apply for Visa to Germany
- Information by the German Embassy and the German Chamber of Commerce (English/Chinese)
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 | 15:00 - 17:00 | German Chamber Tianjin Office



Against the background of increasing Sino-German business ties, the application for business visa to Germany for Chinese manager, employees and business partners is of great significance for most companies. However, HR departments of German and Chinese companies are often lost when it comes to apply for a visa. Therefore, the German Embassy and the German Chamber of Commerce provide information on how and where to apply for business visa to Germany. The seminar will provide guidance on:

- the visa services of the German embassy,
- the conditions for applying for a Schengen visa,
- relevant regulations, deadlines and the time needed for an application,
- the correct completion of the application form,
- common mistakes that might delay or even prevent the issuance of visa, and
- the concrete benefits for members of the German Chamber of Commerce

Speakers: **Ingo Ganns**, Visa Officer, German Embassy
Ms. Li Nan, Visa Service Manager, German Industry & Commerce Greater China - Beijing

More upcoming Events

- March 5, 2014: Networking Dinner in TEDA, Delights Bar & Restaurant
- March 6, 2014: Special Event - Airbus Tianjin Factory Tour, Airbus Tianjin
- March 26, 2014: Kammerstammtisch Tianjin, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin

German Chamber Tianjin Office: Room 1502, Global Center, No. 309 Nanjing Road, Nankai District, Tianjin 300073
Tel./Fax: +86 22 8787 9249
Email: tianjin@bj.china.ahk.de Website: www.china.ahk.de

2014 Hopeland International Kindergarten Opening Ceremony

It was an excellent start to the new semester at the Hopeland International Kindergarten. Basking in the sunshine of the early morning, the children and teachers were so pleased to be together again. The lovely Arnold, Mickey and Minnie joined the students and teachers in the new classroom where a wide range of activities were enjoyed by all participants. At 9:30am the teachers and children were all dressed up in their uniforms and the opening ceremony began. After the principal's speech, the national flag was raised and all present were so excited about what the future will have in store for them. We wish everyone a wonderful semester!

2014年华兰国际幼稚园开学典礼

沐浴清晨，充满了新学期的希望。华兰国际幼稚园的全体师生迎来了崭新的学期！可爱的阿诺、米奇和米妮，久违的同伴，亲切的老师，焕然一新的教室，丰富的活动，都让孩子们无比兴奋和喜悦！9:30分，开学典礼准时开始，身着整齐礼仪服的老师和小朋友精神百倍，升国旗唱国歌，园长致辞，师生宣誓，对新学期充满了无限展望！祝愿所有的新朋友和老朋友新学期愉快！老师们工作顺利！

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You shouldn't miss the xiao long bao at Din Tai Fung. The thin dumpling wrapper holds a delicious soup with the xiao long bao visible when you hold it up to the light. Then use your chopsticks to pick up a freshly steamed xiao long bao. Take a bite and feel the juices, stuffing and soup squirting out to stimulate your taste buds. Take your time though because these delicacies need to be appreciated and savored slowly.

The staff at Din Tai Fung are extremely careful with their quality control and all xiao long bao are made following strict rules. The dumpling wrapper weighs 5g; the stuffing is 16g; 18g is provided for the crimping crust and the dumpling will always weigh about 5mg.

Their dealers search the world to source the highest quality wheat powder to meet their strict culinary standards so you are assured that it is the best available. The powder is quality tested by Din Tai Fung before it is sent into the kitchen.

The main stuffing is pork. It is always freshly prepared and made from a secret recipe.

All stages of the preparation and cooking are handled by skilful chefs to ensure that the high standards of Din Tai Fung are met. The steaming process combines high tech and old fashioned but time proven techniques. The high tech steaming machine was invented by Din Tai Fung and is computer controlled. After the steaming process the dumplings are placed in a low tech but time honored bamboo steamer to ensure that the dumpling is cooked to perfection.

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TEDA Store: 4F, ISETAN, 2nd Avenue, TEDA, Tianjin Tel: 022-6554 1035



Back to School Mania

By Daniel McCool

There's no doubt that the first day back to school can be crazy.

The first day back is the time when you need to gather all your paperwork and materials. Packing your bag the night before school day is a great way to ensure your morning is not a train wreck.

Are you one of those fussy dressers who tries on their whole wardrobe before finally ending up wearing the first thing you tried on? What is important is that you wear something that makes you feel comfortable, be it a brand-new pair of shoes or a well-worn old pair of run-arounds. If you do plan to wear new shoes, however, be sure to break them in a few days before going back to school to prevent your feet howling at you long before school breaks.

Emotions

Lots of people feel anxious, scared, or excited about school.

Don't feel bad if you feel nervous about going back to school — everyone feels nervous or shy at some point. Be honest with yourself: after a long break, getting used to the workload and routine of school takes some getting used to. If you do feel a mental breakdown coming on, however, just think back to some other 'first days': everything probably settled down after a few days.

It is important to meet new people and get reacquainted with old friends. The key is to start small: If large groups make you nervous, try saying hello to one or two new people a day. The best place to start is with the person who ends up being your new desk mate. Or, try asking

克服开学恐惧

“开学恐惧症”的主要症状是情绪低落、心慌意乱、无缘无故发脾气、浑身疲劳、注意力不集中、记忆力减退、失眠等，有的患者还伴有头痛、胃痛等躯体不适症状。不难想象，享受一段无忧无虑悠长假期生活的孩子们，过于贪玩的同学们，必然会对开学感到害怕。事实也正是如此，许多孩子由于暑假作业未完成、对充满未知的学习生活焦虑、迫于升学的压力等因素，缺乏必要心理准备。无作息规律的生活习惯之后，一联想到开学后的紧张课业，就产生了焦虑、恐惧的情绪，造成对开学存在心理阴影，严重时就会导致开学恐惧症。

家长可在开学前适当帮助孩子加以调节，做好入学前的准备工作，尤其是长假最后几天，对孩子的心理状态、生活内容等都作出相应的调整，同时保证孩子合理饮食、充足睡眠，以适应新学期的学习生活。其次，让孩子提前进入学习状态，就孩子在开学前如何模拟正常的学习生活，如何从生活内容到作息时间都作出相应的调整，帮助孩子制订作息时间表，要督促孩子按时起床、饮食，保证孩子开学后有旺盛的精力投入到新学期的学习中。

如果孩子一时无法适应，则需要家长的循循善诱，需要家长予以适当的监督。此外，家长还可多给孩子介绍一些学校里的有趣事情，适当减轻孩子的思想负担，向学校老师了解孩子在校情况，使孩子回校后能有较好的适应条件。

除此之外，还可以让孩子给好朋友打电话，聊聊新学期的打算，缓解孩子的紧张情绪。对孩子多鼓励，激发他们对新知识的兴趣和好奇，消除孩子对新学期的畏惧情绪，引导孩子对新学期做一个详细的规划，大至整个学期，小至每天的学习生活，然后用笔标在日历上。

最后，身体锻炼不能少，按时作息调整好生物钟。假期有可能玩通宵或很晚睡觉，开学之前有必要调整好自己的生物钟，同时减少使用电视、电脑、电子产品，用体育锻炼来充实生活，调整状态。

Even after a few days, if you still feel uncomfortable, try talking with the school counselor, a favorite teacher, or someone else you trust with your feelings.

some new people to sit with you in the cafeteria.

Even after a few days, if you still feel uncomfortable, try talking with the school counselor, a favorite teacher, or someone else you trust with your feelings. The most important consideration is time: adjustment problems are only temporary.

Making Your Way Through the Lunchroom

After gym, everyone's favorite period is — almost undoubtedly — lunch. But with foods like

rice, noodles, or porridge staring you in the face when you're at your most hungry, it can be hard to make healthy choices.

Here are some tricks to choosing foods that will keep you focused and active throughout the day — as well as help you grow and develop throughout the school year:

Get a copy of the menu. Knowing what's on the menu puts you in control: You can pick and choose which days you want to buy lunch and when you want to bring your own.

Head for the salad bar. If your school offers a salad bar, take advantage. If you'd rather pack, consider adding carrot sticks, a piece of fresh fruit, or pretzels to your lunch bag.

Think energy. Some foods are better choices than others for maintaining energy during the day. Choose low-fat proteins, like chicken, beans, or low-fat yogurt and add lots of fruits and veggies to your meal. They'll provide the vitamins and minerals you need and the energy to get through the day. Foods that have a lot of simple carbohydrates, like sugary snacks, donuts, or french fries may give you a quick rush of energy but it's not sustainable.

Stop for a snack. You can't concentrate or absorb new knowledge without a well-fed mind and body. So take along a healthy snack, like carrot sticks or trail mix, to stave off hunger between classes (don't munch during class, though, or you may face a reprimand!).

Having a Brain Drain?

School seemed simple when you were younger. Everyone told you where to go, what classes to take, and how to finish your homework. Now things are different; there are so many choices and priorities competing for your time.

Here are some things you can do to help regain control:

Plan ahead. Get a wall calendar or personal planner. Mark the dates of midterms, finals, and other tests. Note the due dates of term papers, essays, and other projects as they are assigned. List any other time commitments you have, like basketball practice or play rehearsals.

Stay ahead. Try not to fall behind. If you feel yourself falling behind and starting to feel frustrated, let your teachers know. It's better to get help early on than to wait and think you can ace the final if you spend a few nights cramming. Almost everyone struggles with a particular subject or class. If you're having

trouble with a particular subject or homework project, ask your teacher for extra help after class.

Listen up. Paying attention in class can actually pay off in the long run. Sure, it's often easier said than done, but actively listening and taking notes during lectures can make recalling information easier when it comes time to study and remember things.

Take notes. If you take notes and review them before class begins (or while studying for an exam), you can ask a teacher to go over anything you don't understand. Learning good note-taking skills in high school also helps put you ahead of the curve in college, when good lecture notes are key to studying and doing well.

Ahh-choo! What to Do?

Nearly everyone gets sick at one time or another. If you're out sick, ask friends to take notes and pick up your homework.

If you're out for more than a day or two, do a little work every day if you feel up to it to keep from falling behind. Some teachers post assignments and notes on the Internet — find out if they will accept faxed or emailed homework. If not, have your mom or dad drop your assignments off at school. Then be prepared to make up lab time and tests when you return.

If you're not feeling well enough to keep up with your classes, that's OK. It's more important that you take care of yourself. Again, establishing a good relationship with teachers helps them be more understanding and they'll be able to help you catch up when you make it back to school.

Survival Tips

Here are some more things that can help put you ahead in school:

The old saying "breakfast is the most important meal of the day" is never more true than when you're going to school. Students are more alert and perform better in class if they eat a good breakfast.

Get enough sleep. Studies show that teens need at least 8½ hours of sleep each night to feel rested. Sleep deprivation can lead students to fall asleep in class (embarrassing if you're caught!) and can also make it hard to concentrate. It can be more productive to get the sleep you need than it is to stay up late cramming: A recent study found that students who got adequate sleep before a math test were nearly three times

more likely to figure out the problem than those who stayed up all night.

Do more at school and you'll have less to do at home. Take advantage of those times during the school day when you're not in class: Review notes, go to the library or computer lab, get a head-start on your homework, or research that big term paper. You'll be thankful later while you're at the mall or a concert and your classmates are stuck at home cramming!

One of the best ways to make friends and learn your way around is by joining school clubs, sports teams, and activities. Even if you can't kick a 30-yard field goal or sing a solo, getting involved in other ways — going to a school play, helping with a bake sale, or cheering on friends at a swim meet — can help you feel like a part of things.

School is a time to make friends and try new things, but it's also a place to learn skills like organization and decision making that will come in handy for the rest of your life.



如果我摔倒了，请帮忙扶起我！

“救命啊，我摔倒了，站不起来了！”这是上世纪80年代美国的一个老人求救器的广告语。如果独居老人发生紧急情况，只要一按按钮，就会立刻有人过来帮助。但在中国，这样的求救器应该也能派上用场，因为独居的老人在不断增多。

中国最崇尚孝道，对父母和长辈十分尊重，他们在家里拥有绝对的权威。这一点在称谓上就能体现出来。在西方，对亲戚的称谓大概只有叔叔、阿姨、表亲这几种。但是在中文里，根据辈分、分支、年龄和性别可以细分为九种。长幼有序，更不可以对长辈直呼其名。

如果你问一个外国人什么叫“孝顺”，他可能很难定义。但是孝顺却是中国文化中最为重要的一个部分。虽然西方人也会尊重和关心长辈，但跟中国人有很大不同。他们会有更独立的生活，成年后很少有人还和父母住在一起。

然而，随着中国经济社会的发展，这种价值观也在悄然发生变化。去年中国发生了几个老人在街上跌倒的事件。比如在辽宁省，一位路过的好心人王女士护送一位摔倒的老太太送医院，还自己垫了医药费，结果这个老太太和她的家属反过来诬告王女士撞倒了老太太并要求赔偿40000元。要不是当时的监控录像记录了实际情况，王女士还真的是跳进黄河也洗不清了。

另一个事件是中国去年以法律的形式要求子女时常回家看望老人。但是这项法律条款有几个不太清晰的地方，比如如何定义“老人”，根据现行法律，要满足“至少60岁”和“独居”两个条件。而且新法对于探望的频率也没有具体的规定。

虽然传统的孝道依然在中国社会根深蒂固，但30年来的市场化改革正在逐步瓦解传统的家庭结构，同时中国现在的养老体系又不够健全，大部分人还是靠养儿防老。

为什么大家都觉得现在的子女对父母的照料远不如以前了呢？独生子女政策后遗症是一个原因，另外就是经济的快速发展给人们生活带来的巨大压力。

独生子女政策带来的家庭结构决定了一对年轻夫妻要赡养两对老人甚至还有祖父母，而以前还有几个兄弟姐妹可以帮忙分担。当今生活的压力让人们必须全力以赴地挣钱，才能买房、买车、养孩子。很多人都远离家乡到城市打拼，所以很难再承担照顾父母的责任。

忙碌的生活让人们的生活范围越来越窄，更不想为自己招惹麻烦，尤其是当媒体上经常曝出好心人反被诬陷的事情。另外在亲情这个问题上，“距离产生美”这句话绝对行不通，而且微信这样的通讯工具永远无法取代一个真实的拥抱或一顿家庭便饭。无论如何，老人摔倒了，都要毫不犹豫地扶起来。

Help, I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up!

By David Wong



“Help, I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up!” was the title of a famous TV commercial in the United States in the 80's. It was promoting a security device that a senior could press if they were in danger and the receiver would immediately send help. This was before mobile phones. The commercial became very popular and recited by comedians and other TV shows. The commercial showed an elderly lady, (her name was Mrs. Fletcher) had fallen in the bathroom and unable to get up on her own, she presses the device and soon help is on the way.

I use this illustration for two events that have occurred in China recently and demonstrate the changing culture and perspective towards the elderly. Respect and filial duty towards elderly and parents is still very strong in China, probably more than in Western societies. The Chinese family has always been very important extended unit with the patriarch as the head and filial obligations met by the children.

One can also see this with the way Chinese address their relatives. In the West, we use the general terms of Uncle, Aunt and Cousin without differentiation. In Chinese



there are nine different levels of identification that is dependent upon: generation, lineage, relative age and gender. In Chinese culture where the extended family is still valued, kinship terms have survived well into current usage. Also, since it is not proper to refer to or address a more senior family relation by his or her given name, the kinship term is the only possible term of address. When there are many siblings as in many older Post-World War II baby-boomer families, the relation is distinguished and addressed according to age or rank.

For example, 大 Da (great/senior/elder) is used in the address for 大姨 DaYi (the eldest sister of one's mother); 二姨 ErYi for the second eldest sister of one's mother; 三姨 SanYi, for the third eldest sister of one's mother, etc. In cases where someone is older than his more senior relation, such as an uncle, it is common to address the senior relation with a diminutive suffix.

This is something not as strong in Western cultures, ask a westerner to define filial and most do not know. In Chinese, filial piety or duty is 孝顺 "Xiao Shun" and is one of the most important aspects of the culture. I am not saying that Westerners do not respect their elders, or not care about their parent, but probably with not as much emphasis as in China. Whereas in the West, an independent way of life is the custom and thoughts of sharing an apartment with your son or daughter is not the norm, like it is in China.

This family devotion can be seen by the several heart-tugging TV commercials leading up to Spring Festival, showing children going

through great difficulties to journey back home by train, bus or sea to celebrate the New Year with parents. The reality probably plays out more dramatically, as each year; hundreds of millions make the annual trek during this holiday.

However, this part of the Chinese culture is changing as China changes. Back to my first example with the "Help, I've Fallen..." commercial. In the past year, there were several instances of a fallen old lady, in Liaoning, that was helped by a passing good Samaritan, Ms. Wang, who took pity on her and escorted the lady to a local hospital, called the relatives and even paid the 200rmb doctor fee. Only to find out later that the old lady and her family sued Ms. Wang for 40,000rmb, claiming that she caused the fall. Thankfully, the surveillance camera on the bus showed the truth and Ms. Wang was vindicated.

The second example of changing cultural attitudes is the introduction of a law last year that states children must visit and care for their parents. The Chinese government is taking the ancient custom of filial piety – that is, paying respects to one's elders, to a whole new level by enacting a law, effective on July 1, 2013, that requires citizens to frequently visit their elderly parents or keep in touch with them. The law, which was initially passed at the end of 2012 by China's National People's Congress, was part of several amendments to the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly legislation.

Some details of the law remain vague; for example, the law only states "family members who live apart from their parents should often visit or send regards to their parents." Under Chinese law, 'elderly parents' are defined as those aged at least 60 and living on their own. According to Article 17 of the new law, family members are prohibited from "overlooking or neglecting the elderly," but do not specify how much time is legally considered as "neglect" and instead defers to the discretion of the elderly. In addition, if elderly parents think their "spiritual needs" are being ignored by their children, they will be able to apply for mediation or bring their case to court.

Although respect for the elderly is deeply engrained in Chinese society, three decades of market reforms have accelerated the breakup of China's traditional extended family, and there are few affordable alternatives like in the West, such as retirement homes.

This all started when a mother felt that her children were neglecting her and sued them. Her case was heard and she won and the children were ordered to visit and support the mother. The new law is thought to be difficult to enforce but felt it was the Chinese government's way of issuing a statement. The other part of Chinese culture that is important "Saving Face" 面子 Mian Zi and no one would want to be embarrassed by their parents to appear in court for charges of neglect to their parents.

Why these recent changes to generations of cultural norms for caring for those in need and the elderly? I think that the one-child policy is one cause and the other is the speed that the economy and resulting life style pressures have an influence.

The one-child policy has resulted with one young family have responsibility for 4 sets of parents and more if you include grandparents. In the past, siblings shared this responsibility. The pressures of modern living in the cities, mean that couples have to focus on making a living, making more money, to buy an apartment, a car and provide a good education for their child. Many are living away from hometowns and family support systems.

This results in a very private and narrow living environment. They do not want to get involved with other's hardships or problems, especially when they hear of good Samaritans being sued for trying to help. On the subject of Filial Duty, I don't believe in the saying: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder". I think that longer absences and greater distant will make the relationships more distance: "Out of sight, Out of mind". The modern age of WeiXin, Skype and Cell Phones does not replace the warmth of a hug or the sharing of a meal.

So, next time you see someone in need, help; and start planning a trip to visit your parents, now.

The modern age of WeiXin, Skype and Cell Phones does not replace the warmth of a hug or the sharing of a meal.



消失的记忆 凝固的历史

2014年2月13日至15日，中国·杨柳青第一屆国际民俗摄影大展在古镇杨柳青光明大殿前隆重开幕，本届影展共征集了来自国内29个省市以及南非等国家的900余名摄影家、摄影爱好者的17351幅(组)作品，举办了国内外民俗主题摄影展览43场。《今日天津》副总编张健先生携《天津老胡同》专题摄影作品，应邀参加了此次展览。

可以说，老天津人几乎都在胡同和四合院生活过，积累了说不完道不尽的故事，从而凝聚了独特的文化积淀。2003年以来，天津迎来大规模的城市改造，许多老院落、老住宅被拆除，为记录原始风貌，作者经常与轰鸣不绝的推土机赛跑，抢救性地拍摄了大量原住民的真实生活状态。仅仅几年，看着这些“老照片”恍如隔世，那些熟悉的情景、那些生动的神态，只能定格在历史的相框里供人追忆。

Disappearing memory and solid history



February 13 to 15 saw the opening ceremony of the first Yang Liu Qing China International Folk Photography Festival. The festival was held in front of the Yang Liu Qing Guang Ming Palace of this ancient town. This year the festival exhibited 17,351 pieces photographs works representing more than 900 photographers from 29 provinces in China. Photographers from South Africa and other countries also had their photographic skills on display. There were 43 folk themed photography exhibitions including the work of the deputy editor-in-chief of Tianjin Today Magazine, Zhang Jian. His collection was called the "Old Hutongs in Tianjin".

The older generation of Tianjiners lived in hutongs built around a quadrangle courtyard. The residents of these neighborhoods have many stories to tell and are a major part of our city's cultural tradition. However, since 2003, large-scale urban renewal projects have begun in Tianjin and many of the old courtyards and bungalows are disappearing. So, as a record of the original housing style of Tianjin, Mr. Zhang Jian has been racing against the roaring bulldozers to get a photographic record of the people's lives before it is gone forever.

In the future, when people look at these pictures it will seem that they were taken centuries ago. Fortunately, the familiar scenes and vivid facial expressions of the present will be available for the generations of the future to see how their predecessors lived.



中法百年双城记

岁月可以磨灭无数的前尘往事，可是那些打动人心的故事，人们仍会长久记忆。在法国城市阿尔贝和中国的天津之间，就有这样一段历经百年但人们仍难以忘怀的故事。

城外来信唤醒尘封记忆

1994年12月，天津市长收到一封来自法国阿尔贝市市长德米力的感谢信。他用法英两种文字书写的信写道：

天津市市长阁下：

请查收随信附上的两份有关贵市在1920年间慷慨善举的文件。那时正值一战结束不久，我们城市的大部分被战火吞没。天津和其他三个城市一起为我市的重建提供了帮助，并因此获得了“我们的祖父”荣誉。我们想了解一下贵市是否保存有75年前人们此行善举留下的记录。阿尔贝是法国唯一有天津街的城市，我们希望以此为契机，重新联结双方的友好。

请尽快与我们联系。

您忠诚的德米力

天津市民募捐援法灾难

1919年11月5日，天津各界代表和各国驻津领事商定在津成立救战协济会，对协约国募捐筹款，救助被战火摧毁的欧洲城市。8日，救战协济总会中国直隶筹款部成立，公推海军曹锡为会长，直隶省长曹锐、省议长边守靖为副会长，办公处设在基督教青年会。9日晚，来自天津50所学校的校长商议确定13日举行捐大游行。随后几天，各协约国国旗3.1万面被赶制出来，其中2.6万面被分给队员，其余5000面悬挂于天津主干道两旁。

13日下午2时，两万多人在东马路天津基督教青年会门口集合，形成11个方队，分别代表11个协约国，在津各国团体还组织了9辆花车跟在队伍后面。游行队伍经过的道路两旁挤满了围观的市民，劝捐游行历经一个多小时。

为市民捐款热情所感动，天津各大报馆在刊登有关捐款信息时不收取任何费用，电报局拍发有关捐款的电报也分文不取，所有捐赠款项分期送交驻津救战



Gong Tiejing is showing a photo of Tianjin to a French representative.

Tianjin and Albert a Centennial Tale of Two Cities

By Gong Tiejing
龚铁鹰

接到来信后，天津市长迅速即给德米力回信，表达继续发展两市友好关系的愿望。同时，来信被转给天津市史志办公室，以查找当年天津援助阿尔贝的史料。史志办在天津图书馆找到一套较为完整的天津早期报纸——《益世报》，从1918年11月初到1919年1月间，该报有许多有关此事的报道，一段中法友好的故事从发黄的纸页中再现。

阿尔贝苦寒令天津同情

阿尔贝在法国北部的索姆省，距巴黎150公里，靠近比利时边界，建城于罗马统治时代，1178年正式宣布为市，1620年法国国王路易十三以他的宠臣、这座城市的新领主查尔斯·德·阿尔贝的名字为这座城市命名。它是法国北部机械工业较为发达的地区，一战前生产自行车、电梯和缝纫机。小城恬静美丽，在一战前的和平年代里，城市里遍布美得让人心醉的楼宇，在城外田野明媚的阳光下，薰衣草和矢车菊在草丛和荆棘旁自由地开放。一战的炮火摧毁了一切。由于城市坐落在德军入侵的必经之路上，1914年9月，阿尔贝战役爆发，阻止了德国征服法国沿海地区的计划。1914年11月起，阿尔贝不断遭到德军从周围高地的炮击，最终被德军占领。阿尔贝大教堂的底座被炸碎，金色圣母像破碎倾斜，市中心、工厂、车站也都被炸毁。到1918年8月23日被英军解放时，阿尔贝已成为废墟，老城片瓦不留，昔日繁荣的小城只剩寥寥几个藏身地窖的居民幸免于难。

1918年11月，一战以协约国的胜利而告终。然而，战后欧洲战场上像阿尔贝这样沦为废墟城市的重建，牵动着无数人的心。远隔万里的天津，尽管一年前刚遭遇开埠以来最大洪灾，当时水陆交通全部中断，救济难民重建家园需要大量资金，但急公好义、乐善好施的天津市民，仍开展了一场声势浩大的活动，为欧洲的被毁城市募捐。

协济总会，由总会安排捐助有关国家和城市。通过印发手册、刊发声明、南开学校的学生演剧等多种捐助形式，短短两个半月内，共91993人捐款212131银元。捐款最多者为曹锡，5000银元，捐款最少者为6厘。无论多少，都代表了天津人为重建战后欧洲付出的一片真心。

生于阿尔贝、在津工作的欧洲植物保护研究联合会工程师菲利克斯·佩尔诺，为此倡议和奔走，阿尔贝得到来自天津的大部分捐款共227507法郎。阿尔贝市用这些捐款修建了一所妇产医院和一个儿童食堂。1920年，医院和儿童食堂中间的街道被命名为天津街，并在此竖起了天津街纪念碑。此后，阿尔贝市政府的一间办公室被命名为“天津办公室”，艺术家们绘制了表现天津风情的画作悬挂于市长办公室。

中法百年友谊感动世人

事实上，阿尔贝与天津两市之间的友谊可以追溯到1911年。现任担任阿尔贝市长的德米力告诉我们，当时阿尔贝所属的索姆省一位中尉战时飞行员，成为中国航空管理局的技术顾问。在他的帮助下，北京南苑建起了机场，还成立了一个能招收80名学生的飞行学校。之后，中国在索姆省的柯德龙飞机制造厂订购了12架双翼飞机。订单规定这些飞机须飞往南苑机场交付验收，柯德龙飞机制造厂创始人勒内·柯德龙于1913年6月23日在北京验收了第一架飞机；7月9日，他亲自驾机从北京飞往天津。这也是第一次有飞机在京津两市间飞行。

德米力动情地说，阿尔贝是一座深深了解“支援”一词的城市。一战后天津市民对阿尔贝重建给予了巨大的经济援助。近一个世纪后的今天，他再次向远在万里之外的中国人民表达谢意。

2013年12月，在一战爆发百年和中法建交50周年前夕，天津和阿尔贝共同在巴黎举办“法国与天津”图片展，讲述两个城市间的故事。图片展诠释了天津

国际主义的城市精神、宽厚包容的城市文化，给法国人留下深刻印象，其中阿尔贝“天津街”的故事最让法国人动容。前来参观的法国市民纷纷留言道：“展览让我们重拾旧时回忆，同时也让我们展望共同的未来。”“感谢这么精彩的展览，让我加深了对中国的了解。”法国国民议会前议长阿夸耶耶称，中法之间曾经和正在发生的感人故事，激发了法国民众了解天津、关注天津的兴趣和热情，将为法中交流写下新的篇章。

展览开幕式结束后我们访问阿尔贝。如今小城又恢复了一战前的美丽。阿尔贝大教堂高耸云天，街道两旁古风犹存的房屋多为红砖砌筑，丝毫不见重建的痕迹。在天津街上偶遇居住于此的居民，当获悉我们来自天津，他们热情地用中文“你好”向我们问好。我们还参观了用天津捐款建成的妇产医院和儿童食堂。每年大约有300多名婴儿在这所妇产医院诞生。

我想，天津的捐款用在了最恰当的地方。战争带给阿尔贝的是毁灭，天津援助带给阿尔贝的是新生。近百年来，阿尔贝几代人从这里来到人世间，成为建设阿尔贝的新生力量。

阿尔贝之行，的确会让我们永远铭记，铭记这座城市重生的美丽小城，铭记持续百年的中法人民的友谊！



An Albert Hospital donated by Tianjin government is still in use.

People always remember things that deeply move them regardless of how old the story is. The story of Tianjin and Albert is a touching tale of two cities - one in China, the other in France. It is still worth telling even though the story is almost a century old.

In December 1994, the mayor of Tianjin received a thank you letter from the mayor of Albert, Mr Demilly. He wrote:

Dear Mayor of Tianjin,

Please find enclosed two documents regarding the help your city gave mine in 1920. It was soon after the First World War when most of our city had been destroyed and our citizens traumatized by events. Tianjin and other cities helped us in our reconstruction and, in doing so, we bestowed on them the honor of being 'our kind father'. We, in our city, are wondering if you have any records of the kind favors your city did for us 75 years ago. Albert is the only city in France with a 'Tianjin Street'. We would like to take this opportunity to rekindle the friendly relationship between our two cities.

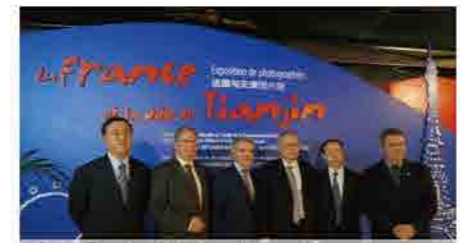
Please get in touch with us soon

Yours faithfully
Mayor Demilly

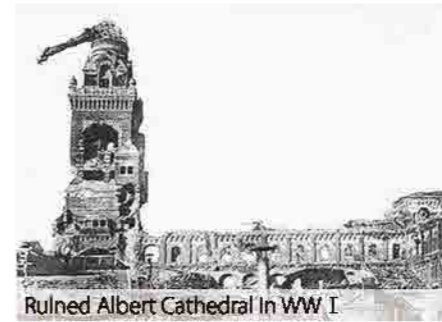
The mayor of Tianjin immediately replied expressing his wishes that the friendship between the two cities would continue. As well, he forwarded it to the office of city history to check what information they had. A complete report was discovered in the Tianjin library archives in the oldest Tianjin newspaper - Yi Shi Bao. The story of Sino-Franco friendship comes to life when you read their accounts.

Great sympathy shown for Albert from Tianjin

Albert is a city in the Somme in the north of France. It is 150km from Paris on the Belgian border. It was founded in Roman times and was officially declared a city in 1178. In 1620, the French monarch Louis XIII, named the city after the well known noble Lord Charles de Albert. It became an industrial city known for manufacturing bikes, elevators and sewing machines before the First World War. It was a



Gong Tiejing (left) and French representatives in France & Tianjin Photography Exhibition.



Ruined Albert Cathedral in WW I.

beautiful place. In September 1914, Albert was invaded and was soon under the control of German troops. The Albert Cathedral and the golden statue of the Virgin were seriously damaged in the invasion. The city center, factories and stations were bombed. By the time it was liberated on August 23, 1918 the city was almost deserted with only a few war weary dwellers remaining.

The First World War ended with the victory of the Allies. The reconstruction of many cities like Albert in Europe garnered the attention of the world. Although at the same time there was a serious flood in Tianjin, our citizens dug deeply into their pockets to donate to help rebuild Albert.

Tianjin public fund raising efforts for Albert

In Tianjin, representatives from various sectors set up the WWI Masonic association to raise funds for cities like Albert. The headmasters from more than 50 schools in Tianjin decided to organize a combined parade urging people to donate. Around 5000 flags of the Allied countries were hung on the main roads of Tianjin. There were eleven parade teams, each one representing one of the eleven Allied countries and nine floats that traveled around the city attracting an enthusiastic and sympathetic crowd.

The press and post office staff offered their services for free in processing the donations. The Nan Kai School students performed plays with all proceeds going as donations. In less than ten weeks, 212,131 Yinyuan was collected from 91,993 people. Donations ranged from 5000 Yinyuan to 6 Lin with every donation a symbol of goodwill to assist in the reconstruction of Europe from the people of Tianjin.

Felix Pernod was born in Albert and was working as a plant protection engineer. He raised 227,507 Francs while in Tianjin. With this donation, Albert was able to build a maternity hospital and a children's canteen. In 1920, the road between these two buildings was named 'Tianjin Street'. A 'Tianjin monument' was built in the street to

commemorate the donations. An office in the Albert government building was named the 'Tianjin Office' and adorned with paintings of Tianjin.

Centuries of Sino-Franco friendship

In fact, the friendship between Albert and Tianjin can be traced back to 1911. Mayor Demilly told us that a lieutenant from the Somme had served as a technical adviser for the Aviation Administration of China. Beijing Nanyuan airport was built with his help and he worked with the first 80 student pilots. An order of 12 aircraft was also made by Beijing Nanyuan airport and it was supervised by the lieutenant who personally flew one of the French planes from Beijing to Tianjin. It was also the first flight between Beijing and Tianjin.

Demilly said Albert is a city which knows what it means to give and receive help to others. Now, after one hundred years, he is offering his city's gratitude to its Tianjin friends half a world away.

In December 2013, a 'France and Tianjin' photo exhibition was held in Paris, which retold the stories of the two cities and demonstrated the generous and tolerant spirit of the residents of Tianjin. The exhibition made a great impression on all who saw it. A former member of the French congress stated that the stories of the two cities had inspired the French people's interest in Tianjin and helped make new progress in the Sino-Franco relation.

We visited Albert after the exhibition. The city seems to have always been beautiful and peaceful. It is as if there was no war at all. After learning we were from Tianjin, the citizens offered us a warm and heart felt welcome of Ni Hao. We visited the hospital and canteen donated by the people of Tianjin. There were more than 300 babies in this hospital. It is a great feeling to know that Tianjin's people have helped welcome them into the world.

I think the donations from Tianjin have been put to a great cause. The war caused so much damage to Albert and its citizens. However, what Tianjin has done for Albert is to help in its rebirth. We will never forget our trip to Albert. Albert will always be remembered for its beauty and because it is a living reminder of the continuing friendship between China and France.



Ji Shi Newspaper reported on the parade on Nov.20, 1918.

包子和咖啡的联姻

天津的狗不理包子可谓大名鼎鼎，它已经成为这座城市的名片。正因为如此，狗不理包子从最初的街头小吃被包装成“高大上”的奢华餐饮品牌。春节期间，狗不理的各种礼盒非常热销。人们觉得送出这种礼盒非常有面子，但是很少有人舍得花钱买给自己吃。

但是最近狗不理正经历一场革命。金碧辉煌的狗不理终于放下了高贵的身段，开始把目光转向曾经对它望而却步的普通民众。之所以有这些变化是因为政府出台了“节俭至上”的新举措并加大了执行力度。以往在一顿饭上一掷千金的现象不复存在了。在新形势下，狗不理采取了最立竿见影的措施——降价！狗不理宣布将在天津增开100多个外卖窗口，这些窗口的包子价格只有堂食的50%。

包子的故事不止发生在天津。北京的庆丰包子铺因为习近平主席的突然造访而名声大噪。庆丰顺势推出习近平当天点的菜品作为特别套餐，吸引了全国各地慕名而来的顾客。这件事传达了一个信息，如果连国家最高领导人都能接受这样的食物，那它就应该成为平民食物。同时，习主席也为全体国民做出勤俭的榜样。

降价并不是狗不理的唯一举措，更加令人震惊的是，狗不理同时宣布将会收购一家美国知名的咖啡连锁品牌。咖啡和包子两样完全不搭的东西现在要发生关系了，这引来了很多网友的猜想和戏谑。人们猜测以后会吃到咖啡味的包子还是喝到包子味的咖啡。

中国人都喜欢新的事物，无论是狗不理开始卖咖啡还是在咖啡店里卖包子，都会吸引很多本地的顾客。如果这笔收购真的达成了，相信前景一定不错！不论是爱喝咖啡的年轻人还是爱吃包子的老年人都可以进门消费。

也许你认为这件事有些荒唐，但是这是在中国，发生什么都不稀奇！

Coffee and Steamed Buns? Go Believe!

By Paula Taylor

Of course you all know what and where Goubuli () is don't you? You should do, it is the brand that Tianjiners are most proud of, and there are branches all over the city. You may also know it by the strange English translation of Go Believe. Tianjiners will always ask you if you like the food in Tianjin and then they will automatically say "Goubuli Baozi". I just bumped into a guy from Beijing who now lives in London and he told me he used to go to Tianjin all the time, and then he said "Do you like "Goubuli baozi?" I laughed. Baozi or stuffed dumplings started out as humble street food and therefore should normally be quite cheap. They are - if you eat them elsewhere rather than at this restaurant. The reason that the Goubuli brand is expensive is because it is known as a Lao Zi Hao (), which means it is an old established brand, and this gives it a certain distinction. In fact this brand is around 155 years old.

Many of their shops are rather ornate affairs which no doubt contributes to their old world atmosphere. Just before Spring Festival they do a roaring trade in baozi gift boxes. The shop in Shui Shang Bei Dao does not have enough space to stock all the boxes, so they are always stacked



Local people love Goubuli

Goubuli is always considered one of Tianjin icons

outside in the road. However although people like to give them as gifts, their expensiveness and exclusivity mean that many people cannot actually bear to eat them themselves. They can swallow the price if they are giving them to a friend, but will not spend that much money on themselves usually.

However there has been a revolution at Goubuli. Previously their high prices meant that the baozi were being marketed as a high-end food, and the restaurants as high class, which meant that ordinary people were really priced out of the market. This is strange when you consider that the humble origins of the baozi meant that they were originally aimed at the ordinary person's pocket. As previously stated, just recently though there have been a few developments that have altered the way Goubuli are doing business, and one extremely surprising turn of events is taking place.

Firstly, the Government has cracked down on the expense accounts of officials, so gone are the days of having long expensive lunches and dinners courtesy of the State. This has meant that the expensive restaurants have seen a significant dip in their profits and now need to woo the ordinary customers back. These restaurants are finding out that diners of more modest means are infinitely better than no diners. Having chased them away with their high prices, there is only one thing for them to do to bring them back - cut prices. To this end Goubuli have indeed slashed their prices by 50%. They are also on track to open around 100 stores across Tianjin by next year, and these stores will be selling steamed buns to take away.

Incidentally if you are in any doubt that Chinese people are proud of baozi, you may be interested to know that a famous baozi chain in Beijing has experienced a leap in custom since the Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, dropped in

unexpectedly and had a meal at one of their branches late last year. In order to cash in on this experience, the restaurant is now selling a special meal which they say he ordered, and for the princely sum of 21 yuan, you too can eat like a president. No doubt the message is that if humble food is fit for the leader of China, it is fit for anyone. No doubt too the politicians will want to follow the good example set of not wasting public funds!

The price cut also came hot on the heels of Goubuli's surprising revelation that it is poised to purchase a famous American coffee chain. Of course it goes without saying that whilst wheels are still in motion they are not prepared to reveal the name of this coffee chain, but suffice it to say that they have revealed that the sales network of

People are wondering if there are going to be coffee flavoured steamed buns, or steamed buns flavoured coffee.

this business involves hundreds of outlets across more than 40 countries and regions. If that is the case there are surely only one or two chains that fit these criteria. On hearing this news my first reaction was that I wanted to use their English name and say "Go Believe!", but according to Zhang Yansen, chairman of the board of Goubuli, negotiations have reached the final stage and the completion of the deal is set to take place in the first half of this year.

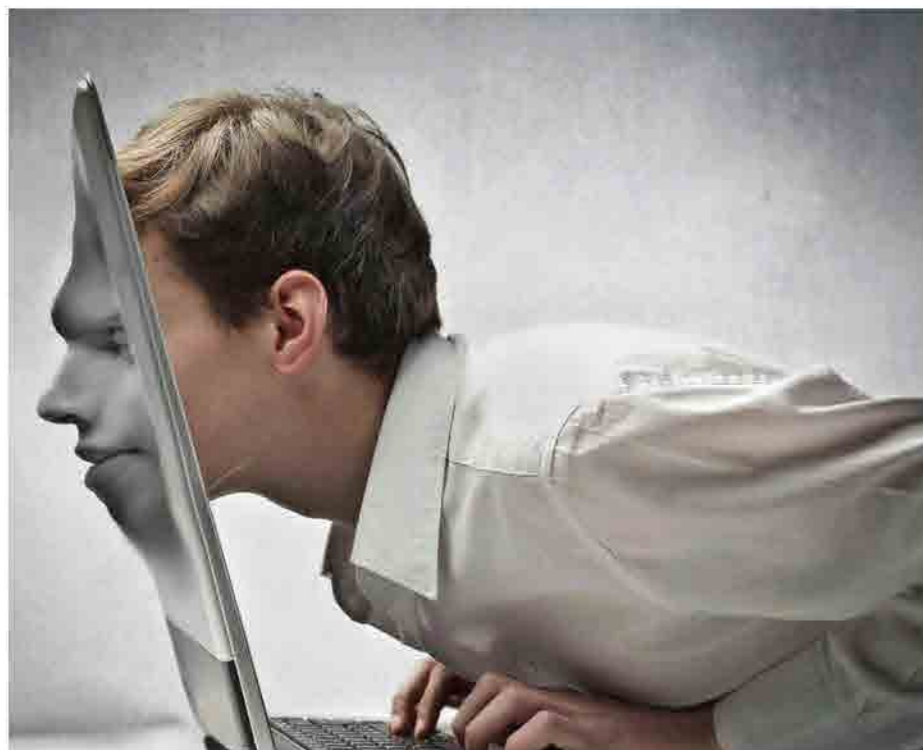
This is quite intriguing, as steamed buns and coffee make strange bedfellows. There have been myriad speculations and jokes doing the rounds on the internet. People are wondering if there are going to be coffee flavoured steamed buns, or

steamed buns flavoured coffee. I am tempted to make a few of my own, like will they rename the shops Starbuns or Costbuli? You will realise of course that I am just speculating, I don't know who the coffee chain is, in fact I don't know any more than you do. Actually I do know a little bit, the coffee chain beginning Cos. is British, so that rules it out. Other questions to be asked are will they keep the coffee outlets intact or will they be incorporated into the baozi stores, or vice versa?

Chinese people love new things so if Goubuli starts to sell coffee in their shops, or the coffee shops start to sell steamed buns, the locals will flock there. In fact if the acquisition does go ahead, rather than being strange it is actually good business sense. This is particularly so if the coffee shops do sell baozi on their premises, and indeed it is hard to imagine that they won't take advantage of such a good opportunity, the reason being this; not all Chinese people drink coffee, and the older generations particularly avoid it. However they all love baozi so even if they don't want to visit the coffee shop to drink coffee, they most definitely will visit to buy buns. The coffee lovers will no doubt leap at the chance to have something a bit more substantial to eat than what the coffee shops currently offer.

It has been fun imagining and speculating how it is all going to come about, so I think if they do not actually succeed in buying the coffee chain it will be quite disappointing. It definitely is a novel idea that has taken a lot of people by surprise.

When I told the Beijing guy that Goubuli were going to buy a coffee chain, I said "Baozi and coffee don't go together. His reply was "Who says" and then he laughed. I can imagine dear old Mary saying to me "This is China, we can do what we like!" I almost forgot, in China any kind of food and drink go together and why not! I guess our American friends hold the monopoly on coffee drinking, maybe they should decide.



Life/Work Balance

by David Wong & Carmen King

平衡工作与生活

如何在繁忙工作和家庭生活中寻找最佳的平衡，一直是很多职场人士面对的现实问题，特别是在节假日期间，要两者兼顾更是难上加难。根据目前唯一一家真正意义上的全球性办公场所提供商，雷格斯在26,000多名商务人士中间开展的全球性调查：其中，55%的职场专业人士表示，他们在放假期间的工作比平时仅略有轻松，需要查阅电子邮件、接听电话，随时处理重要任务。30%的人表示，他们放假期间每天工作超过3个小时。显然，超过半数的职场人士倾向于为工作投入更多时间和精力来达到期望中的个人职业目标和成绩。

有人曾经说过：“你想要有多忙碌就会有多忙碌。”意思是分配和掌控时间的不是别人，而是你自己。工作和生活确实是人生中最重要的两件事，两者相辅相成，又互相作用。究竟是有令人羡慕的工作重要，还是拥有一个幸福美满的生活重要？这不是能简单回应的。发挥自身才能和实现生命价值的工作是美好生活的基础。当工作和生活互相平衡时，它们能相互促进，提升工作和生活的整体效率和质量。

当然，每个人都会时常需要帮助。如果你感到你的生活过于忙乱而无法管理，辛苦奔波于公司会议和客户的见等不同工作地点，并且为此苦恼时，可以和专家进行交谈，比如你的医生或顾问，他们会给你更专业的建议。

雷格斯东亚区总裁韩蓝（Hans Leijten）表示：“借助雷格斯的办公支持服务，人们在和家人欢度假期的同时，还可根据需要处理工作事务。无论到哪儿，人们都可以使用雷格斯的灵活办公场所网络，保持高效率工作或达成交易。雷格斯在中国的网络覆盖80个地点，因此，企业及其员工可根据需要随时随地使用便捷的完成商务办公场所，无论是租用数年时间或是一天，哪怕只需10分钟的约见时间。

由此可见，借助日益发达的科学技术，比如网络电话和微信等通讯技术的普及，你可以通过更多的途径有效管理你的时间，平衡工作与生活。但是，切记在公司会议和家庭聚餐时，请关掉手机！

You never hear a dying person say: "I wish I had a chance to work longer?"

It is obvious from the above statement, where your priorities should be. But it is not so simple, in order to enjoy your life; you need to have money to meet living standards and obligations. The question is: "How much money is enough?" and when do you stop and smell the roses?

This is not an easy question and will depend upon each individual's stage of life and their priorities. A person that is young and just starting a career will want to devote more time to work as it will have a greater result on their future compared to someone that is older and near retirement. I think the older you are, the more you value the quality of time and quality of life, I just hope that one realizes this before time runs out.

I recall someone saying, "You are as busy as you want to be." Meaning that you control your time and your activities and schedule. You can always say no. It may not be so simple, if it is orders from your boss, but when

You are as busy as you want to be.

you find that your work conflicts too often with your lifestyle, perhaps changing jobs should be considered.

Before thinking of changing jobs for the sake of gaining ground on our "work life balance" is silly, stop and think. We need to evaluate if the mental, physical and emotional "costs" related to our job are too high. Think of three assets that we all possess, time, money, and talent. Mostly likely our job is "costing" us big in the "time" and "talent" category. Are we investing too much? Do we need to perhaps consider "diversifying" the investment of our "time" and "talent" with the goal of achieving a better work life balance? Are we working to live or living to work? If we gain the world but lose our health, happiness, and family along the way, can we truly say we've kept our "balance"?

Setting realistic priorities and objectives is a good way to keep you on track. All your priorities cannot be related to work and career, so make sure there are some goals related to personal development and just plain fun, what do you enjoy doing? Make time for these activities by using your time

wisely. Having a to do list and sharing this with your partner is helpful. Those that are single will have an easier time than those with partners, which require compromise and accommodating mutual goals.

Take 60 seconds right now, grab a pen and paper or electronic device of choice and actually note a few of your most important goals. If 60 seconds are about over and you've yet to record more than one or two goals, or all your goals are related to work, perhaps you are already further from that "life work balance" than realized! After all, if you don't even know where you are going, what are the chances you will ever arrive? So please, take time routinely to think about, set and adjust your "work life balance" goals. For example, in addition to making more money or getting a promotion, do you have a goal related to daily exercise? What's a million dollars if you are sick and too feeble to enjoy it? Do you have a goal related to improving yourself as a person, such as reading something related to morals and ethics?

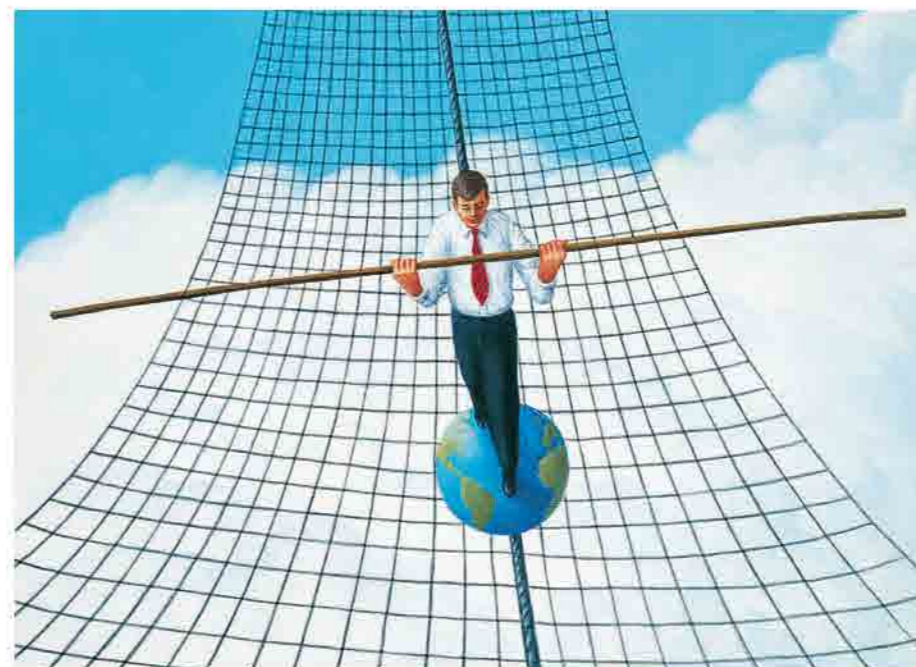
I recently met a new business client in Tianjin who had immigrated to Canada and returned to China for the Spring Festival. He indicated to me that his first priority was to his parents who are in their 80's and living here on their own. Since he is their only son, he feels obligated to spend at least one month each year during this important holiday with them. He has structured his life to accommodate this. His work in Canada is scheduled to allow him this time; his wife and

I think it is important that a person has something to target and know what gives satisfaction.

daughter understand and do not accompany him so that he can devote this period to his parents. I admire not only the filial duty but also the dedication of his life towards this goal; and he was happy.

I think it is important that a person has something to target and know what gives satisfaction. For everyone this is different and the target changes as we change. One piece of advice is to think about what you are doing now and will it make any difference to you five or ten years from now? People have hobbies that can range from collections to learning new skills; it is better to try rather than woefully looking back and saying, "What if I had..."

The pace of the world and communication has changed dramatically in just a few decades; it is amazing to think that the cell phone and Internet was not widely used 20 years ago. Now they are a part of everyone's life and probably one of the big factors in the discussion of Life/Work balance. Prior to these two weapons of mass communication being invented, the response time of communication was days or even



weeks. It was common to say: "It's in the mail" and people were used to this and planning cycles and response times were much slower. Now people expect a reply immediately, at least within the day or even hours. Most people won't bother to call someone of the office landline, opting for the cell phone or using WeiXin to see if you received their email why you haven't answered.

I am not saying that these two modern pillars or invention are evil but how we use them is the key. We should not be their slaves, but rather they should be our tools. It is pitiful to see a family or friends sitting at a restaurant table with their heads bowed and two hands in front. They are not praying, everyone is



texting, surfing or emailing someone. You have also seen people with their hands under the table during a meeting doing the same. This is rude and frankly wasting others time, why not turn off all devices and focus on the meeting at hand and try to end earlier with more meaningful results.

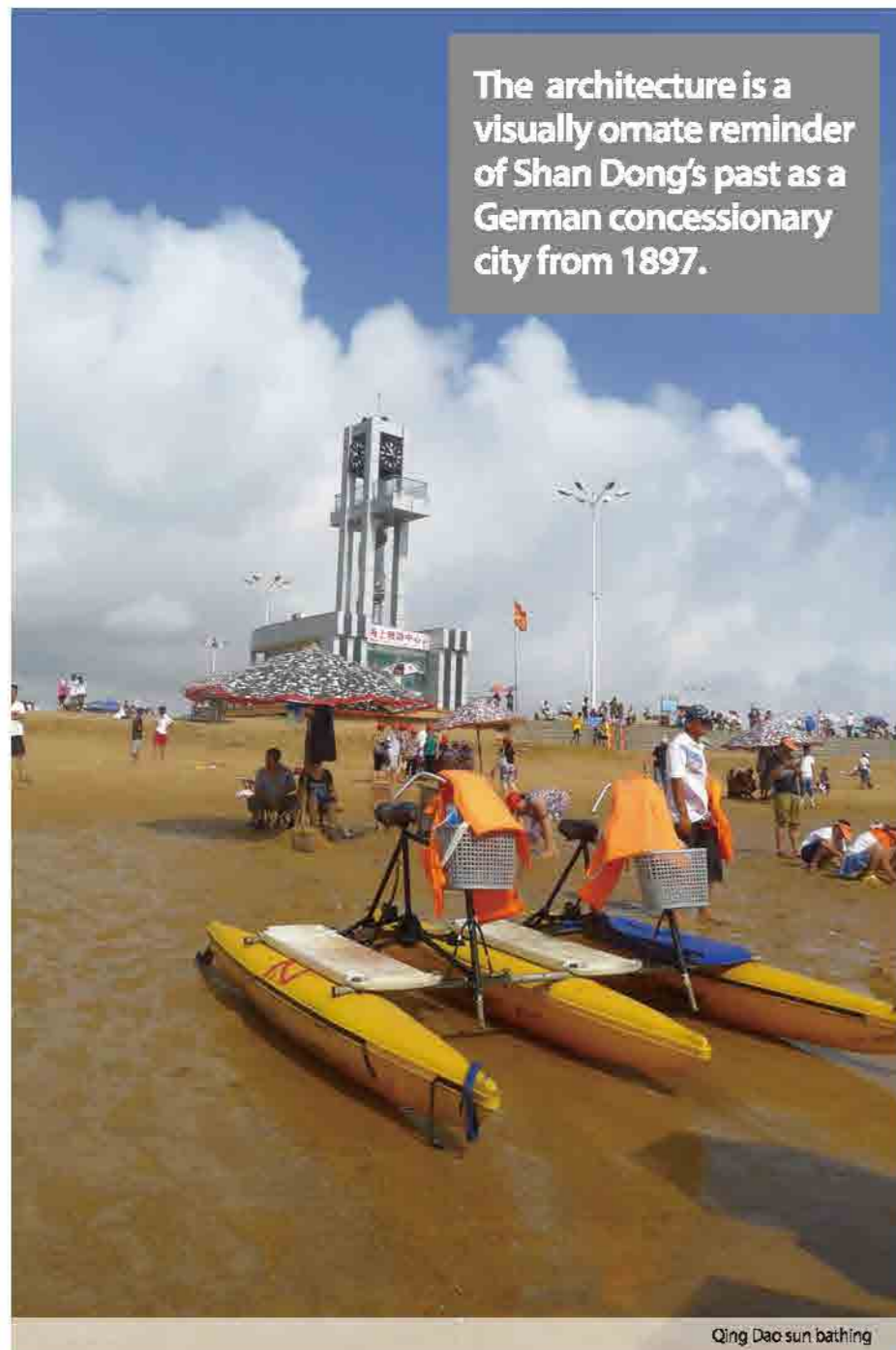
The most absurd scene is seeing a driver in a vehicle, with a cell phone in one hand and a cigarette in the other trying to negotiate Tianjin rush hour traffic. It's illegal and more important, dangerous to your health and those around you.

In actuality, achieving a life work balance in Tianjin as an expat is possible, especially when compared with life back home. Let's try and wean ourselves from those weapons and magnets of time. Turn electronic devices off during meetings and quality time with friends and family. Don't jump every time you hear the beep of a message or the custom ring of your phone. If you replied on your own terms and at your own time, it gives you a chance to organize and think about your response. Remember, time is yours to spend if you can control it. Lastly, don't forget to get moving, health is equally if not more important than money when it comes to enjoying life and maintaining a good life work balance!

Beaches and Seafood from Shan Dong Province

by Hayley Fletcher & David Wong

The architecture is a visually ornate reminder of Shan Dong's past as a German concessionary city from 1897.



Qing Dao sun bathing

山东半岛的美食美景： 青岛、日照

青岛是一座美丽的滨海城市，曾经被誉为“世界啤酒之城”。就冲这一点，我非要到青岛亲自一探究竟。而且，这座城市是中国举办大型赛事和国际盛会最多的大都市之一，也是著名的“帆船之都”。2008年北京奥运会、残奥会分会场均设于青岛，2013、2014年连续两届举办世界杯帆船比赛。

一下火车，我就被迎面而来的海风包围，湿润的空气中略带一点咸咸的味道。于是，我迅速的将冲锋衣、帽子、手套，脱下臃肿的棉衣，不顾一切的冲向海边。说真的，中国北方大部分地区的冬季实在过于漫长，有时甚至会误以为寒风刺骨的冬天永远不会结束。到了海滩，我才发觉自己有点准备不太充分：根本没带游泳衣！因为我离开英国时，朋友们告诉我：“那的大海就好像一碗酱油汤，上面还会漂浮着各种不明物体，所以千万别下水。”

中国有句成语：耳听为虚，眼见为证。我觉得这话千真万确！因为这里的大海非常漂亮，海水也很干净，根本不像酱油汤！而且，我强烈推荐大家去青岛的大街小巷逛逛，在这里你可以发现建筑结构带有明显的欧式风格，漫步其中感觉非常美妙！

另外一个城市，日照目前还算个新兴的旅游城市，是自驾游或自助游的上佳选择，所以也非常适合于全家度假。日照交通与外界并不方便，建议从济南中转，这样无论是铁路还是高速公路都很方便。铁路大约要8-9小时，高速公路要近4小时。甚至在旅游季节，除了山东省内的游客，外地的游客并不多，所以不会十分拥挤。住宿方面，日照市内宾馆相对较少，价格偏贵，不太值得。所以建议住家庭旅馆，玩上2-5天，体验很多，花钱却不多，而且非常惬意。

Fresh out of Qingdao

Clutching a bag of Tsingdao and sauntering down the promenade towards China's one and only Beer Museum is not a bad way to start any holiday, but beyond the waves of Tsingdao, Qingdao as a seaside retreat really has plenty to offer its tourists.

I arrived on early Friday Morning. As I fell out of the train, cascading down with a landslide of sunflower seed sells and empty instant noodle pots, I rather wished I'd chosen Sanya over the Blackpool of China.

Beng swept along by red and blue baseball caps I managed to slide out of the exit as the tour groups formed and the megaphone started up, and at once I was welcomed by the taste of warm, salty air. Being used to the icy climbs of northern China, I stripped off my jumper, gloves and knitted scarf and headed to the coast. Ambling down the steep streets of the Old Town lined with casks of Tsingdao, sea shells and barbecued squid I became rather taken with two things: Qingdao's stylistic architecture and the presence of living, wriggling, and seafood in buckets.

The architecture is a visually ornate reminder of Shan Dong's past as a German concessionary city from 1897. Prior to the

German occupation, Qingdao was a small fishing village and still to this day local people still utilize the cities best asset: its proximity to the sea. One could only imagine that with a sprinkling to salt and a crush of garlic the swaying black sea cucumbers and the living, mammoth sea snails would actually turn out to be rather tasty!

The midday sun was shining and as I approached the beach I realized I had come unprepared. I hadn't packed a bikini on two accounts- one was that it was early March, another was that of Chinese beaches I know one thing- that a friend of mine had once compared them to Miso soup: "murky waters with unidentifiable floating objects!" indeed, my preconceptions of Qingdao's beaches were that a paddle was more likely to result in a tetanus jab, than a playful afternoon beside the sea! But from the white sand I could see clean, clear blue waters and many eager tourists were already kitted out in swimwear.

Indeed, the last few years have really changed Qingdao, with governmental money being pumped into the coastal city from the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the sand is white and the sea is clean. As a result Qingdao has opened its doors to Chinese and Western tourists alike offering warm temperatures throughout the year, coastal bars and restaurants, and beautifully distinct architecture. With its abundance of natural beauty and growing human resources, the year-round schedule of tourist attractions and events, coupled with numerous tourist facilities as well as an extensive public transportation network, make Qingdao an ideal tourist destination both at home and abroad. So with a little hesitation I dipped my feet into its watery depths and enjoyed the Qingdao's seaside luxury making no acquaintances with any floating objects.

RiZhao

RiZhao is a coastal city in southeastern ShanDong province about 170 kilometers from the more famous city of Qingdao on the Yellow Sea. If you are planning to be in Qingdao and you want to experience a visit to be more local city and not as developed or commercialized, consider a visit to RiZhao.

The name of the city literally means "sunshine". The city is known for its sustainability, and it mandates solar water heaters in all new buildings. RiZhao city was recognized by the United Nations as one of the most habitable



Blue sky in Qing dao

cities in the world in 2009. The city population stands at 2,801,100 as of the 2010 census.

One amazing statistic is 99% of the buildings in RiZhao are equipped with solar water heaters. The city is quite clean and few foreigners are seen in the city so expect stares and be prepared to use your Chinese as English is not so common.

There are two beach areas: WangPingKou 万平口风景区 and the RiZhao Beach National

Park 日照海滨国家森林公园。

Bring your own towels, and an extra one for sitting. There are few umbrella stands so if you want to stay out of the sun, you can rent or buy a large umbrella. There are showering areas but cost is 1 rmb per person so bring some small change. Probably a good idea to bring an extra set of car keys and I also suggest that someone in your group always remains with your personal belongings on the beach.

There are many food stands and clothing stands at the beach areas but I would recommend that you save your appetite for eating at many of the restaurants that surround the area. The food will be fresher and surrounding more pleasant. If you need to buy that swimsuit or floatation device, I also suggest the off beach areas for a better price and quality.

There are several hotels mostly 3 star and I did not see any international brands but a quick check on the website showed a Home Inn rated 3 star with rates at 200rmb. The seafood restaurants are numerous and we stopped at one and had, fish, shrimps, clams and a vegetable dish for less than 300rmb including drinks. Shandong does not traditionally eat rice as a staple as they do in Southern China. Therefore I suggest you try, dumplings, pancakes or noodles instead.

There is a huge wholesale fish market in RiZhao. It would be an interesting stop in the morning to see every type of live seafood on sale. There are also dried goods and you may want to buy some dried shrimp or oysters or seaweed or kelp, which are excellent for soups.

July and August are tourist high season for the area so you may want to consider September or October when the kids are back in school.

The name of the city literally means "sunshine".



Playing sands



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天津自然博物馆新馆

去哪儿玩?这是一个全世界人问了无数遍的问题。我有个建议,如果你有时间,去一趟天津自然博物馆吧。当天气不好的时候,去一趟新开的天津自然博物馆是个不错的选择。除了周一闭馆以外,博物馆所有公共假期都照常免费对公众开放。出示身份证就能兑换免费门票;外国人要出示护照。馆内设施像冷饮店、自动扶梯、卫生间等一应俱全。博物馆里还有多媒体互动游戏体验区,这绝对是了解动物王国知识的好地方。新馆的规模是旧馆的三倍,馆有30多个恐龙化石和总计40多万件的展品,北京上海的博物馆也不过只有10万件。天津自然博物馆绝对是在全国范围内颇具规模的大型博物馆,值得去上一趟。新馆三楼的肯尼斯贝林世界野生动物展览馆十分有意思,给人一种真实的动物园体验。

新的天津自然博物馆独特的地方是它所处的地点。旧的博物馆在马路边,交通不是很方便,规模也不大。新馆所处的地点是天津文化中心的一角,你可以从此漫步到其他文化目的地,美术馆,大剧院,图书馆等等。新馆交通便利,有很大的免费停车区,乘坐出租车也很方便。在博物馆附近有很多公交站,天津博物馆站、宾馆南道站等等。下了地铁,从南楼站下车到也不用不了20块钱。

如果下一次你还问自己去哪里玩的时候,新的天津自然博物馆是最好的去处。

The Tianjin Natural History Museum

By Carmen King

Where to go? A proverbial question asked countless times by people around the world. Here's a suggestion, the next time you have some spare time, take a trip to the Tianjin Natural

History Museum.

Why? When the weather is poor, outdoor activities are no longer the ideal choice. Therefore the next time it is rainy, windy, icy, snowy or the air

is less than ideal, take a trip to the Tianjin Natural History Museum. Indoors and recently reopened, its climate controlled museum will have you enjoying your time off instead of complaining about the lousy weather. In addition, the Tianjin Natural History Museum is open on all government recognized holidays. Therefore especially, when you have time off from work the museum is a fine choice. Note though, every Monday the museum is closed. Museum hours of operation are Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am to 4 pm; note however tickets stop being issued at 3:30 pm.

As it relates to amenities, every floor of the museum has public restrooms and is accessible via escalator and elevator. There is a shop on the first floor where drinks can be purchased; in addition the museum does allow visitors to bring their own water. However, alcoholic drinks of any form are prohibited. On the topic of restrictions, lighters, matches and the like should be left at home or in the car, as they are all prohibited, along with weapons of any type. There is a security screening required on entrance, with an x-ray scan of all bags. Another point to mention is the need to bring a government issued form of identification, for expats this is your passport 护照,

for locals this is your basic government ID 身份证, as this is required to receive a ticket to enter. Tickets are available at the front of the museum. You do not need to buy them as museum tickets are free of charge.

What is different about the new Tianjin Natural History Museum when compared to the zoo? Mainly, the animals on display at the museum are manmade replications and not actually alive. So if you are looking for an option other than being in close proximity to live wild animals, the Tianjin Natural History Museum is a great choice for increasing knowledge of the animal kingdom. The Tianjin Natural History Museum has also designed interactive play areas and animated multimedia content suitable for children, thus not only adults but especially young ones will enjoy a tour.

Another unique aspect of the Tianjin Natural History Museum is its location. Please note the old museum was located in HeXi District on MaChangDao. That location was neither convenient nor dramatically large in size. The new Tianjin Natural History Museum is now located on YouYiLu, which is also in HeXi District 天津市河西区友谊路31号(与平江道交口)。

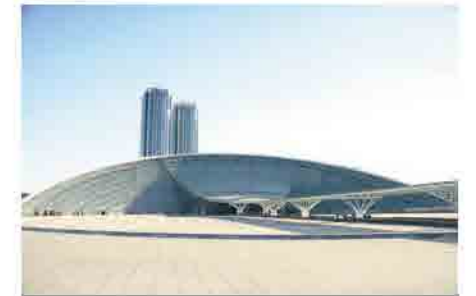
The new Tianjin Natural History Museum is

twice the size of the old museum. It is now a part of the large Tianjin Cultural Center 天津文化中心, which makes it unique to the Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing Natural History Museums. A trip to the Tianjin Natural History Museum puts within walking distance other major cultural attractions in Tianjin such as the Tianjin Museum, Tianjin Art Museum, Tianjin Library, and Tianjin Grand Theatre. Since all these Museums are in one place, it is advised you familiarize yourself with the lay of the land, as the Cultural Center is quite large. The Tianjin Natural History Museum is the dome shaped building, at the corner of YouYiLu and PingJiangDao.

As it relates to transportation, cab or car is the best way of arriving. This is due to the fact that there is a free parking area accessible via YouYiLu and pretty much every cab driver knows where the museum is located. If you speak Chinese, simply tell them you want to go to the 天津自然博物馆在河西区友谊路上 or show them the characters printed here. Currently there is no good place for storing your bicycle or electric bike in the immediate vicinity of the museum. Arriving via public bus is another suitable option, as there are several bus stops in the vicinity of the museum; one is the Tianjin Museum stop 天津博物馆站, another is the BinGuan NanDao Zhan 宾馆南道站. The nearest metro stop is NanLou on Line 1 地铁一号线南楼站, from that metro stop, it should be a quick cab ride of less than 20 RMB to the museum. Lastly as it relates to location, if all your time at the museum has made you hungry, just walk over to the nearby colossal Galaxy Shopping Center 银河国际购物中心 where you find more shopping and eating choices than you will know what to do with.

An additional reason to go to the new Tianjin Natural History Museum on YouYiLu is its massive expansion. The new museum is three times the size of the old museum. Not to mention it has added a tremendous amount of new exhibits. For example the dinosaur exhibits in the old museum were a mere 10 or so, the new museum now boasts 30 plus dinosaur exhibits. Therefore dinosaur fans young and old alike will most definitely want to pay the new Tianjin Natural History Museum a visit.

Another sign that Tianjin as a city is growing up, and finding its place among the long time giants of Beijing and Shanghai can be found with the new Tianjin Natural History Museum. On average other Natural History Museums such as in Beijing and Shanghai have roughly 100,000 items on display, completely outmatching the competition, the new Tianjin Natural History Museum has more than 400,000 items on display.



So if you are looking for an option other than being in close proximity to live wild animals, the Tianjin Natural History Museum is a great choice for increasing knowledge of the animal kingdom.

This means, that expats and Chinese locals alike living in other cities should honestly consider a trip to the Tianjin Cultural Center 天津文化中心, with the new Tianjin Natural History Museum being a major highlight of the visit. With fast, comfortable and economic bullet trains from Beijing and Shanghai, why not plan a trip sooner than later?

The list of reasons to go to the new Tianjin Natural History Museum would not be complete without mention of the Kenneth E. Behring World Wildlife exhibition hall. This exhibit hall spans the entire 3rd floor and is really worth seeing. It has recreated the "zoo" experience by displaying many life sized animals, with the special touch of surrounding each animal with a re-creation of their natural habit. Words can't capture the experience fully. Many photo ready moments are waiting for you! Which is yet another reason visiting the museum is very enjoyable, cameras are welcome!

In conclusion, the new Tianjin Natural History Museum has moved to the Tianjin Cultural Center 天津文化中心 on YouYi Lu in HeXi District 河西区友谊路. It is twice the size of the old museum, has nearly tripled the dinosaur exhibits, and sets records within all of China with having over 400,000 items on display, not to mention it has the amazing Kenneth E. Behring World Wildlife exhibition hall. So the next time you find yourself contemplating the question "where to go?" the answer is simple, the new Tianjin Natural History Museum.



Discover the wild life.



Dinosaur fossil

Chairman Cho Yang-ho stresses 'connection' and 'harmony' in New Year speech

Cho Yang-ho, Chairman of the Hanjin Group, mother company of Korean Air, presented "connection" as a keyword for 2014 during the New Year meeting held Jan. 2 at the Korean Air main office in Gonghang-dong, southwestern Seoul.

Chairman Cho's emphasis on "connection" is aimed at encouraging all employees to "connect" and cooperate with each other to overcome crisis in the New Year based on the foothold gained in various fields last year through the in-house "Companionship" or "Donghang" campaign.

"This year we celebrate the 45th anniversary of Korean Air, marking an important and meaningful year for the company," Cho said. "In this uncertain business environment, we must examine each area of our business, and upgrade our competencies so that we can earn profit in any circumstances."



"The market conditions in 2014 are uncertain with conflicting positive and negative predictions, and the aviation industry will face fiercer competition," he further noted, adding, "A creative and challenged organization connected with open mindedness is the foundation of creating value and preparing for the future. It is my hope that 2014 will be a year in which we gather together to show our strength and take on challenges with wisdom."

Chairman Cho asked the employees to exert efforts to boost capability by changing work habits and mindset, improve cost competitiveness by enhancing the effectiveness of resources and maximizing productivity, strengthen capability for predicting market changes and meeting the needs of customers, and set up a system that will enable both Korean Air and its partner companies to grow together.

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Korean Air code-sharing with Aurora Airlines



Red square, Moscow

Korean Air announced that a codeshare partnership with Aurora Airlines on the route between Incheon and Sakhalin commenced on Jan. 1, 2014.

Aurora Airlines (Russian: ABpoca) is a Russian Far East air carrier and a subsidiary of Aeroflot, created through the merger of SAT Airlines and Vladivostok Air. The company flies to 18 cities in four countries with 13 aircraft including the B737.

Korean Air and Aurora Airlines codeshare flights to Sakhalin are operated by a B737 aircraft, seating 110 passengers. The Aurora Airlines flights depart from Incheon International Airport on

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at noon and arrive in Sakhalin at 4:45 p.m. the same day. The return flights depart from Sakhalin at 9:30 a.m. and arrive in Seoul/Incheon at 10:50 a.m. the same day.

Alongside Korean Air's current routes between Incheon-Moscow (five flights a week) and Incheon- Vladivostok (daily), the code-share flights to Sakhalin will increase convenience and choice for passengers travelling to Russia.

Code-share is an aviation business partnership through which a flight operated by one airline is jointly marketed as a flight by one or more other airlines. The purpose of code-sharing is to facilitate travel for customers by allowing them, with a single reservation, to travel across the networks of multiple airlines in order to reach their final destination.

Korean Air currently has code-share partnerships with 30 airlines worldwide, including SkyTeam partner airlines such as Delta, Air France, KLM and Czech Airlines.

Korean Air will continue to expand code-share partnerships in order to provide the most convenient schedules for passengers.

Hyatt Regency Incheon offers 'Explore Package'

Hyatt Regency Incheon is offering the "Explore Package" to discover the attractions of Incheon.



The package includes a welcome drink at Cafe at Restaurant 8, a onenight stay in a comfortable room and an Incheon tour program. Package guests can also relax with late check-out until 3 p.m. and benefit with time after breakfast at Restaurant 8. Moreover, free access to the sauna, fitness center and swimming pool and free shuttle bus from and to Incheon International Airport are offered.

Guests can choose between temple tour and city tour options. The temple tour participants will start their tour from the hotel, pass the Incheon Bridge and see either Incheon Metropolitan City Museum or the Memorial Hall for the Incheon Landing Operation. Furthermore, they will visit Heungryun Temple, founded by the Goryeo Dynasty, to experience a tea ceremony. Otherwise, city tour participants pass the Incheon Bridge from the hotel, see Korean traditional houses in Wolmi

Park and explore the open port which highlights Korea's culture of modernization. For foreign guests, the tour program is conducted in English.

The Explore Package, a passport to Incheon attractions, is from 274,000 won per person. (exclusive of 10% VAT). For more information, please call to +82 32 745 1234 or visit Incheon.regency.hyatt.com.

With 523 rooms, Hyatt Regency Incheon is the gateway hotel to Seoul and Korea. The hotel is strategically located minutes away from Incheon International Airport. It is also easily accessible from downtown Seoul and the Incheon Free Economic Zone, in an ideal location for international conferences and meetings.

The hotel will be expanded with another tower, the new West Tower, which will open in July 2014 with 500 guestrooms and a grand ballroom accommodating over 1,000 people in understated luxury.

Wishing for good fortune in the New Year

Korean Air hung straw ladles called bokjori at all local offices until Feb. 2 to express wishes for a happy New Year.

Bokjori is a compound word consisting of bok, meaning "good fortune," and jori, a ladle usually made of straw. The jori was used to separate rice and other grains from stones and sand while washing rice in the past, when rice was not as clean as it is today.

Koreans have long put newly made ladles on doors around the lunar New Year Day (Seollal) to wish for good fortune to be caught in the ladle as with rice.

For seven years now Korean Air has hung these ladles in its offices around the Lunar New Year to pray for passengers' good fortune and contribute to preserving good old Korean customs. The bokjori was hung at Korean Air check-in counters and lounges at airports in Korea, the airline offices

in Gonghang-dong and Seosomun, and hotels and other business facilities operated by Korean Air.

The Korean Air bokjori were handmade by Bak Seong-su in Gume Village, Juksan-myeon, Anseong, Gyeonggi Province, a center for straw handicraft. Bak has been designated a master craftsman by Gyeonggi Province.

Korean Air will continue to make efforts to promote bokjori and other beautiful traditional customs of Korea.



KAL Photo

First Foreign Visitor to Korea In 2014

Korean Air welcomed the first foreign visitor to Korea in 2014 in a ceremony held at Incheon International Airport on the morning of New Year's Day. The foreigner selected was a 25-year-old Chinese woman, Yang Jing (sixth from left), who was presented with many gifts, including two round-trip Prestige class international tickets, a coupon for a two-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Incheon, and a coupon for free medical checkups at the Inha Medical Center.



**The 2014 Chinese New Year Celebration
—Lion dance sparks at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel**

A grand lion dance performance sparked the Chinese New Year celebration at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel, Friday morning, the first day of the Year of Horse which falls on 31st of January, 2014.

The General Manager Steven Yau and Deputy General Manager Lin Lang have joined celebration and go through the "Dian Jing" Ceremony to dot in the lion eyes, which means life will full of light and everything goes as your wish.

Moreover, Mr. "Cai Shen Ye" has handed out the "Gold Ingot" and red pocket to every guest in the hotel, also passed around the best wishes to all staff in the office. Wish that everyone "Gong Xi Fa Chai" and have a prosperous year 2014.

Lion dance is traditional dance in Chinese culture, and usually performed during the Chinese New Year and other Chinese traditional, cultural and religious festivals for celebrations.



Sheraton Tianjin Hotel Celebrating 2014 Spring Festival on the first day of Chinese New Year

On the early morning of the Lunar New Year's Day, the foreigners in Tianjin participated in the annual Spring Festival Lion Dance Show exclusively held by Sheraton Tianjin Hotel and enjoyed a happy get-together in the hotel to feel the lively local atmosphere of the Spring Festival.

Arranged and held by Sheraton Tianjin Hotel for their guests from all over the world, the wonderful performance of lion dance attracted almost all the hotel guests to get up early to witness this unforgettable moment and record it with the phones and cameras in their hands. In addition, a big surprise was given to the guests when they received the red packets given by the god of wealth with blessings. Moreover, Mr. Zhang Dawei, the chairman of JTG, also attended this grand event and painted the eyes for the lion.

Quite a lot of foreigners couldn't help themselves joining in the show by touching the lion's head, patting the lion's back and dancing together with the lion following the rhythm of the gongs and drums. At the same time, 'the god of wealth' was regarded as 'the Chinese Santa Claus' in the eyes of those foreign children, who kept being around 'the god of wealth' and waiting for red packets and sweet candies with the arrival of good fortune.

After watching this Chinese traditional lion dance show held by Sheraton Tianjin Hotel, the foreigners all gave loud shouts of applause for the artists' brilliant skills.



The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin won Top 10 Luxury Hotels and the China Top 10 Chinese Restaurants of 2013

The celebration ceremony of the Travel Awards 2013 and the 12th Anniversary of Travel & Leisure took place successfully in Beijing recently. The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin won the Top 10 Luxury Hotel from this award ceremony. The Embassy of the Republic of Colombia - Mrs. Carmerza Jaramillo awarded the trophy to hotel representative - Ms. Joyce Li. Meanwhile, Shui An Chinese Restaurant of Astor Hotel won China Top 10 Chinese Restaurants of 2013 from Golden Pillow Awards. Honoring Tianjin's rich culinary traditions, Shui An takes its inspiration from the land and sea specialties of the city and re-imagines them for the sophisticated, global traveler. Diners indulge in this "zen" space, where spectacular views of the Hai River dazzle one and all.



Chinese New Year Celebration Ceremony in the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin

The Lion Dance is one of the most widely spread traditional dance in China. Lion is the king of animals. In Chinese tradition, lion is regarded as a mascot, which can bring good luck. The dance has a long history with records of more than 2,000 years ago.

The Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin treated their guests to a lion dance performance during the first day of the Chinese New Year celebrations on 31 January, 2014 to attract the good luck in the new lunar year. The lion dance was performed at a specific time to usher in prosperity to the hotel.

During the event, Hotel Executive Assistant Manager Mr. Jasper Sando Mork wished the people in Tianjin the best of luck in the coming new year and the corporate and the business partners of the hotel a great business year as well.



SUSAN LIU APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING OF BANYAN TREE TIANJIN RIVERSIDE

Tianjin, China, February 2014 – Ms. Susan Liu has been appointed as Director of Sales & Marketing of Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside.

Ms. Susan Liu has a wealth of experience in the hotel market, in her over 16-year working experiences, she worked previously with Starwood, Radisson, TEDA International Club and the Crystal Palace Hotel in Tianjin. In her current role, she will be responsible for driving the overall marketing strategy and overseeing the daily operations of the Sales, PR, Revenue and Catering departments and bring her expertise of both international and local market to further enhance the hotel's reputation as one of the leading luxury hotels in Tianjin.

"We are delighted to welcome Susan to Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside family and we believe that Susan's professional expertise in the hospitality industry and great leadership skills will bring Sales & Marketing team to a new height." Mr. Richard Neo, the General Manager of Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside said.



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宠物蝈蝈

养蝈蝈在中国有很悠久的历史了。在北美等其他地方找不到和蝈蝈一模一样的物种，在英文中也很难找到和中文“蝈蝈”对应的单词，随身带着宠物蝈蝈也更是中国人独有的爱好。

有一天我拼出租车去机场，坐在车上就听见有嗡嗡的声音。我还以为是司机的手机或者GPS的声音。过了一会儿，这个姓王的司机笑着把他自己的宝贝蝈蝈拿出来。告诉我他有三个蝈蝈，自己出门一定要随身带着一只。

在古代中国，养蝈蝈是有钱人的娱乐消遣。看电影《末代皇帝》的最后一幕就会有所了解。迪斯尼卡通片里的杰米尼蟋蟀形象在上世纪四十年代深入人心，之后在《匹诺曹》和《花木兰》两部电影里也有个蟋蟀的形象。

王先生的小蝈蝈貌似很喜欢出来玩，叫的特别欢。蝈蝈是在地上的小洞里产卵出生，像王先生这样的蝈蝈收藏者都会把在洞里的蝈蝈挖出来放在冰箱中来保存，这样在冬天的时候也可以把他们取出把玩。有些品相好，叫声清脆的蝈蝈能卖到几千块。大部分人会误认为蝈蝈是由大腿摩擦发声的，其实他们是从翅膀底部发声的。蝈蝈的叫声会由蝈蝈笼的作用而放大。蝈蝈笼也可成为口袋里的精雕细琢的艺术品。蝈蝈是夜行动物，他们在黑暗中靠在温暖的主人身边会很舒服，这时候他们就会发出鸣叫，像唱歌一样。

My Pet GuoGuo

By David Wong

The little GuoGuo 蝈蝈 has a long history in China and the closest name I can find in English is the Cricket or Katydid in North America because we just don't have the exact species and certainly do not carry it as a pet like some Chinese enthusiasts do.

I recently took a long taxi ride to the airport and could hear a loud chirping in the car. I thought it was either the driver's cell phone or the GPS warning of impending video traps on the highway. Driver Wang laughed and pulled out his friend who was housed in a large plastic container. He explained that his GuoGuo was one of three that he owns and he never leaves home without one.

In the past, this was a pastime of the rich and elite in China. If you saw the movie, "Last Emperor", in the last scene, the cricket has its last say. In North America, one of the famous characters of Disney cartoons was Jiminy Cricket, but he was only animated. Jiminy was a main character in the 1940's Disney movie, Pinocchio and then appeared in many educational cartoons so maintains a strong following of fans. More recently, the Disney movie, Mulan about the female war hero also had a cricket name Cri-Kee. The phrase: "Jiminy Crickets!" was used as a phrase of surprise in the 50's and 60's in USA but would probably not be understood by young people now.

Mr. Wang's little pal seemed to enjoy being out, because he soon began



Guo Guo's cage

chirping quite loudly. The GuoGuo in China are born from holes in the ground in spring that was deposited as eggs in the previous year. Collectors like Mr. Wang, fool the little insects by digging them up from the ground and placing them in the refrigerator, taking them out during other times of the year such as winter so they can have companions anytime during the year.

Some of the GuoGuo are quite expensive depending

upon their coloring and sound produced. The price can range as high as several thousand for a beautiful and clear singing GuoGuo. Most people mistakenly think that they make their chirping sounds by rubbing their hind legs but they actually use the bottom parts of their wings, which have comb like protrusions and they are rubbed against each other for the clear sound.

The sound is amplified because of the containers that owners use to house a GuoGuo. These can be very elaborate and become works of art that fit comfortably in a pocket. GuoGuo are nocturnal, so they feel more comfortable in the dark and being next to the warmth of their owner is the perfect environment, thus they will sing or chirp.

Unfortunately, the life span of these little

critters is short, only about 100 days. So not sure how the owners like Mr. Wang can stand changing pets so frequently, about a dozen in a year since he always has three on hand. He also explained that during the final days, they become cannibalistic and start devouring their appendages.

It was a very interesting taxi ride and learning of this very Chinese hobby was truly a part of Chinese culture that I did not know. Next time, you are in a market; listen for the distinctive chirping sound and likely it is from a GuoGuo vendor that is selling new GuoGuo and their containers. As Regus, an international business office that has established in Tianjin, have said that it is important to have a good life/work balance and having hobbies like this are one way of keeping sane in the fast world.



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