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A Window to the Nation A Welcome to the World

CHINA PICTORIAL

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BRAZIL **R**USSIA **I**NDIA **C**HINA **S**OUTH AFRICA

A Golden Decade of Economic Cooperation

Saihanba: The Reforestation Saga
Multi-Faceted Xiamen

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National Games for a Healthy China

August 27, Tianjin: The cauldron is lit at the opening ceremony of the 13th Chinese National Games, dubbed China's "mini-Olympics." Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the opening of the event. Among those present at the ceremony was President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach, who's on a visit to Beijing inspecting the preparations for the 2022 Winter Games. This year, the quadrennial Games, themed "National Games for a Healthy China," drew a total of 12,721 athletes to participate in 417 events across 33 sports, plus 7,620 amateurs in 126 events of 19 mass programs.

The country's top comprehensive sport gala, inaugurated in 1959, serves as an important occasion for athletes to test their mettle for the upcoming 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo and to nurture future stars.



by Jin Lianguai/Xinhua

Inner Mongolia Marks 70th Anniversary

August 8, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region: Dancers perform to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The region had a lot to celebrate on its 70th anniversary, including a society based on regional ethnic autonomy that is growing in prosperity. "The successful example of Inner Mongolia shows that regional ethnic autonomy is suitable for China," remarked Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political adviser, when he led a 63-member national-level delegation to attend the main ceremony. The region, founded in 1947, was the first provincial-level ethnic autonomous region in China.



VCG

All-Out Rescue Efforts

August 9, Chengdu, Sichuan Province: One of the first nine rescued is transported by a helicopter to Chengdu to receive better medical treatment.

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Jiuzhaigou County in the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture at 9:19 p.m. on August 8. After the quake, President Xi Jinping quickly called for all-out efforts to rapidly organize relief work and rescue the injured. With a speedy response, rescue work went smoothly and efficiently. Over 60,000 tourists and migrant workers had been evacuated by August 10.

Known for its ethnic minority communities, mountainous landscape, and stunning scenery, Jiuzhaigou Valley was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 1992. Thanks to the relief work, the site is regaining its beauty.



by Chen Weisong

Beijing Aims High in Robotics

August 23, Beijing: A robot pianist plays at the opening ceremony of the World Robot Conference 2017 (WRC2017). The conference, known as the "Robot Olympics," was held at the Etrong International Exhibition and Convention Center from August 23 to 26. More than 150 global robotics companies, research organizations and universities attended the event to showcase their cutting-edge achievements and products.

Beijing plans to become a global center for robotics by 2025 and issued an industry blueprint at the conference. The capital hopes to host 10 leading robotics companies and 10 R&D headquarters and serve as a world-leading robotics base by 2020. In recent years, China has seen a boom in industrial robots, recording average annual sales growth of 35 percent. In 2016, China manufactured 72,000 industrial robots, around a quarter of global output.

The New Stage of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Text by Huang Xianghuai

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has been the aim, theory and practice of the Communist Party of China (CPC) since the country's reform and opening-up policy was implemented. Adhering to developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is the central driver of the CPC Central Committee charged with administering the country, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. Xi pointed out that based on the great achievements China has made since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, especially after the reform and opening up, the CPC and the country have witnessed historic changes since the 18th CPC National Congress. As Chinese development reaches a new historical threshold, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new development stage. This understanding is tremendously significant for grasping the historical changes and achievements of socialism with Chinese characteristics since the 18th CPC National Congress.

As a whole, China is still in the primary stage of socialism, but domestic and international development and changes have added new characteristics to the primary stage of socialism.

Since the reform and opening-up policy was introduced, Party members have been working on the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which has created a solid foundation for the development and progress of contemporary China. Today, socialism with Chinese characteristics should be promoted more thoroughly than in the past. While upholding the basic guidelines of the Party and


continuing to promote economic development, it is necessary to better solve various social problems and promote more balanced development of people to achieve overall societal progress.

The country's mission during the primary stage of socialism with Chinese characteristics is to seize strategic opportunities in the world. The primary focus is overcoming ideological obstacles and institutional barriers hindering China from making better contact with the outside world. Today, the central task is managing how China creates and expands strategic opportunities, with focus on building a community of shared destiny with all countries of the world.

Having experienced tribulations and hardships in the recent past, the introduction of reform and opening up aimed to bridge the "development gap," which was the crucial issue of the time. Today, when the "characteristics" and "advantages" have become central expectations, China must look to solve problems related to "institutional strengths." Developed countries are no longer the only reference for China. China is now looking at the development trends of the world and becoming one of the most active and involved elements of it, making it one of the most important countries for future reference.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the new concepts, ideas and strategies put forward by the CPC Central Committee with Xi at its core have combined innovative theory and practice to clearly define what kind of socialism to pursue in a country with such a large population.

From a weak foundation, the country has become solid, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has reached a new stage of development. New great achievements will happen through strengthening Party leadership, carrying out new development concepts, comprehensively deepening reform, comprehensively implementing rule of law, comprehensively strengthening Party discipline and many similar strategies.

China is still in the primary stage of socialism and will long remain so. The basic condition of China has not changed; nor has the core problem in our society—meeting the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people with still relatively backward social production. Economic globalization has created new opportunities for China as well as challenges, but the global situation and domestic and Party conditions continue to undergo profound changes. The time is ripe for China to dive head first into developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, deepening reform in key sectors and resolutely discarding all notions and systems that hinder efforts to pursue development scientifically. We must coordinate all efforts and aspects of our modernization drive, and balance the relations of production with productive forces and superstructure with economic base, thus constantly improving the development path and development model in accordance with China's actual conditions to perpetually maintain the vitality and dynamism of socialism with Chinese characteristics. 

The author is an associate research fellow at the Scientific Research Department of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee. The article is reprinted from *Study Times*, edited for space constraints with the author's approval.

人造太阳 Artificial Sun

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

Chinese scientists recently announced that they set a world record by achieving over 100 seconds of steady-state H-mode operation of Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST). This milestone sets a solid technological foundation for the development and utilization of clean energy in the field of international nuclear fusion.

EAST, dubbed an "artificial sun," is an experimental device designed to harness fusion energy.

Nuclear fusion is considered the energy of the future. A 1GW power station requires 500,000 tons of coal, and a nuclear power plant of the same capacity requires 30 tons of nuclear fuel. Yet a thermonuclear fusion plant only requires 100 kilograms of water and lithium to generate the same amount of electricity.

The "tokamak" concept uses a powerful magnetic field to

confine plasma in the shape of a torus. Magnetic fields are used for confinement since no solid material can withstand the extremely high temperature of the plasma needed to produce controlled thermonuclear fusion power, or an "artificial sun."

Based on the tokamak, researchers at the Institute of Plasma Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences enabled China to independently design and construct EAST in 10 years. The facility is 11 meters tall, with a diameter of eight meters, and weighs 400 tons. The fourth generation of experimental Chinese nuclear fusion devices, its purpose is facilitating nuclear fusion reactions under high temperature with the large amount of deuterium and tritium in seawater, to provide continuous clean energy for mankind.


Technological breakthroughs with the artificial sun will help



China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) in Hefei, Anhui Province. EAST became the world's first tokamak device to operate for 100 seconds straight. VCG

solve the nuclear power dilemma. Nuclear fusion technology does not produce radioactive materials that pollute the environment. Controlled fusion reactions can be carried out steadily in thin gas,

making it clean and safe.

In the latest experiment, EAST created steady-state high-constrained plasma-emission for 101.2 seconds at a temperature of 50 million degrees Celsius. 


无现金社会 Cashless Society

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

China was the first country in the world to use paper money. Just a few short centuries later, the popularity of mobile payments has some analysts predicting that China could become the first cashless society within the next decade.

Staying cashless has become the norm in many cities in China. Noodle shops in Shanghai and street artists in Shenzhen all accept mobile payments through a free WeChat account and a printed QR code. According to the latest report from Chinese consulting company iResearch, the market scale of China's third-party mobile payment doubled in 2016, reaching US\$5.5

trillion in total. The number is nearly 50 times larger than the mobile payment market in the United States. China's Market Research Group estimates the country's mobile payment market is now 40 to 50 times the size of the United States.

The biggest appeal of mobile payments is convenience. People easily move around with little or no cash. However, the proliferation of transactions has also aroused security concerns. The Better Than Cash Alliance of the United Nations says mobile payment platforms are still working to balance innovation and regulation and actively taking measures to reduce financial risk and fraud. 



According to the China Internet Network Information Center, as of December 2016, 50.3 percent of buyers in China had used mobile payments for offline shopping. VCG

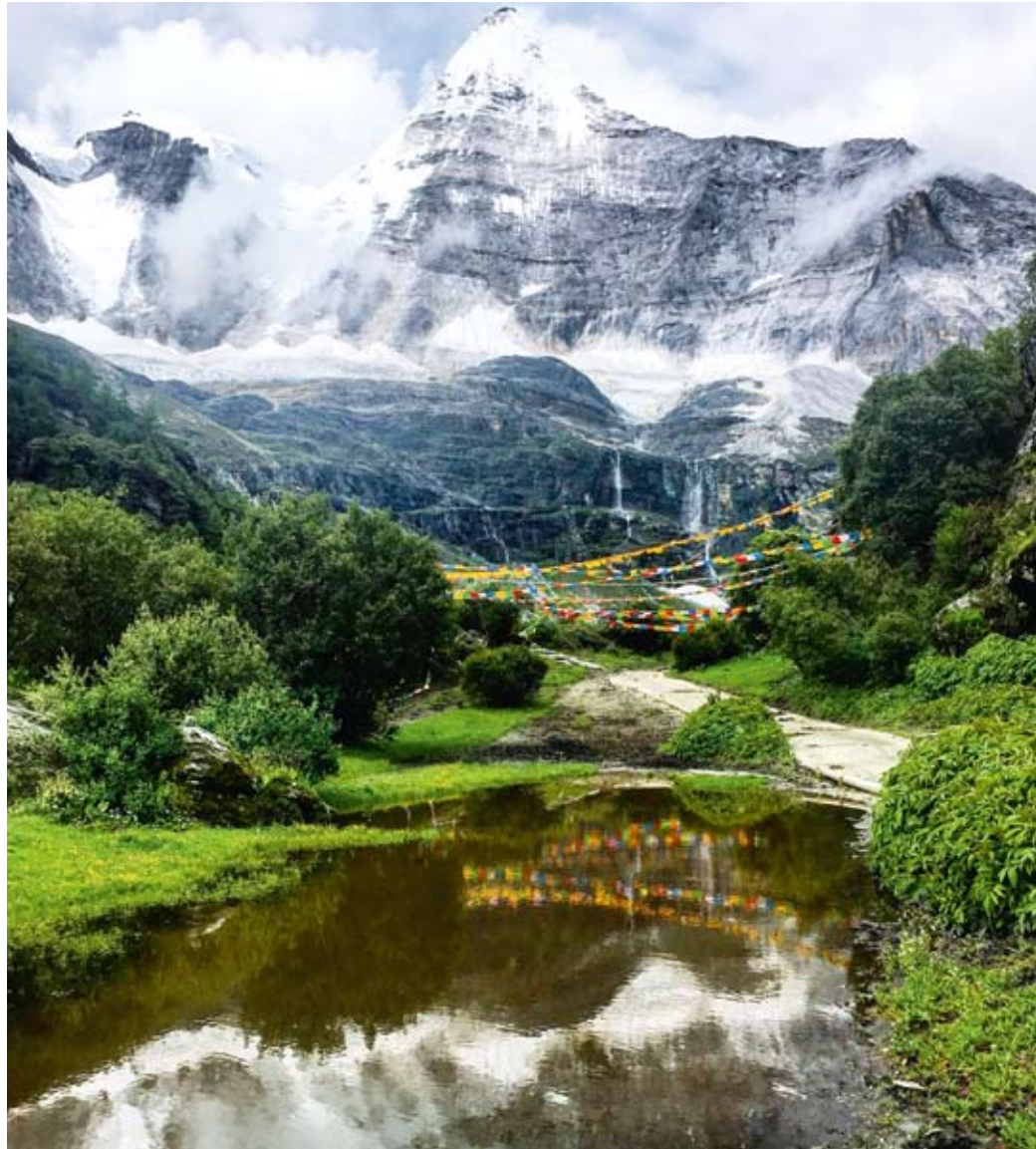


Shangri-La and Yading: A Storybook Landscape

Text and photographs by Helena Villar Segura

Zhongdian was once just a village surrounded by valleys in north-western Yunnan Province. Impressively, it inspired the hidden land described by James Hilton in his novel *Lost Horizon*. The locale became so famous globally that it was renamed Shangri-La.

It was mid-morning by the time we finally found a car to take us there. A private van driven by a local guy with a strong accent pulled over to the shoulder, and we glanced at each other for a moment before jumping into the old vehicle without hesitation. Less than three hours later, we dropped off our luggage at a guest-house and headed straight to the Ganden Sumtseling Monastery. At an altitude of 3,380 meters, the Tibetan Buddhist monastery reflects its gilded copper roof onto a silent lake. Only insects and swimming ducks disturbed the perfect image on the dark water. As we entered the monastery, a mysterious atmosphere surprised us: monks could be seen everywhere meditating or strolling around, colorful prayer flags of different sizes were hanging everywhere, and animals walked around freely in total harmony with every single element of the monastery. Even the sounds seemed to be coordinated in such perfect harmony that it was the closest thing to silence I have ever heard. Perhaps because it was about to rain, the sky darkened and the clouds thickened. The feeling was powerful and shocking due to the intensity of everything around me. The blues were bluer than ever, and same could be said for white or green. It was so peaceful that even before we stepped inside the halls of the “Little Potala Palace” to see its frescos and sculptures or smell the incense, the whole valley had impressed us.



My memories of the place seem boundless. I feel the same chill every time I look back.

The next morning, we set out to the smallest coffee shop in Shangri-La, six kilometers from the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan Province. The owner was a typical artist from Inner Mongolia who made “wish boxes.” Visitors are supposed to write down a dream or wish and place it inside, lock it, and tell no one the password. Only someone who really wants

to help a visitor realize his or her dream can open one box. I had a try. I carefully wrote down my biggest dream and put the little note inside a hand-made box with the number “3” written on it. Then, I forgot all about it. Only several weeks in the future would it catch up to me.

Those days we ate a lot of yak meat and potatoes, listened to Tibetan music, drank



A panoramic view of Five-Color Lake. We were exhausted when we reached this point. Huge, stunning, cold and breathtaking, the lake was worth the effort. Locals, however, were there like everything else in nature. They were considerably less tired and excited.




The Little Potala Palace makes it hard to leave. Monks walking around among animals, insects, visitors and silence make the place alive. It's far greater than just a tourist spot.

coffee and took long bus rides. The most impressive trip took us to a town called Daocheng in Sichuan Province. We endured more than 10 hours on the most amazing zigzagging road I have ever seen. Rain-soaked pine forests, breathtaking cliffs, yaks and wild horses and Tibetan architecture escorted us up to the plateau. It is a different world that literally takes your breath away. The high altitude affects many who reside in coastal areas. The lower air pressure makes physical activity more difficult. We were completely aware of this factor when we set off on a hike at an elevation of more

than 4,000 meters. Locked in Yading Nature Reserve approximately 200 kilometers from Daocheng, where landslides decorated the road, are three holy mountains. We were drawn to the glaciated peaks and began slowly, carefully and wearily scaling the hills. Along the way, Tibetan nomads offered us horses for rent to climb up to Milk Lake. We refused them all. Even though we were exhausted after spending one night at that altitude and eating just a few snacks, we remained committed to hiking in. Milk Lake is an incredibly beautiful glacier-fed lake at an elevation of 4,480 meters. On the way we saw other hikers give up due to altitude sickness. It became intensely difficult to move and breathe: each time we stopped to rest just made it more difficult to start walking again. A weird headache set in as soon as we passed by the first lake and climbed on towards Five-Color Lake. Some variations of fatigue and nausea followed. And then we were there. A feeling of insignificance invaded us, as a majestic and spacious lake blanketed the foot of the mountain in front of us. Just a few people wandered the area, which seemed far from reality. Visitors took pictures, caught their

breath and admired the bright and colorful water. The feeling was strange, beyond happiness or inspiration, something closer to fear. As if reality turned upside down, we soon found ourselves on a sandy beach 4,530 meters above sea level, but it was void of waves, salt, seagulls or marine animals. We expected anything else to emerge from the fresh water. It seemed fit for a creature like Loch Ness. We got a bit dizzy, not sure whether it was just the altitude, or more the beauty of the place. The next day we took a plane to Chengdu from the world's highest civil airport. On the flight, far above the snowy land we crossed, we could see the same peaks above the clouds. They looked as magnificent as they did from the ground.

A couple of weeks later, when I returned to normal life, I got an e-mail from a girl who had opened my wish box in Shangri-La, which I could hardly believe at first. I wrote back to her. Along with the same favorite number 3, our dream was the same. “I can't make our dream come true,” she admitted, “but we should talk about it some time, because I want to be a writer too.” I may never get my wish, but as with everything on the trip, just making it was special. 

Friendship Over Championship

“Military Olympics” in China

Text by Chen Jian and Wan Quan

From July 29 to August 12, the Aviadarts and Airborne Platoon, two competitions under the framework of the 2017 International Army Games (IAG), were held in Hubei Province and Jilin Province, respectively. It was the first time the Chinese Air Force hosted comprehensive international military competitions.

Dubbed the “Military Olympics,” the IAG is an annual military competition event launched by the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation in 2013.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory video to the IAG when it convened in late July. In the video, Xi pointed out that the IAG has become a key

brand for regional military exchange and cooperation and an important platform for armies from various countries to deepen friendship and learn from each other. He added that the Chinese army is willing to make common progress through mutual learning in the competition arena.

Airborne Platoon: Landing in Guangshui

The Airborne Platoon competition was held in Guangshui, Hubei Province. Featuring low hills and crisscrossing rivers, the city is home to one of the Chinese Air Force’s top training grounds. The competition attracted airborne troops from China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Russia, South

Africa and Venezuela. The Chinese team was comprised of 42 paratroopers from two well-known companies: the Shangganling 8th Company with Special-class Merits and the 3rd Red Company.

The competition included three events: vehicles, non-vehicles and BASE jumping. At 12:00 p.m. on August 8, accompanied by roaring engines, several Russian assault vehicles jumped off the starting line to kick off the vehicle relay—the last and most important event in the Airborne Platoon competition. Participants also included teams from China and Kazakhstan. In the event, they completed an obstacle race in mountainous terrain coupled with a shooting competition.

On the Chinese team, No. 801 assault vehicle took the first leg of the relay. It precisely passed every obstacle and hit all six shooting targets. No. 802 vehicle, which ran the second leg, hit four of the six targets. When No.803 vehicle started off on the third leg, it began raining. The track became muddy. The gunner, Liu Xianjun, struggled to keep his eyes open and held his breath when he shot. The target scoring system showed that he hit every target.

The curtain of the 10-day Airborne Platoon competition fell when the vehicle relay concluded. Of seven participating countries, China took first in 11 of 12 subevents in both vehicle and non-vehicle events.

A Russian S-34 strike fighter demonstrates the release of decoy flares. by Chen Jian



Two helicopters of the Chinese Air Force deliver Special Forces soldiers at the opening ceremony of the Airborne Platoon competition. by Wan Quan



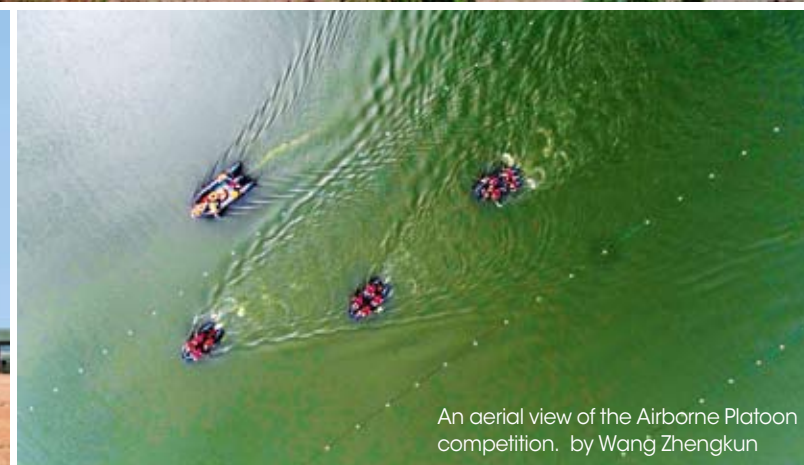
A Chinese assault vehicle in an obstacle race during the Airborne Platoon competition. by Wan Quan



Chinese participants in a shooting event during the Airborne Platoon competition. by Guo Mingming



A Chinese parachutist lands on a target in the Airborne Platoon competition. by Chen Lichun



An aerial view of the Airborne Platoon competition. by Wang Zhengkun



Russian Su-30SM fighters fly in formation. by Chen Jian



A Russian BMD-2 airborne assault vehicle in the Airborne Platoon competition. by Wan Quan

Aviadarts: Hovering above Taipingchuan

The venue of the Aviadarts competition was Taipingchuan Shooting Range of the Chinese Air Force, located at the intersection of Liaoning Province, Jilin Province and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. During the competition, the weather was not as hot as in Guangshui, but rainy and cloudy, which is rare for the region.

Aviadarts is a competition of military aviators categorized into eight events for fighters, fighter-bombers, bombers, scouts, attackers, transport aircraft, transport helicopters, and armed helicopters. Both China and Russia dispatched 39 aircraft to participate in the competition. The average age of Chinese and Russian pilots in the competition was only 35.

The Aviadarts competition is divided into three phases: physical stamina, flight skills and air assault on ground targets. The physical stamina phase involves swimming and basketball races. On August 8, the sub-events of the second phase, such as visual reconnaissance and low-altitude aerobatics, kicked off. According to Chinese pilot Wang Sen, low-altitude aerobatics not only look great visually, but are also practical in real battle. "These skills can help pilots avoid anti-aircraft fire, radar tracking and even missiles." In the third phase of the competition, Chinese and Russian military aircraft assaulted ground targets with aerial bombs, rocket projectiles and guns to test precision assaults.

During the competition, Chinese military aviators won four subevents as well as many group and individual prizes.

On August 10, the Aviadarts competi-

tion concluded in Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province. Ma Xiaotian, a member of China's Central Military Commission and commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force, delivered a speech at the closing ceremony. He noted that the Chinese Air Force has always upheld the concept of friendly, coordinated development and is willing to broaden interaction, cooperation and friendship with air forces of various countries and work together to upgrade military flight training and make greater contributions to building an airspace environment featuring win-win cooperation and lasting safety and harmony.

Alongside military competitions, participants also carried out extensive cultural exchange. On August 1, which marked the 90th birthday of the PLA, foreign participants celebrated the anniversary with Chinese troops and extended their congratulations.

Although they competed against each other, participants from different countries became friends. During breaks, they hugged and took photos with each other. The direct dialogue between those participants laid an emotional foundation for broader exchange and cooperation. "The IAG has become a significant platform for different countries to deepen friendship and learn from each other," remarked Shen Jinke, spokesperson for the Chinese Air Force. "China's Air Force is willing to strengthen exchange and cooperation with air forces from around the world and work together to realize new achievements in international military cooperation and make new contributions to safeguarding world peace." 

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, despite grave difficulties both at home and abroad, China has risen to the challenge and worked hard to press ahead, driving forward sustained, healthy economic and social development, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core.

During the past five years, China has achieved major progress in finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, made important strides in deepening reform, and continued to exercise law-based governance. All of these achievements show that Chinese people have the courage, ingenuity, and ability to overcome any difficulty or hardship, and that there is even better development ahead for China.

Into the Woods at Saihanba

Text by Hu Zhoumeng

How long does it take to transform a desert into a forest?

In the 1960s, 369 forestry workers started seeking the answer in Saihanba (literally, “beautiful highland”), a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Saihanba was once a lush forest where the royal family went hunting until the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) when it was opened to the public as the dynasty lost prominence. Herders and farmers moved in and trees were cut down. In the following years, sandstorms from deserts to the north swept through, driving away animals and residents alike, leaving Saihanba a barren land. After 55 years, Saihanba is now blanketed with 75,000 hectares of forest. The millions of trees are the fruits of the labor of generations of forestry workers who spent some of the best times of their lives in the area.

A wind power generator in the Saihanba forest farm. With green development in mind, farm managers only place wind power generators in boundary areas or on rocky barren hills where tree planting would not work. by Fang Shuo



Forestry workers of old generation wade through snow in the mountains. courtesy of the Saihanba forest farm



Saihanba was a barren land frequently struck by sand storms before forestry workers began planting trees in the 1960s. courtesy of the Saihanba forest farm



An exhibition center in the Saihanba forest farm shows visitors inspiring stories of the older generations of forestry workers. by Fang Shuo

From Zero to One

In the fall of 1962, 22-year-old Zhao Zhenyu, a fresh graduate from an agricultural school, and his classmates arrived in the new Saihanba forest farm after a two-day trip in a bumpy open truck from Chengde, Hebei, 150 kilometers away. A total of 127 graduates like Zhao came from across China to work on the forest farm. Their average age was less than 24. As construction across the country took off, the young, ambitious crew joined the 200 workers who were already there in rebuilding the forest.

Saihanba is famous for its cold—snow covers the land for seven months a year and temperature can drop to minus 43 degrees Celsius. When winter arrives, it's impossible to walk through the snowy wind. The forest farm had insufficient housing in its early years. The students and workers once shared stables with horses and pitched tent-shaped shelters using tree trunks, reinforced with twigs and straw. The food supply was meager as well, and residents mostly survived on flour made from naked oats and wild herbs. In those days, yellow beans soaked in salt

water were a dish that would inspire boisterous cheers.

“The economy was having a hard time so we prioritized production before improvement of living standards,” says Zhao.

Planting did not go well in the first two years. The seeds imported from other regions failed to withstand the wind and cold of Saihanba, and only eight percent survived. Local tree breeding became the new focus. The team managed to breed larch seeds with sturdy stems and robust roots with improved methods, which better suited the harsh environment. In the spring of 1964, planters recorded a 90-percent success rate across 34 hectares for the first time after years of extensive work. Since then, green has been spreading across Saihanba.

Top Threat

In the fire surveillance room of the Saihanba forest farm, Yu Lei sits at a desk facing four computers connected to video surveillance, infrared fire detector radar and lightning fire detectors. From time to time, he looks up at a screen on the wall in front of the desk displaying the feeds from 24 cameras in the forest. As a

fire prevention worker, Yu and six colleagues take turns watching the monitoring system 24/7. “The office is never empty,” Yu stresses. “The trees in the forest are close to each other. If a fire bursts out, the loss would be unimaginable.”

Like the fire prevention staff, forest patrol and fire watchers also play important roles. Patrol happens every day to prevent nearby villagers and tourists from engaging in dangerous behavior, and fire watchers stay in nine towers at high geographical positions that afford a broad view.

“Wanghaiou” is a watch tower located in the northeast of the forest at an altitude of nearly 2,000 meters, making it the highest. Liu Jun and Qi Shuyan, a married couple, have operated the station for 11 years. During the three most dangerous months every spring and fall, Liu and Qi take turns watching for any signs of smoke or fire in the surrounding woods, taking notes and reporting to headquarters every 15 minutes from sunrise to sunset. Their work continues in the night, but frequency drops to once per hour. Through the years, the notebooks they use have piled up about two feet high.



Zhao Zhenyu (left) and his wife Bai Wenjuan, both in their 70s, are retired workers from the Saihanba forest farm. In 1962, a total of 127 graduates like them from across China came to rebuild the forest. by Fang Shuo



"Wanghailou" is a watch tower in the northeast of the forest at an altitude of nearly 2,000 meters, making it the highest of the nine watch towers in the Saihanba forest farm. by Fang Shuo

Living with loneliness is the sacrifice fire watchers make. Except for summer when tourists flock to the forest, the couple hardly sees any faces, especially when heavy snow blocks access to the forest in winter. Liu and Qi are left to support and comfort each other.

Years of tedious tending have paid off, however. No fire disaster has happened in Saihanba since 1962. "From spring to fall, I feel like I can see the trees grow a few centimeters through

my telescope, but planters tell me they grow ten times that much," Liu remarks.

"Smoke-free Fire Hazard"

For forestry workers, pests are the next worst threat after fire. This spring, *Erannis ankeraria Staudinger*, a pest that feeds on larch leaves, invaded over 3,000 hectares of forest. Guo Zhifeng, chief of the Pest Control Station at the Saihanba forest farm, and his colleagues

fought it for more than 20 consecutive days from early morning until late at night. Ultimately, the insects were brought under control.

Recent years have brought a rise in forest insect species. Pest control staffers venture deep into the forest to study emerging insects and take them back to laboratories for closer examination. "We have to learn about how the insects might harm the trees to determine the best way to deal with them," Guo says.

Since joining the station 17 years ago, Guo has witnessed waves of progress in pest control theory and techniques. According to him, pesticide drops from aircraft have been necessary for large-scale attacks, a practice which has happened once every six years since the forest farm was first built. However, over the last 12 years, the farm has not endured such an attack.

"We now try to keep pests under control instead of eliminating them all," he explains. "Certain pests keep others in check, so we need to help the forest become able to maintain this balance on its own."

Advanced techniques are employed in the forest as theory improves. "Now we rely mostly on physical methods and natural enemies to control pests," Guo reveals. "Pesticides are also becoming more biomimetic. They cost more but do less damage to the environment."

Improved Ecological System

At the Planning and Design Institute of the Saihanba forest farm, deputy chief Ji Fuli and engineer Yan Lijun discuss the satellite pictures processed by the ArcGIS geographic information system on a computer screen. The 17 members of the institute collect data from the forest in spring and fall, and bring it back to the

office to calculate and analyze before making planting and management plans for the next year.

Working conditions were much worse in the 1990s when Ji and Yan first arrived at the forest farm. Horse-drawn carriages took them from one forest range to another, where they usually stayed for half a year. "At that time, we could only manage to collect data from one or two spots in an entire day. We processed data with just calculators," Ji describes. "Forestry is a pragmatic job. There is no room for carelessness."

Management concepts have changed in recent years. "We used to target economic benefits, but now our primary goal is to strengthen ecological stability," says Ji.

Every year the forest in Saihanba purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The oxygen released by the forest can serve nearly two million people's needs for a whole year. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

In the early days of the forest farm, the harsh natural conditions forced planters to only plant larches, which has resulted in a singular vegetation structure that can easily fall victim to pests. As the forest improves the climate in Saihanba, the frost-free season has lengthened, rainfall has increased and windy days have dropped, so other species of trees such as *pinus sylvestris* and spruce can now survive. "When a multi-layered forest takes shape with trees, shrubs and grass, the stability of the ecosystem will become even stronger," Yan notes.



Fire watcher Liu Jun checks for signs of smoke or fire in the surrounding woods. by Fang Shuo



Fire prevention worker Yu Lei and his six colleagues take turns watching the fire surveillance systems 24/7. by Duan Wei



At the Planning and Design Institute of the Saihanba forest farm, deputy chief Ji Fuli and engineer Yan Lijun discuss satellite images processed by the ArcGIS geographic information system. by Duan Wei



Guo Zhifeng, chief of the Pest Control Station of the Saihanba forest farm, and his colleagues have collected more than 10,000 insect specimens since 2014. by Fang Shuo



Saihanba is now blanketed with 75,000 hectares of forest after 55 years of hard work. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The oxygen released by the forest meets nearly two million people's needs for a whole year. by Duan Wei

In the northeastern corner of the Saihanba forest farm, young larches grow and wind power generators spin. Economic and ecological benefits are well balanced in Saihanba. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry. by Fang Shuo



Song Yingying (right) and Fu Yingnan, two millennials, who grew up on the Saihanba forest farm and returned to work there. by Duan Wei

Growing Woods, Growing Men

“The straight, non-bifurcated trees with a wide crown are growing optimally,” explains technician Song Yingying, who can identify the ideal time to prune as well as which trees to remove after five years of experience on the forest farm.

Working in the mountains, she meets sudden, unexpected rain frequently and once had to wade through waist-deep snow. “I spend about 300 days a year with my colleagues,” she admits. “We take good care of each other like siblings. The work is never easy but we enjoy it.”

Song's parents are also forest workers in Saihanba, and her childhood memories are peppered with chasing other kids through the woods. “You can find a lot of tasty things like strawberries and raspberries in the forest when fall comes,” Song says. “I would forget to come home every time if not for my parents yelling, ‘time for lunch!’”

Fu Yingnan returned to the Saihanba forest farm where he grew up after graduating from college in 2015. “The highest grove of larches near the headquarters was partly planted by my grandfather,” Fu claims. “Dad told me that those trees were shorter than him when he was a child.”

In recent days, a patch of mature trees was cut down, so Song and Fu became busy guiding workers in digging holes for seedlings to be planted next spring, measuring distances and marking lines.

“When I started planting for the first time, the team leader pointed to a large field and declared that it should be covered with seeds,” Fu recalls. “I was thinking ‘Only God knows how long that will take.’ But by planting a thousand trees a day, day after day, it could be done. Now, I feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment by looking at the same field and seeing it packed with trees.”



The Reforestation Saga

Text by Li Xia

In 1681, Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) commissioned the formation of the Mulan Hunting Ground for the royal family to “display martial merit, pacify vassal states and hold hunting parties.” The vast expanse of pine trees had been a popular royal hunting ground since the Liao (907-1125) and Jin (1115-1234) dynasties. About 400 kilometers from Beijing, the Mulan Hunting Ground is still home to defense forests, lush pastures and a variety of wild animals. The Saihanba Mechanical Forest Farm of Hebei Province now resides on the former imperial hunting ground.

In 1863, the second year of the reign of Emperor Tongzhi, the Qing government launched the first large-scale logging and reclamation campaign in the Mulan Hunting Ground to solve its fiscal problems. Over the following 53 years, nearly 10,000 hectares of forest were destroyed and developed into farmland. By the time the Qing Dynasty collapsed, the formerly primitive forests, pastures and rivers in the area had deteriorated into barren deserts.

Beijing lost a natural shield, and sandstorms from the Inner Mongolia Plateau began pummeling the Chinese capital. The city often became blanketed in sand in springtime.

In 1961, the Ministry of Forestry dispatched a group of experts to Saihanba to explore the possibility of artificial forestation there. By then, the People’s Republic of China was only in its 12th year, and the national economy was still struggling to gain traction. But the Chinese government understood the importance of forests and was committed to creating a state-owned forest farm there to restore the destroyed vegetation. In February 1962, the Chengde Saihanba Mechanical Forest Farm under the Ministry of Forestry was established, heralding the dawn of a mammoth artificial forestation program in northern China and a return of reverence for our mother earth.

Sacrifices

The first generation of workers at the Saihanba forest farm made incredible sacrifices in an attempt to undo the historical wrongs.

In the early days of the forest farm, the Ministry of Forestry mobilized 127 graduates of 24 colleges, universities and vocational schools nationwide to reinforce the forest farm’s technical know-how, and before long, a 369-member afforestation team was set up.

Winter temperature in Saihanba can drop to as low as negative 40 degrees Celsius, and a heavy spell of snow would simply

cut it off from the outside world. In those days, the primary means of transport were horse or oxen-pulled carts, and a 100-kilometer journey would take several days. Locals dwelled in earthen houses or tents and had to remain vigilant against howling wolves. When waking up in the morning, most residents would find a thin layer of frost on their eyebrows and hair.

“Production over life” was a common slogan everywhere during the early period of China’s socialist construction. Saihanba was no exception. Despite the harsh natural conditions and poor living standards, the principle served as the driving force for many.

By 1982, some forests in the area had been restored. However, not until recent years did local living and education conditions substantially improve. Prior to the 1980s, inhabitants of the forest farm didn’t send any children to college due to underdeveloped educational facilities. “In fact, even the second generation sacrificed a lot,” noted a worker of the forest farm.

Natural disasters are the worst enemies of planted forests, and they often nullified years of human efforts. Many workers still remember the catastrophic glaze of frost on October 28, 1977: After a few days of rain and low temperatures, the trees were coated by thick ice, and many branches broke due to the weight. The frost destroyed more than 13,000 hectares of forest. In 1980, about 8,000 hectares of forest were lost to a severe drought.

Wildfires are another threat. The forest farm has nine fire lookout towers, of which eight are manned by husband-wife teams. In such remote places, couples have a better chance of enduring extreme isolation. These observers make unimaginable sacrifices. Chen Ruijun and his wife Chu Jingmei have worked in one of these watchtowers for 12 years, making lookout reports every 15 minutes. Life there is lonely and boring, especially for their eight-year-old son who can barely speak fluently due to a lack of practice.

The blood, sweat and tears of generations of afforestation workers have eventually forged the spirit of Saihanba to be praised by the nation.

Reconciliation

Late Chinese leader Mao Zedong once wrote in a poem: “Bitter sacrifice fuels bold resolve, which dares to ignite the sun and moon in new skies.” To transform Saihanba from a desert into an oasis, locals have made great sacrifices.



After decades of afforestation efforts since 1962, Saihanba has become a place of green trees and blooming flowers. by Wang Yuncong

By 1982, workers on the forest farm had planted 320 million trees covering 64,000 hectares of land, with a survival rate of over 90 percent.

Liu Jun and his wife now operate a fire lookout tower. They still remember planting trees as children. Back in the 1970s, many students in fifth grade or above joined in the tree-planting campaign during summer vacations, through which they earned tuition and boarding fees. Local farmers also participated for extra income.

Scientific and technological progress provided a guarantee for the environmental restoration of Saihanba. Since 1962 when the first trials began, technicians at the forest farm have accomplished significant technological innovation and crossbreeding. Not only have they cultivated many new species that resist the cold and more effectively thwart sandstorms, but they have also renovated machinery to enhance the quality and speed of forestry work. By 1964, the survival rate of the forest farm's 34.4 hectares of planted larches rose to over 90 percent, an impressive increase from eight percent in only two years.

From the vision and courage of the first generation of Com-

munist Party of China (CPC) leaders to foresee the importance of environmental protection to the concept of green development recently introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who stressed that "building an ecological civilization concerns people's wellbeing and the future of our nation," Chinese people from all walks of life are working even more conscientiously on creating harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

"We developed an awareness of forest protection when we were children," declares Wang Chong, a third-generation resident of the Saihanba forest farm. "For us, forests are our home and family. We consider every tree our own child." Her grandparents served as first-generation workers of the forest farm after attending the Secondary Forestry School in Baicheng.

Through unimaginable sacrifice, residents of Saihanba have eventually restored the natural environment that was once destroyed.

Coexistence

Mother Nature repays humans who treat her well.

The word "management" can mean a wide variety of things

depending on context, and in Saihanba, it alludes to preserving and expanding forests.

Local achievements in forest management are backed by numbers: From 1962 to the end of 2016, Saihanba's forested areas increased from 16,000 hectares to nearly 75,000 hectares, forest coverage rate from 18 percent to 80 percent, and total timber reserve from 330,000 cubic meters to a whopping 10.12 million cubic meters.


The Saihanba ecosystem, comprised of forests, grasslands and wetlands, is home to 261 species of wild terrestrial vertebrates, 32 species of fish, 660 species of insects, 179 species of large fungi and 625 species of plants. Of them, 47 animals and nine plants are under state-class protection.

Frostless days each year have grown from 52 to 64, while the number of extremely windy days has dropped from 83 to 53. Back in the 1950s, Beijing had an average of 56.2 sandstorm days each year. In recent years, the annual volume of sandstorm days in the city has decreased by more than 70 percent.

Large-scale forestation has also created many jobs for locals

and stimulated the development of supporting industries such as rural tourism, animal husbandry, handicrafts and transportation. These sectors create additional revenues of over 600 million yuan, which have been helping locals shake off poverty.

Since its establishment, the Saihanba forest farm has realized 73 research achievements in nine categories including seed breeding, forestation, forest management, pest control and secondary products.

Man has taken a painful lesson to learn how to live in harmony with nature. Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, stressed that we must "raise awareness of the need to respect, accommodate and protect nature, place a high priority on ecological progress, work hard to build a beautiful country and achieve lasting and sustainable development for the Chinese nation." Only by making environmental protection a goal rather than an inconvenience can peaceful coexistence of man and nature and sustainable development be achieved. 

The author is executive editor-in-chief of *China Pictorial*.



Seven-Star Lake Wetland Park in Saihanba integrates forests, grasslands, meadows, and marshes. In recent years, the place has become more beautiful alongside the increase of the lake's water level. by Duan Wei

Multi-Faceted Xiamen

Text by Zhang Xue
Photographs by Dong Fang

On the sea and inseparable from it, the city of Xiamen, Fujian Province, is located on the southeastern tip of China, facing Taiwan Island across the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea to the south. The city's iconic culture is flavored not only by the vast ocean surrounding the city, but also by unparalleled openness and inclusiveness.

Vanguard of Reform

Xiamen features a 234-kilometer-long coastline dotted with deep-water, ice-free ports, making the city an important hub for foreign trade along China's southeastern coast.

As early as the Song Dynasty (960-1279), Xiamen Harbor's position as an outer auxiliary port for Quanzhou made it an important location on the Maritime Silk Road. Today, the city's container handling capacity ranks 15th in the world, making Xiamen one of China's four major international shipping centers.

From a fishing port to a modern metropolis, from one of the

first four special economic zones to one of the earliest free trade areas (FTAs), Xiamen has remained a forerunner since China's reform and opening up, serving as a window to the outside world.

Located in Haicang Port Zone of Xiamen's free trade area, Xiamen Ocean Automatic Wharf is one of the first of its kind globally. Rather than countless workers moving past each other, giant cranes and automated ferries smoothly sway back and forth, loading and unloading containers in a precise and orderly manner.

Xiamen wharf is the first automatic terminal, of which China holds its independent intellectual property rights. Since it began operation, the wharf has not had a single accident.

Less than two kilometers away is the start of the Xiamen rail line to central Europe, which connects to other maritime and land transport routes. Trains run far north through Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and across the Eurasian continent to Moscow, Russia to deliver products such as loaders, precision instruments, minerals, and shoes.



Trying Gigabit's latest VR games.

By linking the sea to the land, Xiamen is a hub of the Maritime Silk Road that has created new logistics channels to serve countries along the terrestrial route, keeping the ancient Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road close together.

On March 1, 2015, the Xiamen Area of China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone officially opened, marking the dawn of a new developmental mission for the city and its residents. Vice Mayor



Products made by Meitu, one of Xiamen's native startups. The concentration of hi-tech industries has greatly accelerated the innovative development and urban economic transformation of the city.

Huang Qiang declared that the pilot free trade zone had set a new bar for reform and innovation in Xiamen and served as an important engine to promote industrial transformation and upgrade.

New Industries Accelerate Growth

The second-phase Xiamen Software Park sits at the eastern end of Xiamen Island. Built like a garden featuring booming flowers and lush lawns, avant-garde office buildings are laid out similarly to Silicon Valley in the United States.

A handful of big-name tech players such as Meitu were born in the software park. A local startup founded in 2008, Meitu has attracted more than 500 million users globally, and its products are used around the world in over a billion mobile devices.

With the rise of smartphones and the mobile internet, photography and image sharing have become central activities in daily life, making convenient picture processing software in high demand. Meitu founder Wu Xinhong seized the opportunity and launched the PC version of the software in October 2008.

Today, Meitu and Gigabit—together known as the Xiamen Internet Legion—are major players in the global internet market. In 2016, Xiamen Software Park achieved operational revenue of over 70 billion yuan, an increase of more than 20 percent year-on-year, and hosted 2,671 registered industrial and commercial enterprises that employed 92,000 people.

Eight companies now residing in the software park have been publicly traded, and 42 enterprises have been listed on the "new third board." The third phase of the software park, located in Jimei New Town, is being utilized to adapt to the rapid development of software and information technology.

Located just off the coast of Xiamen, Fujian Province, Gulangyu Island was added to UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List on August 8, 2017.



One-way bicycle traffic makes enjoying the view along the way safe and easy.

Enjoying the sea breeze and swimming have always been popular activities with locals.



One of the best ways to learn about Gulangyu Island is visiting the cultural and history museum.

The conglomeration of high-tech industries has played an important role in the innovative development and urban economic transformation of Xiamen.

“The phoenix will only be attracted when sycamore trees are planted,” remarked Vice Mayor Huang Qiang, citing an old Chinese proverb in an interview. “The thriving high-tech enterprises will surely attract more talent, which in turn will optimize the talent structure of Xiamen’s industry.”

Coffee and Tea: A Slow Rhythm of Life

Xiamen takes pride in its mild and rainy subtropical monsoon climate. Flowers blossom year-round, making the city a “garden on the sea” that has been honored as one of China’s Top 10 Livable Cities, with the UN Habitat Award, and as an International Garden City, just to name a few. Many honors can be attributed to Xiamen’s impressive urban construction and public happiness index.

The city’s reputation has attracted tourists from all corners of the country as well as the world, who come to experience the slow, beautiful rhythm of life.

Early each morning, people flock to the shore of the island to enjoy the cool sea breeze, bathe in the morning sunlight, jog while watching the sunrise, and embrace the new day.

After lunch, visitors often ride bicycles down Yunding (Top of the Cloud) Road, admire the city view from atop a hill or hide away in a café to enjoy a tranquil afternoon, sipping coffee while reading a book.

As night falls, they choose a small time-honored restaurant


along Zhongshan Pedestrian Street to try local snacks such as a bowl of noodles with satay sauce or peanut soup. Bars along North Hubin Road boast the sounds of youth via heavy metal music.

Xiamen residents love drinking tea, but strangely, it is difficult to find a teahouse because the beverage is so integrated into daily life. A standard appliance for local residents is a well-equipped tea set featuring a tray, a bowl and several little tea cups. Such sets can be found in every corner of the city, from small shops to modern office buildings and from old red-brick buildings to new condominiums.

“Sit and have a cup of tea” is a standard local greeting of the hospitable residents, who always find time to lead outsiders into the simple life of Xiamen and its tea culture. The most popular brand is Tieguanyin Oolong Tea from Anxi, Quanzhou, which is made using a tureen and intended for small cups.

People in Xiamen love coffee too. Visitors will often see someone sitting by a French window with a cup of coffee and perhaps a couple of friends. Chatting around drinks is one of the most common activities in Xiamen.

Statistics show that the count of cafés in Xiamen now exceeds 2,000, giving it the densest concentration in the country. Most are found along North Hubin Road.

“Open,” “innovative” and “livable” are the adjectives most frequently employed to describe modern Xiamen. Today, Xiamen has shouldered a new mission: In September this year, it hosted the BRICS leaders’ meeting, which would undoubtedly enhance its international visibility and accelerate its integration into global development. A new Xiamen is thriving. 

Reviving Ancient Melodies in the South

Text by Zhang Xue
Photographs by Dong Fang

Nanyin, literally “southern music” in Chinese, refers to the traditional music of southern Fujian Province, which has been handed down for more than 1,000 years. Hailed as a “living fossil” of ancient Chinese music and dance, it remains popular with Fujian dialect speakers residing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, and other regions of Southeast Asia, but it especially warms the hearts of overseas Chinese people.

Also known as “southern melody,” the songs originated in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), according to historical records, and became widely popular during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), during which time it was blended with the folk music of the Central Plains.

The original flavors have been preserved thanks to surviving instruments, sheet music and well-preserved playing and singing style, and today Nanyin is considered one of the four schools of

classical Chinese music. In 2009, Nanyin was included on UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

This ancient art has been particularly well preserved because it is recorded with a special kind of writing known as “gongyipu,” which has of course been misinterpreted widely over the centuries.

In recent years, the legacy has gone digital with the publication of *Selected Nanyin Classics* by Xiamen Southern Music Group (XSMG), which has proved the most accurate tool yet for Nanyin performers and fans to enjoy every style of the southern melody.

The instruments used to perform Nanyin are primarily a vertical bamboo flute, *pipa*, *erxian* and *sanxian* (two and three-stringed plucked instruments) and clappers. During a performance, the *pipa*, or Chinese lute, is often played horizontally, as depicted in the famous painting of the Five Dynasties (907-960), *Night Feast*.

The biggest challenge modern musicians face when handing down such an ancient cultural legacy is preserving the authentic flavor and style while keeping it fresh with new ideas that align with the times.

“Blazing new trails based on the foundation of tradition has always been the aim of Nanyin artists and troupes,” remarks Yang Xueli, president of the XSMG and recipient of the Peony Performance Award, the highest honor for Chinese folk artists. Since the day she started studying Nanyin in art school in 1989, Yang has never lost passion for the art despite myriad ups and downs.

Over the last few years, the XSMG has engaged in heavy efforts to popularize the art with the philosophy “Approach the Audience and Serve the Residents.” Today, the group performs more than 200 times annually for public welfare, spreading the southern melody to every corner of the city of Xiamen. Every Sunday afternoon, they appear on stage in Zhongshan Park for free. The melodies echoing through temples and halls have attracted increasingly larger crowds, providing greater fuel for the ancient folk music’s preservation across generations.

Cultural heritage requires constant injections of new life. In Xiamen, some primary schools now offer Nanyin performance classes. The XSMG has launched regular campaigns by joining hands with local musical troupes and schools to provide training programs and summer camps helmed by their most excellent tutors. Moreover, it has organized periodic contests that provide a stage for young standouts. It has closely cooperated with the city’s art schools and supplied them with expert teachers.

The song “Ode to the Golden Stone” sung by millennials frequently whisks audiences back to the Song Dynasty. The song recounts a love story about Song-Dynasty poet Li Qingzhao and her husband, which is perfectly understood thanks to the singers. Both Xu Dani, who played the female poet, and Pan Wenlong, who played the husband, are standouts of the new generation of millennial Nanyin artists who graduated from the art schools that collaborated with the XSMG.

Western orchestral instruments have even been used in a bold attempt to combine the traditional art with more world music.

The ancient music deeply rooted in southern Fujian has enjoyed great popularity around the world for centuries. Over the last few years, the XSMG has performed in many places in China such as Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, as well as in countries including France, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia.

“The national is international,” Yang Xueli notes. “The best way to help the world share southern melodies is to create more excellent pieces of work.”



One of the four treasures of the southern musical instruments is the bamboo clappers.



The double bell is a southern musical instrument used to balance the beat.



Picture of *One Hundred Flowers*, performed by the Southern Musical Troupe, which is mostly comprised of artists born in the 1990s.



Young artists Xu Dani and Pan Wenlong perform in the Nanyin oratorio *Ode to the Golden Stone*.



A Golden Decade of Economic Cooperation

Text by Wang Lei

Over the past decade, as a representative of emerging economies and developing countries, BRICS has launched a new global partnership for development, intensified cooperation between developing nations, promoted a more open, inclusive, balanced, mutually-beneficial and sustainable international economic system, and opened a new path for South-South cooperation. Data show that economic cooperation within BRICS created a “golden decade” in terms of pragmatic financial, economic and trade cooperation and construction of an economic cooperation mechanism.

2017 embraces the second “golden decade” of BRICS cooperation. Looking into the future, BRICS countries foresee a bright prospect for their economic development; and they will make greater contributions to world economic growth and accelerating the reform of the global economic and financial system.

September 3, 2017: The iconic flower bed in front of the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center, where Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Summit. by Guo Shasha



Economic Cooperation in the “New Normal” Era

In recent years, BRICS countries have entered a new stage of economic development: a new normal featuring deeper, broader economic cooperation due to the global economic situation, which has become increasingly complex.

First, the external environment of BRICS economic cooperation is more complex and fluid, which poses a great challenge for BRICS economic cooperation. During its early stages of cooperation, BRICS was plagued by the global financial crisis, but the member states stuck together to confront the challenge. Since the end of 2014, however, the weak recovery of the global economy has resulted in more prominent economic divisions between developed and developing countries, giving rise to trade protectionism, kindling greater political trade friction and marginalizing the multilateral trading systems, thus creating more challenge in building an open economic world in the face of anti-globalization and selective anti-globalization sentiments. BRICS countries have suffered an incomparably severe impact on trade and domestic development, which led to an economic downturn.

Second, China plays a leading role in BRICS economic cooperation and a variety of driving forces have gradually taken shape to back up BRICS economic cooperation. In 2016, China's GDP reached US\$11 trillion, surpassing the total of that of the other four countries, and its average annual growth rate of some 7 percent was still outstanding. For a long time, China's trade with the other four countries accounted for 90 percent of the total trade volume among BRICS. China has remained the largest trading partner of Brazil, Russia and South Africa as well as one of India's major trade partners.



June 10, 2017: The BRICS Political Parties, Think-tanks and Civil Society Organizations Forum, themed “Seek Cooperation and Development and Create a Better Future Together,” is held in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, China. VCG

Over the last few years, the driving forces of BRICS economic cooperation have gradually become more diversified, which has significantly accelerated the establishment of a more balanced, inclusive BRICS economic partnership that will ensure healthier, more sustainable development in BRICS countries.

BRICS economic cooperation has entered an era of new normal, inseparable from the global political and economic situation. The current situation is also an outcome of BRICS' initiative macroeconomic control and enhancement of common development.

As the international situation continues to undergo profound changes, the growing pains of instability and uncertainty are causing regional conflicts one after another as well as complicated and grim cases of terrorism, all of which have led to sluggish global market demand. Global trade is hovering at low rates and the international financial market has been volatile. BRICS countries could hardly avoid being dragged down by the world economy as it slowly recovers towards more sustainable operation.

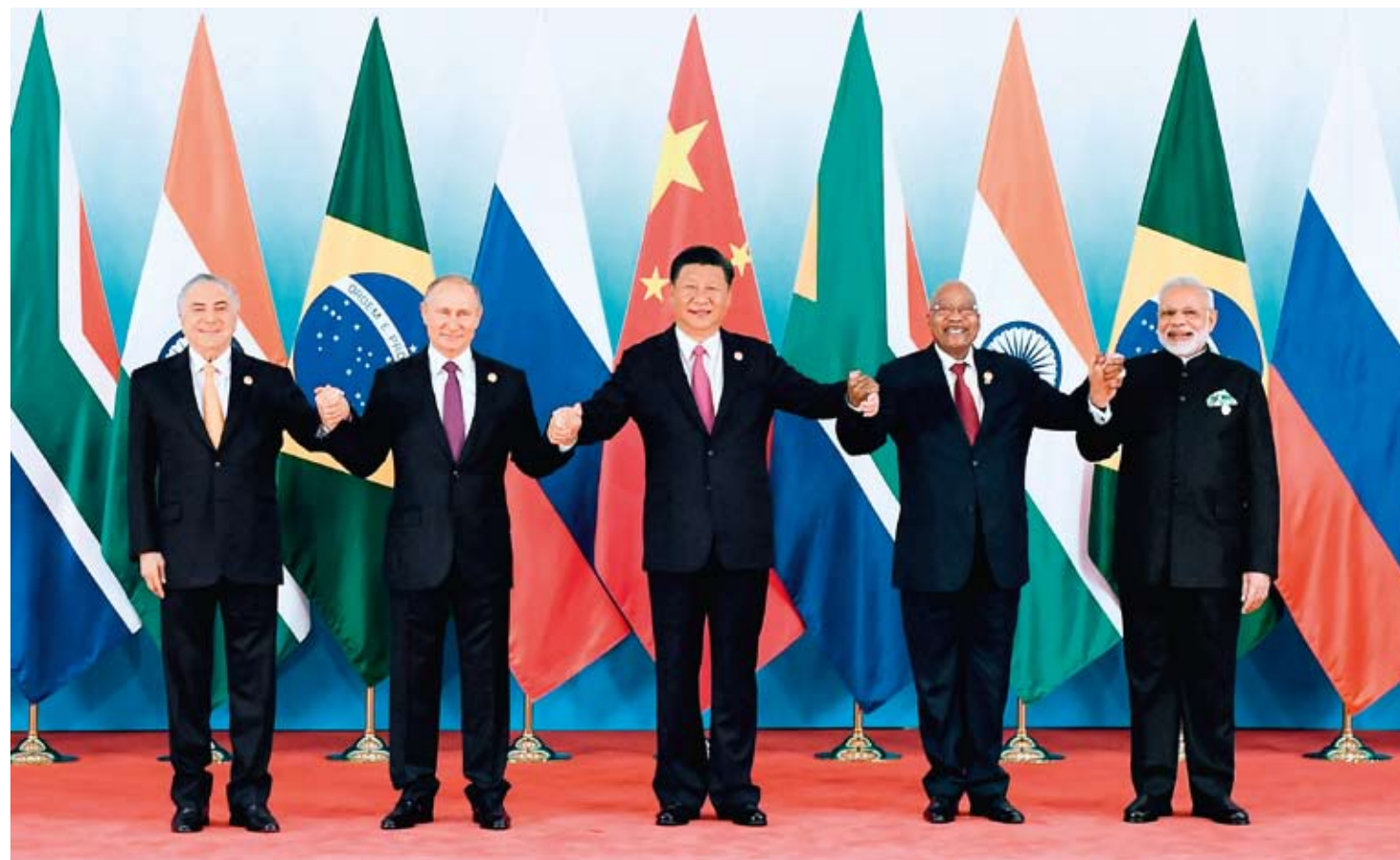
After 10 years of rapid growth, BRICS countries have encountered problems, both socially and economically. All of the member states are experiencing an economic downturn that is considered the cost of reform during economic policy adjustment and economic transformation and upgrading by seizing opportunities for macroeconomic control.

China has the initiative to adjust and adapt to the economic growth pace of the new normal. The Brazilian government is also working on overall economic reform covering social security, infrastructural construction and state-owned enterprises. The government of India has actively deepened its reform in sectors like real estate, taxation and employment. South Africa has implemented radical economic reform measures.

Prospects for the Next Golden Decade

Looking into the future, the prospect for their economic development remains bright despite the fact that each of the five BRICS countries will face their own challenges.

First, we should fully and objectively look at the causes of BRICS' recent relative slowdown in economic growth and be aware that the basic ingredients of rapid economic development of BRICS countries have not changed. Its energy resources remain strong, its indigenous power is sufficient, its industrial structure is becoming more rational, and its national economy and industrial system are increasingly ideal. This is different from what had happened during the global financial crisis: sluggish flow of finance, debt crises and lack of demand that developed economies were facing.



September 4, 2017: Chinese President Xi Jinping and other BRICS leaders pose for a group photo prior to the 9th BRICS Summit in the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center. Xinhua

Second, after initial adjustment and reform, the five countries are focusing on overcoming the difficulties they come across in economic development. They are trying to enhance their inner economic strength, underpin macroeconomic strategy with social policies, and thus enter a new period of development by turning quantity growth to quality improvement and through inclusive growth.

Third, BRICS countries have agreed on guided construction that allows more coordinated policies, intensified cooperation and capitalization on complementary strengths, creating enormous potential and space for cooperation and development as well as a louder voice in international economic and financial communities.

Economic Cooperation Will Remain the Focus in the Future

Economic cooperation is the eternal theme of promoting BRICS development and serves as a stabilizer for BRICS to expand cooperation. Embracing the next “golden decade,” BRICS' economic cooperation will feature common development that is stronger, more inclusive, and more sustainable, across the following aspects:

First, strengthen global economic governance and work together to overcome challenges.

A. BRICS countries will make joint efforts to build an open world economy, firmly safeguard multilateral trading systems, continue to promote the Doha Round, oppose all forms of protectionism and exclusion, and ensure that all countries enjoy equal rights, equal opportunities and equal rules in development.

B. BRICS countries will continue to work together to improve the international monetary system, promote reform of Bretton Woods institutions and enhance the voice and representation of emerging markets and developing countries in global economic governance. Small states will play a great role in operation of the New Development Bank, support development efforts of BRICS and other emerging markets and developing countries and improve the operability of emergency reserve arrangements.

C. BRICS countries will strengthen coordination and cooperation in multilateral mechanisms. As the most important emerging economies, all members will strengthen communication and coordination in major international institutions such as the G20, the United Nations, World Bank, the IMF and the World Trade Organization, improve global economic governance, and promote international economic order that is fairer, more reasonable and more efficient.

BRICS
BRAZIL RUSSIA INDIA CHINA SOUTH AFRICA



September 4, 2017: Chinese President Xi Jinping meets South African President Jacob Zuma, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 9th BRICS Summit in the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center. by Duan Wei

Foreign journalists watching a live broadcast at the Media Center. The gathering of BRICS leaders in Xiamen drew 3,000 reporters from China and 80 other countries. by Duan Wei



June 17, 2017: Opening ceremony of the BRICS sports meet in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. VCG

Second, promote shared development of BRICS members and other developing countries by intensifying economic cooperation among BRICS.

A. The BRICS economic partnership will be further strengthened. BRICS countries have an important position in the global economic landscape. The five countries have mapped out the *Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership* (hereinafter referred to as the “Strategy”) in a bid to systematically plan intensified cooperation and create a massive market for trade investment. Against the backdrop of the complex world economic situation and the co-existence of opportunities and challenges in economic development, BRICS will implement the Strategy, draw a roadmap for long-term economic cooperation, strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination, take into account the respective development strategies of each of the five countries, and make joint endeavors to form a large integrated market, promote financial circulation, and achieve infrastructure connectivity.

B. As representatives of emerging economies, BRICS coun-

tries will continue to promote international development cooperation, follow the principle of development, play a leading and exemplary role in implementing the sustainable development agenda 2030, provide more financial and technical support to developing countries and urge developed countries to keep their commitments, reinforce international cooperation in development, and help BRICS cooperation become the most important platform for boosting South-South cooperation.

This year marks the dawn of the second decade of BRICS cooperation. BRICS will continue to uphold the principles of “openness, inclusiveness, cooperation, and win-win results” as it builds a closer economic partnership, promotes implementation of the Strategy, furthers pragmatic cooperation in various fields, responds to global challenges, and creates the second “golden decade.” Obviously, it will play a larger role in promoting world economic growth, improving global economic governance and accelerating the common development of the whole world. 47

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B R I C S
BRAZIL RUSSIA INDIA CHINA SOUTH AFRICA

BRICS Experts on Governance

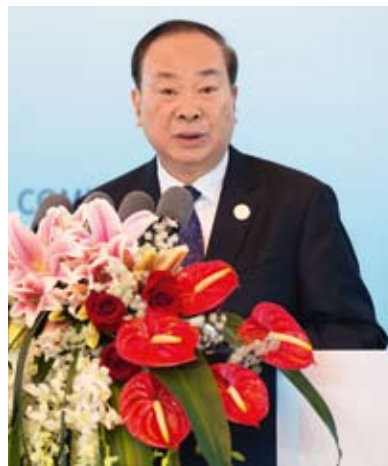
Text by Zhou Xin

Photographs by Dong Ning/China.org.cn

In mid-August of this year, over 160 guests from BRICS and other developing countries gathered in Quanzhou, a coastal city in southeastern China, for the BRICS Seminar on Governance. Quanzhou is about an hour's drive away from Xiamen, the host city of the 9th BRICS Summit.

As an important event leading up to the BRICS summit in early September, the seminar was sponsored by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and co-organized by the Chinese Academy of Governance and China International Publishing Group (CIPG). As a novel and rewarding program under the cooperation mechanisms of BRICS, the seminar included three panel meetings respectively themed “enhancing reform for common development,” “increasing communication for cultural prosperity,” and “strengthening collaboration in global governance.” It aimed to promote another decade of successful cooperation among BRICS countries by inviting guests to conduct in-depth exchange on governance and explore possibilities for wider cooperation.

August 17, 2017: Huang Kunming, executive deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, stresses the importance of enhancing exchange on governance experience and ensuring consensus among leaders of BRICS nations in a keynote speech at the BRICS Seminar on Governance in Quanzhou, Fujian Province.



China's Mode: A Reference for the World

In 2003, Goldman Sachs coined the concept of BRIC in a report on global economics: *Dreaming with BRICs—The Path to 2050*. In September 2006, the foreign ministers of China, Russia, India and Brazil met for the first time during a session of the United Nations General Assembly. In 2009, the first summit meeting of BRIC leaders was held in Russia. At the end of 2010, South Africa joined the bloc, adding its “S.” Ten years have passed since

cooperation among these large developing countries was first organized. From an informal meeting between foreign ministers to a multi-faceted cooperation mechanism covering politics, economy, agriculture, energy and culture, these countries have reaped remarkable results by promoting exchange and cooperation.

China's governance has achieved considerable success since the 18th CPC National Congress. During the seminar, guests from all participating countries praised Chinese President Xi Jinping's philosophy on governance. Ronnie Lins, CEO of Center China-Brazil: Research and Business, remarked that President Xi's governance model is a source of inspiration. It can serve as a platform from which we can make the necessary adaptations in global governance. The Chinese government has developed an administration model with well-defined objectives, solid premises and foreseeable results. The Chinese model can serve as a benchmark for almost any developing country.

Essop Goolam Pahad, a former minister of South Africa and editor-in-chief of the monthly journal *The Thinker*, remarked that poverty is a major concern affecting the development in Africa, and that critical lessons for Africa can be drawn from President Xi Jinping's book *Up and Out of Poverty*. Ningde Prefecture in Fujian Province once suffered from similar problems related to development and poverty, and Xi effectively alleviated poverty there. This book manifests how leadership brought dramatic changes to the poor during the time of transformation.

This seminar also provided a platform for suggestions on concrete issues concerning governance. Vladimir Eremin, the First Deputy Director of the Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA) of Lomonosov Moscow State University, argued that civil servants are responsible for providing legal support to economic activities, organizing monetary circulation, and ensuring an optimal environment for employment. One of the central and most urgent tasks of a civil service institution is more effective implementation of economic and social functions—regulation of the economy. Training of civil servants is a very important issue for all countries, including BRICS nations.

Former Ethiopian Minister of Education Gennet Zewide Birru hopes that more women will be included in global governance. Women play a critical role in improving people's livelihood. In

developing continents like Africa, about 90 percent of the female labor force is engaged in agricultural work. Women are also responsible for the preparation of food for families. When women are given the opportunity to participate in leadership, they can improve and tackle important issues that will result in real progress for the people.

Next Breakthrough for BRICS Cooperation

In the past decade, BRICS countries grew from some promising emerging economies scattered across four continents into a group of developing nations that cooperate in many areas. What will future cooperation be like? What are the areas to explore for further cooperation?

During this seminar, experts offered feasible suggestions according to their profession and experience.

Mahendra Prasad Lama, a professor from Jawaharlal Nehru University, believes that education could be a critical realm of cooperation among BRICS members. It could become a game-changer for the five-country integration matrix. BRICS members have already identified areas like sharing of macro-data, popularization of information technology, and technical innovation on a much deeper and larger scale, with the facilitation of student and teacher mobility being a core area of cooperation. However, given their different geographical locations, development levels, governance structures and institutional variations, BRICS countries must increasingly adopt non-conventional techniques and practices to kindle and deepen cooperation.

Hu Huaibang, chairman of China Development Bank (CDB), vows that to keep with the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, the CDB will continue to promote and deepen BRICS cooperation towards the goal of building

August 17, 2017: Jiang Jianguo, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and minister of the State Council Information Office, presides over the opening ceremony of the BRICS Seminar on Governance.



August 18, 2017: During the two-day BRICS Seminar on Governance in Quanzhou City, Fujian Province, China International Publishing Group (CIPG) respectively signed memorandums of understanding on academic research and communication with four foreign institutes and agencies.

a big market for trade and investment, wider circulation of financial services and currencies, well-connected infrastructure and more frequent people-to-people exchange. By playing the role of a think-tank as well as a financial institution, the CDB can further promote exchanges among BRICS countries on governance, development of major projects and people-to-people ties.

Think-tank Cooperation on Cultural Exchange

During the seminar, CIPG signed memoranda of understanding on academic research and communication with four institutes and agencies: the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Center China-Brazil: Research and Business (CCB), the Institute of Chinese Studies in Delhi, India, and South Africa's *The Thinker* magazine.

According to the agreements, both sides will work closely on information sharing, staff exchange and cooperation in academic research, as well as conducting routine discussions and communication.

“The future of BRICS cooperation requires both top-level design and people-to-people exchange, especially cooperation and joint wisdom between think-tanks of different BRICS nations,” declared Vice President of CIPG Wang Gangyi in an interview. As the BRICS mechanism steps into its second decade, plenty of room has emerged for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between BRICS nations, according to Wang. BRICS think-tanks are expected to leverage their strengths, complement each other and provide solutions for BRICS nations, serving as drivers of BRICS cooperation for better social development. “Think-tanks in these countries should become practitioners of new globalization, advocates of new global governance and pioneers of new South-South cooperation,” he added. 47

Fostering a Follow-up Golden Decade

Interview with Chinese scholar Jia Jinjing, director of the Macro Research Department, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China

China Pictorial (CP): What are the most important achievements of the BRICS cooperation mechanism over the past 10 years?

Jia Jinjing (Jia): The BRICS cooperation mechanism was born in 2006, and BRICS countries have enjoyed a “golden decade” marked by notable results. The total economic output of the five BRICS members—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South

Africa—accounts for nearly a fourth of the world’s total, and they have contributed approximately 50 percent of world economic growth. BRICS has gradually evolved into a model for mutually-beneficial cooperation between emerging markets and developing countries from an original investment concept into concrete results. Today, it plays an important role in promoting world economic growth and improving global governance.

CP: What are the innovations of BRICS compared to other multilateral cooperation mechanisms?

Jia: Over the past 10 years, BRICS has grown from an investment concept on paper to a multi-level and multi-sector cooperation framework featuring meetings between leaders, ministers and senior private-enterprise representatives on security issues and a host of other issues. Over the last few years, BRICS cooperation has maintained the principle of “two-wheel” drive with economics and politics, which has paved new roads for South-South cooperation. Compared to other multilateral cooperation mechanisms, BRICS has innovated its mechanisms in four ways:

First, BRICS swiftly changed member countries’ role from a participant to a leader in global governance. This is not only the result of BRICS countries’ strong collective voice in global gover-

nance, but also the result of inevitable evolution of global patterns. History shows that BRICS does not impose its will on others—rather, it has fostered a greater output of public products while ensuring independent internal affairs, thus creating a new model worth studying and applying to global governance.

Second, BRICS countries have accumulated rich experience in economic and trade cooperation. The present world economy needs a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation for growth. During the past 10 years of cooperation, BRICS has impressively explored areas of new economics, e-commerce, trade, investment facilitation, innovation and development, earning valuable experience in the process.

Still, there is huge space to capitalize on complementary advantages between BRICS countries, which are able to promote construction of a big, closely interconnected market characterized by infrastructure connectivity, open trade and investment, and monetary and financial interconnection. This will open new avenues to win-win results in economic growth.

Third, BRICS has promoted people-to-people exchange. BRICS countries are located on several continents, and each has an iconic and profound cultural legacy and different channels of communication with the world’s major cultures. The intensification of comprehensive cultural exchanges among BRICS countries across multiple sectors such as business, academia, media, think tank, and literary and art circles is promoting people-to-people exchanges as it helps construct a community of shared future.



Wharfs T12A and T39 of China Oil & Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO) are located at the center of Brazil’s Port of Santos, the largest in South America and one of the busiest ports for international grain trading. Every year, millions of tons of agricultural products are distributed to other parts of the world through the port. The wharfs are ingredients of COFCO’s global agricultural-product industrial chain. Xinhua (courtesy of the COFCO)



August 1, 2017: China’s Vice-Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen shakes hands with Marcelo Maia, secretary of commerce and services of Brazil’s Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, at the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding on service trade cooperation between the two countries during the 7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers in Shanghai. by Zhang Hengwei/China News Service/VCG

July 15, 2017, Beijing: Over 60 students and professionals from the United States, Canada, South Africa, and Denmark play traditional Chinese musical instruments at the closing ceremony of the 4th Confucius Institute International Music Summer Camp held by China's Central Conservatory of Music. by Zhang Yu/CNS/VCG



January 29, 2017: Locals from Parys, South Africa attend the opening ceremony of China's Lunar New Year Culture Festival. VCG



Fourth, BRICS has founded a new type of cooperation mechanism. The five members have established a cooperation mechanism while furthering development in political, economic, and cultural realms, forming a comprehensive cooperation mode different from the G7, which is flat and mostly networking, hence providing a new type of cooperative platform for emerging-market countries and developing countries—which are home to 80 percent of the world population—and allowing developing countries to share the results of development.

CP: In the next 10 years, where do you foresee breakthroughs?

Jia: In the coming decade, BRICS will become a heavyweight participant in global governance and international affairs. To fix the imbalance of the global economy, it is necessary to increase developing countries' participation in global governance, enhance the right to discourse and ensure more say in decision-making to build an equal world order together. BRICS cooperation in global governance continues to intensify.

At the BRICS leaders' informal meeting in 2016 on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Hangzhou, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that BRICS countries work together to improve global governance by increasing representation and the right to speak of emerging markets and developing countries.

At the 2016 BRICS summit in Goa, the group reiterated the *G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* to promote economic global governance while stressing an anti-terrorism theme and actively designing an international order that is peaceful and stable.

CP: What challenges can the BRICS mechanism help your country face?

Jia: At present, the world's "long-period economic downturn" hasn't yet bottomed out, as deep-rooted contradictions are continuously exposed. International cooperation mechanisms such as regional economic and trade arrangements, regional groups, the Bretton Woods system and the G20 have navigated the course of the global economy. Today, however, the world is experiencing many new changes economically: Emerging markets and developing countries account for a bigger part of the global economy, and Eurasia has become a major power source for global production and consumption. Establishing new concepts of and blazing new paths for international cooperation have become urgently needed for global development.

China's voice in global discourse has become increasingly louder in recent years to respond to these urgent needs. While facing

challenges, BRICS countries have also ignited opportunity in new directions for globalization. Internally speaking, BRICS countries are complementary in economy, and, as emerging economies, they are all in a phase of economic growth.

BRICS countries have been reformers of international financial order since the day BRICS was formed. Over the next 10 years, they will lead another round of world economic development and fuel another round of globalization with mechanisms including the BRICS New Development Bank and its "contingency reserve fund."

CP: How will the BRICS mechanism influence and promote global governance reform?

Jia: Within the G20, the somewhat more inclusive platform for global economic governance, BRICS and the G7 are two of the most important transnational mechanisms. After 10 years of development, the BRICS mechanism has gradually started working alongside the G7 in global governance.

First, BRICS shoulders a heavy task in global governance. BRICS countries account for nearly 40 percent of the world's population, and they have seen rapid economic development in recent years. In a decade, their total share of the global economy has risen from 12 to 23 percent, contributing more than 50 percent of world economic growth. Because BRICS is the largest driver of the global economy, it needs the greatest "enhancement" of its right to speak and vote in global governance.

Second, BRICS and the G7 share the global governance "stock" responsibility. About 30 years ago, the total economy of the seven major Western countries accounted for about 85 percent of the world's total, and the G7 became a premier platform for global economic governance.

After the 2008 international financial crisis, those countries have not been able to shake off the dust of low growth, and their proportion of global economic output has dropped to less than 50 percent. Nevertheless, the G7 has always been the pace car for the G20 and BRICS to follow. Therefore, as a more mature mechanism, it shares the same responsibility in global governance as BRICS.

Finally, both BRICS and the G20 share the responsibility of leading global governance. The 2016 G20 summit in Hangzhou, China, was a critical turning point in the history of global governance. All kinds of reports on cooperation in 2017, such as the recent *Media Note of the Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations*, evidence the clear-cut mission of BRICS to share responsibility in G20 policies—a marked difference between the development of BRICS and the G7. The BRICS mechanism is becoming the standard-bearer of the G20's fundamental policies. 47

The Widening Path of the NDB

Text by Ye Yu

The idea of establishing the New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral development bank co-founded by BRICS nations, was introduced at the BRICS summit in New Delhi, India, in March 2012. According to the agreement, “the Bank shall mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, complementing the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.” After two years of negotiations, *Agreement on the New Development Bank* was signed in July 2014, and the bank officially opened for business in Shanghai in 2015.

The NDB was established in a certain context: First, a serious shortage of infrastructure construction funds was bottlenecking development. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, global demand for infrastructure financing will reach US\$50 trillion before 2030, 60 percent more

than the total actual expenditures over the past two decades. Second, expansion of traditional multilateral development banks is hindered by political restraint. Since the 2008 economic recession, reforms on capital increase and voting rights promoted by the G20 group were limited, resulting in poor funding capacity for infrastructure construction.

The NDB is “new” because shared incentive is employed as a new practice, which attracts BRICS nations to contribute new funds, experience and knowledge on infrastructure financing to projects that benefit developing countries. In contrast with traditional multilateral development banks, the NDB has adopted a mechanism enabling equality in the decision-making process—and no country has veto power, which ensures open doors to the facilitation of cooperation among BRICS nations. BRICS states already control huge capital reserves. The foreign exchange reserves of BRICS nations also lead the world. Using modern financial instru-

ments and governance structure, these funds will be “internally recycled” to more effectively contribute to infrastructure construction in developing countries and boost their productivity. Such factors have been cited by world-renowned economists including Nicolas Stern and Joseph Stiglitz, who have expressed support for the establishment of the NDB.

Hitting the Ground Running

Two years after its inception, the NDB has been making steady progress, and its market status has been cemented preliminarily.

First, the bank’s organizational structure and strategic planning have taken initial shape. Its first five-year plan (2017-2021) was approved by its Board of Directors. Basic policy frameworks in various fields including organizational governance, corruption deterrence, loans, procurement, environment and social standards are already in place. The bank now employs a staff of about 100, a figure that is expected to increase to 400 by 2021. The NDB attaches great importance to the recruitment of young employees, the ideal people to further innovate its development.

Second, the local currency financing process of BRICS nations has begun. The bank’s funds come from the five shareholders. The NDB’s initial capital of US\$50 billion was equally contributed

by the five members. In 2016, the NDB issued its first green bond worth 3 billion yuan (about US\$448 million) in the Chinese inter-bank bond market. This was the first time a multilateral development bank issued a green bond denominated in Chinese currency in China. The NDB also plans to raise US\$300 million to US\$500 million via rupee denominated masala bonds.

Third, the bank has reinforced its market position focused squarely on sustainable development and infrastructure construction. In 2016, the NDB’s Board of Governors approved seven projects worth a total of more than US\$1.5 billion. Of the seven projects, six are renewable energy programs. The only exception is a highway project in India’s Madhya Pradesh. In the next two to three years, the scale of NDB loans is expected to double annually. Two thirds of loans will go to “sustainable infrastructure,” meaning projects that will cause positive transformative benefits to both the environment and society. The other one third will be invested in “traditional infrastructure” to mitigate potential external risk.

Fourth, the NDB places emphasis on commercialization and efficient operations. The NDB features expanded commercial operations and lacks soft-loan windows. It has flexible financing methods including loans, stock equity, guarantees and co-financing. And its prospective borrowers are not limited to sovereign states. The NDB has no standing Board of Governors, and considers prospective borrowers’ policies, regulations and institutions to manage their loans, in principle, which greatly reduces administrative costs.

Local Roots

The NDB and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) are often mentioned in the same breath. Both banks are dedicated to mending defects in the existing international financial system, mobilizing funds in emerging economies and supporting infrastructure projects in developing countries. Moreover, both banks attach importance to flexible and efficient governance patterns. However, the two banks have gradually veered off on different development paths since their respective inceptions.

As a platform to promote South-South cooperation, the NDB places more emphasis on localized development. The AIIB, which is more international, embodies China’s pivotal role in promoting South-North cooperation. Along with the aforementioned financing localization, the NDB’s focus on local development is maintained through the following steps:

In 2016, the NDB’s Board of Governors approved seven projects. Of them, six are renewable energy programs. The only exception is a highway project in India’s Madhya Pradesh. VCG





July 21, 2015: At the opening ceremony of the NDB in Shanghai, then Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei (center), then Shanghai mayor Yang Xiong (right), and NDB President K.V. Kamath jointly launch the bank. by Zhang Chunhai/Xinhua

First, employee recruitment and purchasing policies are localized. While all NDB employees hail from BRICS nations, the AIIB recruits international employees. In terms of the purchasing policy, the NDB, in principle, only make purchases from its members, while the AIIB's purchasing policy is open to the world.

Second, partnerships and standards are localized. The NDB has already signed memorandums of understanding with nine multilateral development banks to learn from their experience. According to NDB President K.V. Kamath, although his bank will seek co-financing projects, this realm will only account for a small proportion of the NDB's operations. The first seven projects approved by the NDB are all individual financing programs primarily supported by the governments of its five members.

Vigorous Growth

The NDB is a new institution. Its organization, governance and policies still have room to be tested, honed and improved. A stable marketplace for the NDB is expected to form within the next five to 10 years. Before that time, the bank needs to overcome the following major challenges.

First are problems of international credit ratings and financing costs. At present, although the NDB has received high credit ratings from Chinese rating agencies, reaching the top international rating has proved more difficult. Capital markets of BRICS nations still need improvement, costs for local financing are comparatively high, and unstable economic and political situations in some BRICS countries are challenges to be overcome to improve the



August 17, 2017: South African President Jacob Zuma cuts the ribbon at the launch of the NDB's African Regional Center in Johannesburg, South Africa. VCG

NDB's financing capabilities.

Second, incomplete national governance systems bring risks. The NDB mainly relies on the borrowers' national systems. While this practice can indeed enhance project efficiency, market supervision regulations of BRICS nations still need to be further improved because of the different national conditions and development stages of BRICS countries.

Third, the joint force of BRICS nations needs to be strengthened. If the five BRICS nations can collectively act as a powerful political force, the NDB will better explore local resources and realize developmental advantages. However, because competition between BRICS nations is so intense at present, distribution of relative gains has become a pressing problem. Optimal distribu-

tion of resources among the five nations has yet to be satisfactorily realized, which increases the operational costs of the bank.

Inspired by the AIIB's membership expansion, the NDB also seeks to expand its membership to solve its problems and further develop. Contrasting the BRICS Summit which focuses on emerging economies and developing countries, the NDB's criteria for membership are more flexible and practical. According to the bank's five-year plan, it should maintain a rational proportion of developed, middle-income and low-income countries when recruiting new members, evidencing that the bank is open to developed countries. The participation of new members will make the NDB more international. 47

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BRICS Security Cooperation: A Ways to Go

Text by Lin Minwang

The BRICS cooperation mechanism, which can be traced back to 2006, has become a shining symbol of cooperation among emerging market and developing countries as well as an important force fueling the world economy. Alongside economic cooperation, people-to-people communication and mechanism construction, BRICS countries have also carried out a good deal of security cooperation over the last decade.

BRICS security cooperation is centered on maintaining a unanimous opinion on major international matters. "Declarations" reached by successive BRICS leaders express the bloc's attitude on major global issues. Internal changes could lead to differences on regional issues, but the bloc's stance on the Middle East, North Africa and Afghanistan has remained consistent.

The most solid foundation for security cooperation among BRICS countries is the five countries' similar stance on global governance and order. They are all committed to a fair and just international order based on the principles of the UN Charter and pushing the international order in a more just and reasonable direction. BRICS promotes economic globalization to be more fair, mutually-beneficial and inclusive. Especially since Donald Trump took office, BRICS countries' common ground on international trade has become more pronounced. All five countries support a rule-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system. They all follow the existing rules and obligations required by the World Trade Organization and oppose trade protectionism. They call for the international community to implement the Paris Agreement in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to fulfill its commitment to the provision of financial and technical support to developing countries to address climate change.

At the same time, BRICS countries have all expressed similar appeal to reform the existing international system. For example, BRICS countries called for comprehensive reform of the United Nations including its Security Council, to make it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase representation of developing countries. They promote the IMF's reform to strengthen



The Long March family of Chinese carrier rockets debuted at a Rio de Janeiro air show in 2015. The China-Brazil earth resource satellite project, a model of South-South cooperation, has provided tremendous data for the two countries' economic and social development. VCG

the voices of emerging markets and developing economies. They require developed European economies to fulfill their promise to give up two IMF executive board seats to enhance the voice and representation of the poorest members of sub-Saharan Africa. The countries appeal to the international community to make greater efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As for specific security issues, BRICS countries have started cooperation and achieved some progress in fields like the fight against terrorism, space exploration, network security and energy security. In 2016, during India's presidency of the BRICS Sum-

mit, member countries set up the first cooperation mechanism on counter-terrorism and in September 2016 organized the first meeting of the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi. On May 18, 2017, the second meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in Beijing. BRICS countries found extensive common interests and broad cooperation space in fields including terrorism suppression, and they should make full use of the BRICS anti-terrorism mechanism to gradually expand pragmatic cooperation in anti-terrorism information exchange, law enforcement, capacity building and protection of overseas interests, as well as to strengthen multilateral communication and

coordination to make BRICS' contribution a greater factor in the global fight against terrorism.

In the Ufa and Goa Declarations, BRICS' cooperation in space exploration received considerable attention. The declarations documented their common position that international law gives all nations the right to peacefully explore outer space and utilize its resources. And no arms or force should ever be used in outer space to ensure the sustainability of outer space activities. To promote space cooperation among BRICS countries, the first meeting of the heads of the BRICS space authorities was held in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, China, on October 31, 2016. All parties agreed that space cooperation would inject new vitality into BRICS strategic cooperation and confirmed that BRICS countries would jointly build a BRICS sharing mechanism for remote sensing satellite data to help with challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, environmental protection, and the sustainable development of BRICS countries.

In cybersecurity, BRICS countries have plenty of common ground. Based on international law such as the UN Charter and how it outlines political independence, territorial integrity, equal state sovereignty, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and privacy, all BRICS countries have deep interest in developing information and communication technology and advocate an open, unified and secure internet. As for the realm of energy security, in November 2015, the first BRICS energy ministerial meeting was held in Moscow, which laid a framework and foundation for energy cooperation between the five countries. On June 7, 2017, the second BRICS energy ministerial meeting was held in Beijing. Participants of that meeting discussed issues like energy security, energy transformation and a platform for BRICS countries' energy research cooperation, culminating in the publication of a joint statement.

In general, compared to cooperation in economic and trade sectors, security cooperation among BRICS countries still has many limits. Although BRICS countries can reach consensus on global issues and policies, cooperation in specific areas often requires more work and is expected to experience further growth. BRICS security cooperation has a long way to go. Fortunately, at the Seventh BRICS Security Meeting, all parties recognized that only by continuously strengthening the role of the BRICS Security Meeting mechanism will in-depth development of security cooperation among BRICS countries be promoted. 47

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A Decade of BRICS Cooperation

Edited by Hu Zhoumeng
Designed by Andrey Maleev

Since its launch in 2006, BRICS has evolved from an investment concept into an influential international mechanism and a major bloc to hedge against financial crisis, drive economic growth and democratize international relations, after consistently fostering positive development through the years.

ORIGIN



In November 2001, Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill first coined the acronym "BRIC" to refer to Brazil, Russia, India and China.

In June 2009, foreign ministers of BRIC countries gathered in Russia for the first BRIC foreign ministers' meeting, which officially launched the BRIC cooperation mechanism.

When South Africa joined in December 2010, the bloc's name was changed to BRICS.



BRICS SPIRIT



Openness



Cooperation



Inclusiveness



Win-Win Results

COMPLEMENTARY COMBINATION

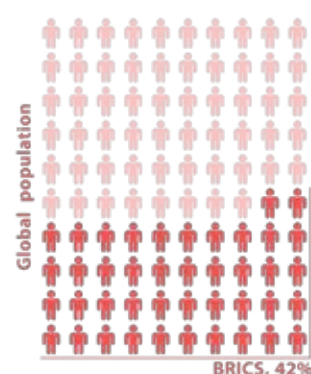


By leveraging respective advantages in different areas, BRICS nations can complement each other to fit specific economic growth and development plans. From 2011 to 2015, trade between BRICS countries grew faster than the world average by ten percentage points.

RIISING AS A WHOLE

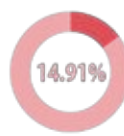


BRICS countries are emerging economies with vast territories, large populations, rich reserves of resources and great economic potential.

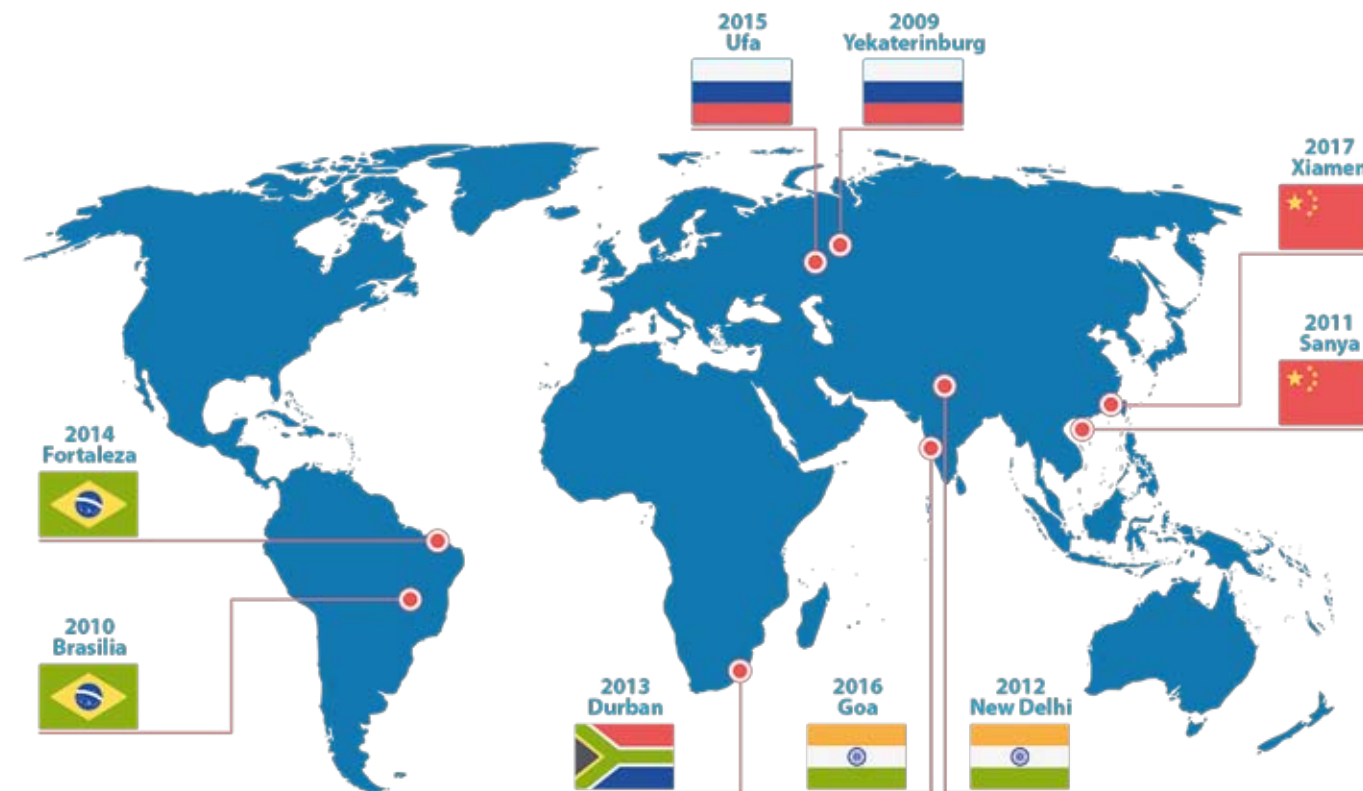


Over the past decade, the share of BRICS nations' GDP globally rose from 12% to 23%, foreign trade went up from 11% to 16% and outbound investment from 7% to 12%, contributing more than half of world economic growth during the period.

This signals the rise of emerging markets and developing countries as a whole, featuring BRICS countries.



BRICS SUMMITS



NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

The bank is the first international financial institution jointly funded, managed and operated by emerging markets and developing nations, benefitting them all. Each BRICS nation holds 20% ownership.



Headquartered in Shanghai, founded on July 21, 2015, authorized capital of US\$100 billion

- In 2016, the bank approved 7 loans to support green energy and infrastructure worth US\$1.5 billion, and it is expected to approve 10 to 15 loans totalling US\$2.5 to 3 billion in 2017.
- In 2016, the bank issued its first green bond worth 3 billion yuan in China.
- In August 2017, the bank established its first regional office: the African Regional Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

TRADE



- Supporting multilateral trading systems and opposing protectionism
- Cooperation on e-commerce
- Cooperation on service trade
- Cooperation on intellectual property
- Cooperation on investment convenience

FINANCE

- Contingent Reserve Arrangement of US\$100 billion
- Cooperation on Public-Private Partnership
- Cooperation on financial regulation
- Accounting principles convergence and auditing regulation
- Currency swap, domestic currency settlement, and domestic currency investment
- Fighting money laundering and terrorism financing



TAXATION



In July 2017, tax authorities of the five BRICS nations signed the BRICS Taxation Cooperation Memorandum, the bloc's first document to elevate taxation cooperation to an institutional level.

- Actively engage in rule-making, act against base erosion and profit shifting, and make the global taxation governance system more balanced and modern
- Implement a financial account information exchange system before September 2018 to counter cross-border tax evasion and enhance taxation transparency
- Strengthen negotiation on taxation cases and accelerate settlement of cross-border taxation disputes

SECURITY



Anti-terrorism



Strengthen international information security and combat cyber crime



Combat pirates

JUDICIARY

The supreme courts of BRICS nations are committed to expanding judicial cooperation and strengthening experience sharing on judicial reforms and system improvements, and to improving the deliverance of justice.



In 2009, BRICS supreme courts signed the *Protocol of Intent Among the BRICS Countries' Supreme Courts*.



In 2014, the BRICS Legal Forum was founded.

ANTI-CORRUPTION



- Improve legal framework for cooperation
- Enforce anti-bribery rules and track down fugitives
- Punish and prevent cross-border corruption
- Share information and experience

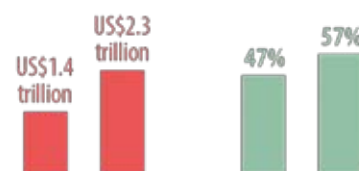
DRUG CONTROL

- Regulate sensitive chemicals and new psychoactive substances
- Information sharing and anti-drug law enforcement
- Coordination of drug control policy
- Personnel training and technology exchange



AGRICULTURE

Growth of the gross value of agricultural production of BRICS nations and its share in the world since 2010:



Brazil hosted the Meeting of Agricultural Experts Working Group on Agro-Products and Food Security.



Russia hosted 'Golden Autumn' Agricultural Exhibition.



India launched the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform.



China founded the BRICS Agricultural Information Exchange System.



South Africa hosted the BRICS Workshop on Agriculture and Climate Change.



BRICS nations issued a joint report on agricultural development.

ENERGY



BRICS nations will strengthen cooperation on energy security by researching strategic energy reserves, renewable energy, energy efficiency, technology innovation and project financing.

COMMUNICATION

BRICS nations will accelerate technology innovation and promote the application of information and communication technology in many areas including infrastructure and technology integration.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Tackle climate change



Reduce and control air and water pollution



Protect biological diversity

DEMOGRAPHICS



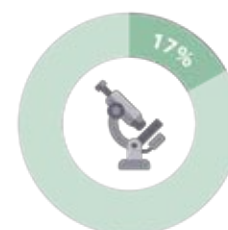
- Long-term, balanced demographic development
- Eliminate inequality, provide care for the elderly, protect women's rights, and solve social problems involving teenagers and the disabled
- Protect sexual and reproductive health, and defend universal birth rights

PUBLIC HEALTH



- Mutual learning on traditional medicine and medical products innovation
- Epidemic prevention and chronic disease control
- Disease surveillance and universal health coverage

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



The investment of BRICS nations in science and technology research accounts for 17% of the world total, and their publications of essays in scientific journals accounts for 27% in the world total, making BRICS a critical source of science and technology innovation.

- Joint research programs, access to scientific research infrastructure
- Industrial zones and technological enterprises cooperation
- Technology transfer and transformation, and relevant talent development
- Investment in science and technology innovation, and talent mobility

AEROSPACE



The establishment of the BRICS cooperative mechanism in aerospace science promotes cooperation within the constellation of remote sensing satellites, which aims to combat common challenges including climate change and severe natural disasters through data sharing of satellites of BRICS nations.

STATISTICS



Since 2010, statistics authorities of BRICS nations have produced annual joint statistical reports to better understand the economic and social development of each other.

CULTURE



First BRICS sports meet:
June 2017, Guangzhou, China



First BRICS film festival:
September 2016, New Delhi, India



First co-produced film of BRICS nations:
Where Has the Time Gone



First BRICS press photo exhibition:
June 2017, Beijing, China,
14 media organizations, over 170 pictures



In July 2017, the BRICS library league, museum league, art gallery league and teenager and children drama league were founded.

EDUCATION

BRICS multi-lateral educational cooperation serves universities in BRICS nations in cross-border and cross-discipline research, promotes coordination of development strategies and people-to-people exchange and attracts outstanding research talent to BRICS and developing nations to increase talent pools to help drive the development of BRICS countries.

BRICS Universities League:
43 universities are official members.

BRICS Network University:
joined by 55 universities, 11 from each nation.



DIALOGUES ON REGIONAL AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DURING BRICS SUMMITS

- March 2013 BRICS Leaders-Africa Dialogue Forum
- July 2014 Dialogue between leaders of BRICS countries and South American countries
- July 2015 Dialogue between leaders of BRICS countries, member states and observer states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasia Economic Union
- October 2016 Dialogue between BRICS and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) leaders
- September 2017 Emerging Market Economies and Developing Countries Dialogue

Huang Danian: “Serving My Country with My Heart”

Text by Ru Yuan

On January 8, 2017, noted Chinese geophysicist Huang Danian died of bile duct cancer at the age of 58. He had already fallen into a coma at the Changchun-based hospital that was treating him. More than 800 people attended his funeral, including scientists, friends and students from all over the world.

Huang was an expert in deep earth exploration technology, who returned to China in 2009 after spending nearly two decades studying and working in Britain.

Over the following seven years, alongside coaching 18 doctoral candidates and 26 postgraduate students, Huang and his team helped China significantly narrow its gap with developed countries in terms of accurate statistics on deep earth exploration, making the country a global leader in developing deep earth exploration equipment.

Return to the Motherland

In 2008, China launched a program called “Recruitment Program of Global

Experts,” also known as the “Thousand Talents Plan,” to attract world-class professionals including overseas Chinese experts and foreign specialists to work in the country. Huang became one of the first to participate in the program. With an improved environment for scientific research and strong governmental support, the program has now attracted more than 6,000 scientists and researchers to China.

In late 2009, Huang landed at Beijing Capital International Airport with his wife.

He began working for Changchun-based Jilin University where, more than 30 years ago, he studied in its Department of Applied Geophysics. Also in 2009, China launched the SinoProbe project, which aimed to install high-tech cameras on aircraft, ships and satellites to enable them to see through the earth’s crust without physically penetrating it to detect the composition, structure and physical properties of the lithosphere. Huang was invited to serve as the chief scientist of a branch of the program.

With so much to do in such a short period of time, Huang immersed himself in the work. He slept many nights in his office. His colleagues at Jilin University recalled that to maximize his research time, Huang typically worked well into the night and caught late-night flights at the last minute. Even his

driver became accustomed to driving the scientist to the airport at midnight. Many other examples of his research enthusiasm can be found. The office building where Huang worked is supposed to be completely locked up by midnight, but since he left so late so often, the security guard would beg him to “leave on time.”

While many of his coworkers called him a workaholic, Huang preferred the term “lunatic.” “China is in urgent need of ‘lunatics’ if it is to become a stronger country,” Huang said. “It would be an honor if I could be one of them.” Once, because some paperwork had yet to be submitted for a hanger that had just been constructed to test drones, city inspectors deemed it an illegal structure and called in demolition vehicles. Huang lay down on the ground to block the massive

bulldozer. However, such “lunacy”—when applied to science, technology and duty—is precisely what enabled Huang to reveal the secrets hiding under the ground.

Strategic Scientist

After Huang passed away, Jilin University hailed him as a “strategic scientist.” While some didn’t understand the declaration, Liu Cai, dean of the College of Geo-exploration Science and Technology at Jilin University, called it proper and appropriate.

“A strategic scientist is defined by whether his or her work is meant to address the country’s needs or has more international vision, and whether it can produce developments that will truly help the homeland,” explains Liu Cai. “I think Huang is highly qualified.”



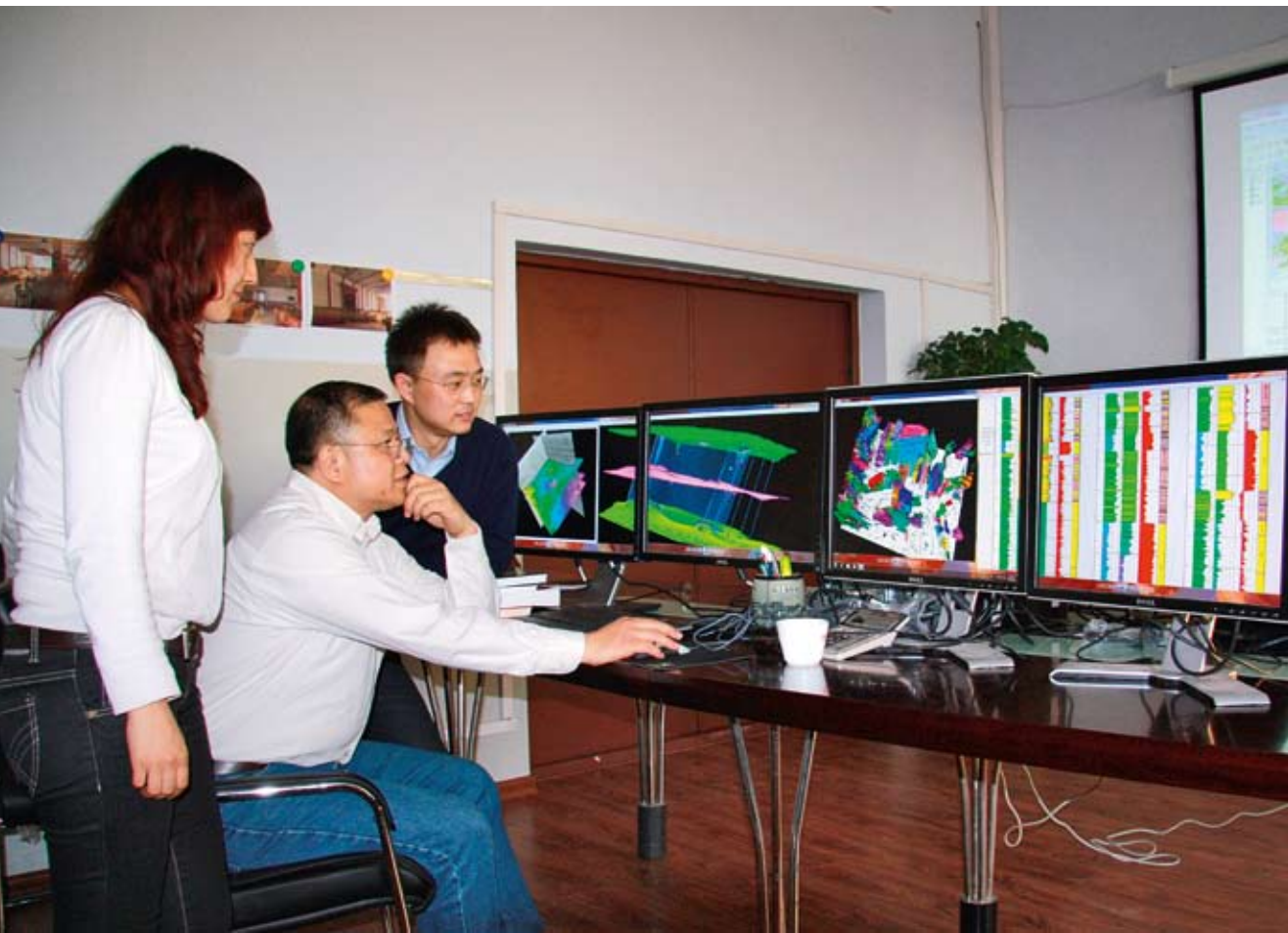
April 10, 2011: Huang Danian gives a lecture at Jilin University. After he returned to work in the university, Huang coached 18 doctoral candidates and 26 postgraduate students. Xinhua



The young Huang Danian at Changchun Geological Institute, today’s Jilin University. Xinhua



April 18, 2013: Huang at the 2013 annual meeting of the SinoProbe project. Beside him is the presentation model of the sounding borer developed by him and his team for the project. Xinhua



November 22, 2010: Huang (center) discusses questions with his team members. After Huang passed away, he was hailed as a "strategic scientist" for his ability to push research to a higher level through integration. Xinhua

Along with serving as the chief scientist of a branch of the SinoProbe project, Huang also coordinated six sub-projects in his realm, namely the mobile platform data processing and integration system, ground electromagnetic detection system, fixed-wing drone aeromagnetic detection system, cableless self-positioning seismograph, continental scientific drilling and demonstration areas for field experiments.

All six are interdisciplinary, highly integrated, and data-heavy research projects enhancing productivity. "Strategic scientists push research to a higher level through

integration," adds Liu. "They differ from scientists in specific fields."

The Smart Ocean Science and Technology Research Institute of Jilin University was founded by Huang. Professor Cui Junhong, current head of the institute, says that Huang helped her decide to return to China from the United States.

Another alumna of Jilin University, Cui majored in computer science before working in the United States for 18 years. She is expert in two fields: smart ocean technology (i.e. underwater acoustic communication networking) and the integration

of production, teaching and research.

In 2014, when Cui was invited to speak at Jilin University, her alma mater exhorted her to return to China and work for the school.

"That sounds like a nice idea, but my research field is the ocean," she responded. "How can I do ocean research in landlocked Changchun?"

"Talk with Professor Huang," suggested one administrator.

"I soon met Professor Huang and talked with him throughout an afternoon, so we had dinner together," recalls Cui.



January 20, 2013: Huang (second from left) carries out fixed-wing drone testing under extremely cold weather. Serving as the chief scientist of a branch of the SinoProbe project, Huang coordinated six sub-projects in his realm, one of which is fixed-wing drone aeromagnetic detection system. Xinhua

During the meeting, Cui made up her mind to return to the university to conduct oceanic research. "Professor Huang described to me his massive system which combines explorations of the deep continental crust and of deep sea together. I still vividly remember what he said that day: 'Changchun is indeed a landlocked city, but we can access the sea easily by ourselves.'"

With considerable help from Huang, the Smart Ocean Science and Technology Research Institute was soon established. At present, preparation work for Jilin University's School of Marine Sciences has already

begun in China's coastal city of Shenzhen. "I think Professor Huang never missed on any critical turning points," Cui asserted.

A Sacrificing Pioneer

Born in 1958 in Nanning, Guangxi, Huang's love for geophysics started in childhood. Both his parents taught at a local geological institution and passed the passion down to their son.

After graduating from university, Huang went to Britain for further study in 1993, as one of the 30 students sponsored by the government that year. During his

stay in Britain, he successfully combined Chinese intellectual integrity with British precision. In 1996, Huang obtained a doctoral degree in geophysics after finishing top of his class. Huang later joined the British geophysical service company ARKeX as a senior geophysicist. By then, he was already an advanced researcher on high resolution airborne and marine gravity gradiometry, mainly used in oil, gas and mineral resources exploration in the sea and on land.

During his stay in Britain, Huang remained committed to his motherland. He long dreamed of going back to "serve my country with my whole heart," according to his family. While living in Europe, he frequently flew back to China to participate in academic activities and workshops related to his field. So, Huang's decision to go back in 2009 didn't surprise many. For the geophysicist, it was neither a random choice nor an impulse.

"I believe that Huang also felt he was hitting a ceiling in Britain, so by returning to the motherland he could challenge himself while contributing to China," opines Gao Ping, an official who recruited Huang for the talent program. It was clear that China was funding high-quality science projects and Huang wanted to be involved.

Huang's love for his country lasted to the very end. During his last days, Huang still answered students' questions while receiving transfusions, assigned work and wrote recommendation letters for colleagues.

"Ideally, I want to be a pioneer who makes sacrifices," Huang declared during the last interview of his life on December 5, 2016. "I am already in my fifties. I hope I can do something to make scientific work easier for future Chinese people."

Sun Yang: China's King Swimmer

Text by Li Zhuoxi



July 25, 2017: At the Budapest 2017 FINA World Championships, Sun Yang won the men's 200m freestyle with a time of 1:44.39 to record a groundbreaking victory and beat the Asian record he set in 2013. VCG

At the Budapest 2017 FINA World Championships in July, Chinese swimmer Sun Yang won his first title in men's 200m freestyle with a time of 1:44.39 to record his groundbreaking victory, beating the Asian record of 1:44.47 he set in 2013. Also in Budapest, he claimed

the men's 400m freestyle title for the third consecutive time.

Sun took gold in the 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyle before his 200m triumph at the Worlds. And the swimmer is already the Olympic champion in the 200m, 400m and 1,500m freestyle.

The Lows of Sun's Life

Only a year ago, Sun, whose performance at the FINA World Championships in Budapest stunned the world, was at a low ebb in his swimming career.

In early 2016, while training in Australia for the upcoming Rio Olympics, Sun suffered a fracture in his right foot. During a subsequent visit to doctors, unexpectedly, a new fracture was found. Only two months remained until the Rio Olympic Games, and those injuries haunted Sun's Olympic journey.

Sun only finished second to Australian Mack Horton in the men's 400m freestyle final, taking the silver. Before the swim, Horton accused Sun of being a "drug cheat" as they prepared to face off in the 400m final. Both physical and psychological blows knocked Sun down to a low point in his life. He even began to consider retirement.

Horton's remarks resulted from a doping test Sun took in May 2014. When participating in that year's Chinese National

Swimming Championships, the record-holder tested positive for the banned stimulant trimetazidine. But in a hearing organized by the China Anti-Doping Agency in July 2014, Sun provided sufficient evidence including his personal medical history and doctors' prescriptions to prove he was prescribed the drug to treat heart palpitations he has suffered since 2008. Sun also admitted that he was not aware that the drug had been added to the 2014 prohibited list of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Since Sun did not intend to cheat, he only received a three-month ban.

However, Western opinion, which tends to observe China's sports with tinted glasses, wasn't satisfied with the three-month ban and had much to say. Just before the 2017 Budapest FINA World Championships, Mack Horton taunted Sun again just like at the Rio Olympics. However, since losing to Sun in the 400m freestyle in Budapest, Horton quieted down and pledged to let the issue go.



August 27, 2017: At the opening ceremony of the 13th National Games of China in Tianjin, Sun serves as the flag-bearer. IC



July 23, 2017: Athletes compete at the men's 400m freestyle final at Budapest 2017 FINA World Championships. VCG

Not Just Gold


Sun is much more than China's gold medalist swimmer.

Ten years ago, China's swimming was so weak it was ignored by the international sports community. Asian swimmers had seldom excelled in international competitions. For a long time, international swimming medals were "monopolized" by the United States and Australia.

At the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, Australian swimmer Ian James Thorpe won three gold medals in "shark skin" suits, tight-fitting covering designed to imitate a shark's unique, sandpaper-like skin. Studies found that the high-tech suit could reduce water resistance by 3 percent. Over the next eight years, 15 of 16 new world swimming records were accomplished by swimmers wearing "shark skin" suits.

During this era, only Australian Grant Hackett's 2001 world record of 14:34.56 in the 1,500m freestyle remained unbroken. Ten years later, however, the revered 1,500m freestyle record was broken by Sun Yang.

At the 2011 FINA World Championships in Shanghai, then 19-year-old Sun competed in the 1,500m freestyle and finished in 14:34.14, breaking Hackett's world record by less than a second. Only one year later, at the 2012 London Olympics, Sun shattered his old record with a new time of 14:31.02. Renowned retired Russian swimmer Alexander Popov commented that Sun's achievement had a great significance not only for China, but for the whole world.

Three years from now, at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, it would be hard to imagine anyone in the pool older than Sun. Will he be able to break the world record one more time? Only time will tell, but a diligent athlete like Sun deserves respect regardless of any honors. 



July 25, 2017: The award ceremony for the men's 200m freestyle at Budapest. Sun (center) took gold, while Townley Haas of the United States (right) and Aleksandr Krasnykh of Russia finished second and third, respectively. VCG

Honing His Skills

Sun's success comes from tireless efforts and hard work. To prepare for the Budapest games, Sun engaged in special training sessions in China's Kunming and Australia, which had become the routine for the prolific swimmer. During the final preparations, Sun stayed in Hong Kong for particularly intense training sessions he designed, which were added to his already packed "normal" training schedule. "Once, I wanted to get out of the pool, put on my clothes and leave the pool forever," grinned Sun.

In the 200m freestyle race, the short distance makes starting and turning tech-

niques even more important. Sun's advantages in longer-distance swimming are reduced in the sprint. During his training in Australia, Sun worked endlessly on his start, lowering his head even later, "sliding" for more time in the air, and optimizing the angle of entrance. Improved starting and turning techniques enabled Sun to make new breakthroughs in both the 200m and 400m races.

Sun, who already dominates the 1,500m freestyle, was bold enough to change his techniques to improve performance. The Budapest race validated his efforts with fruitful results.

Ewenki People: Seeking Harmonious Coexistence with Forests

Text by An Yi and Fan Zhang

Photographs by Fan Zhang

Located in the north of China's Heilongjiang Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the Greater Khingan Mountains are an oxygen-generating natural wonder covering a large and dense forest area. With a total length of more than 1,200 kilometers and a width of 200 to 300 kilometers, the vast expanse is an important forestry base in northern China and home to the largest intensive bright coniferous forests in the country. The fertile area not only supports diverse plant and animal species, but also nurtures the "Reindeer Ewenki" people of China. More than 300 years ago, reindeer-herding Ewenkis had already settled in the Greater Khingan Mountains.

Migration of Reindeer-herding Ewenki

The Ewenki people are a cross-border ethnic group primarily inhabiting Russia and China today. And a small population can also be found in Mongolia. According to China's 2010 national population census, the Ewenkis, which are recognized as one of China's 56 ethnic groups, have a population of more than 30,000. In Chinese history, the Ewenki had three branches: farmers, herders and hunters. The hunters, most known to the public, were active in the Greater Khingan Mountains. Because they relied on domesticated reindeer for milk and transport and hunted other animals for meat, they have been known as the

reindeer-herding Ewenkis.

As early as the 18th Century, the reindeer-herding Ewenki people relocated to the Greater Khingan Mountains from even further north areas.

In the mid-20th Century, the lives of reindeer-herding Ewenkis began to slowly but steadily change. Before 1949, the reindeer herders were a patrilineal society. After 1949, under organization of the government, Ewenki people have relocated four times, gradually further from the deep mountains. The last "migration" happened in 2003, when a majority of Ewenki people moved to Olguya Township of Genhe City in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, a move motivated by ecological protection of the Greater Khingan Mountains.

Logging Ban

Due to the needs of economic development, China started to develop the Greater Khingan Mountains in the 1950s. As a result, the forested area saw a rapid decrease. In the 1990s, the country realized the serious impact of environmental and forest resource crises caused by excessive exploitation and began to change related policies to better protect the mountains. In 2000, China launched its Natural Forest Protection Program to curb the deterioration of the ecological environment at the root causes, protect biological diversity, and promote sustainable social and economic development.

During their previous half-nomadic life wandering and hunting in the forest, Ewenkis deem reindeer their closest friends. Today, the animal's antlers and skins become a major source of income for breeders.



Since then, the Greater Khingan Mountains have seen great efforts to adjust the forest region's economic structure, industrial structure and product mix. In 2011, the area began its transformation to ecological development. Timber yield was reduced in consecutive years. Beginning from 2014, logging has been completely banned in the area, saving an estimated two million cubic meters of timber resources each year.

Since the logging ban on the Greater Khingan Mountains went into effect, the area has been in rest and recovery, but now the reindeer herders face another change in lifestyle.

New Life for "Ecological Migrants"

In 2003, due to a national ban on hunting, Ewenki people in the Greater Khingan Mountains handed in their rifles, and began to adopt alternate means of subsistence, the most popular of which was reindeer herding. At that time, many reindeer herders moved to the new settlement constructed by the government in the suburbs of Genhe City. The new locale was designed by Finnish architects. All the houses were constructed of wood and in villa style to ensure they stayed warm in winter and cool in summer. The homes were equipped with appliances, furniture, cable TV, flush toilet, tap water, and central heating, all of which were provided to the Ewenki people by the government, free of charge. Even hot water and telephone services were free. And each household also received complimentary daily use items from the government. The strong Ewenki flavor in the new settlement attracted abundant tourists from both China and abroad.

While it takes time for some older hunters to adjust to the new life, young Ewenki people consider the ecological resettlement and hunting prohibition a new opportunity.



For resettled Ewenki people, each family or household usually raises a few dozen reindeer. They have made many innovations in order to enable reindeer to grow up healthily.



Treating an injured reindeer. Reindeer will grow up healthily only when they can run freely. Thus, for a long time, many believe that the animal cannot be raised at home.




A local makes a special tent, traditional residence for nomadic Ewenkis. Previously, Ewenki people lived in conical tents made from birch bark or reindeer skin tied to birch poles.



Before winter comes, Ewenki people venture into the mountains to collect enough moss and take multiple trips to carry back.

They receive governmental support and subsidies to raise reindeer, which has enabled them to avoid migrating through the dangerous deep forests like their forefathers. Reindeer are no longer used for transportation. Their antlers and skins become a major source of income for breeders. The local tourism business caused a boom in Ewenki family incomes, which enabled their kids to receive better education in big cities.

Nevertheless, for resettled Ewenki people, life is different than their nomadic forefathers. Today, each family or household usually raises a few dozen reindeer. To enable the reindeer to run freely, which they need to grow up healthily, Ewenki people have made many innovations. For example, September is the mating season for reindeer. During the month, male reindeer usually have a hot temper and often fight with each other. To avoid the fighting, Ewenki herders make the animals go out, move around, and feed in different groups. While one group is out, the others are confined to fences made of pine or birch. They also collect considerable moss to feed reindeer in winter. Before winter comes, Ewenki people venture into the mountains to collect enough moss. They fill ten large bags, which take multiple trips to carry back. Since moss, the staple food of reindeer, grows so slowly, when the moss of one forest has been consumed, Ewenki herders move around to search for food for their animals despite being settled.

More than 300 years ago, when they first arrived in the Greater Khingan Mountains, the reindeer-herding Ewenki people could have hardly imagined living so close to modern cities. However, these people, who preserve a deep love for forests, have been exploring a harmonious coexistence with forests and remain full of hope. 

Wolf Warrior 2: Beyond Superhero

Text by Li Zhuoxi

Dominating the domestic box office, *Wolf Warrior 2* has been a record breaker since its release: It grossed over 100 million yuan in four hours, over 1 billion yuan in 85 hours, 3.4 billion yuan in 11 days and 5.4 billion yuan in 35 days. It beat every other Chinese-language movie in the world in box office receipts and garnered critical acclaim around the world.

The film is based on a true story of Chinese nationals in Africa being evacuated by Leng Feng, a veteran who risked his life to save his compatriots as well as refugees, and lacks big stars or heavy marketing.

In 2016 when its box office growth slowed, China's film industry reached a bottleneck and began struggling to transform. Many are working to analyze how *Wolf Warrior 2* performed so well.

Quality Counts

As an action film featuring a moving plot, *Wolf Warrior 2* has reached top global production levels. The 123-minute movie blessed big screens with hundreds of explosions, pieces of state-of-the-art weaponry and heart-stopping chases. According to Sam Hargrave, the movie's fight and stunt coordinator, they destroyed more than 100 vehicles in addition to two 20-ton full-sized tank models and an airplane replica.

A still from *Wolf Warrior 2*. By September 1, 2017, a little more than a month after its release, the movie had grossed over 5.5 billion yuan. VCG



The production process was unimaginably difficult. "Half of the crew was bitten by poisonous spiders," declared Wu Jing, director and the lead actor of *Wolf Warrior 2*. "The animal trainer was bitten by a lion, and the drivers were robbed." Their adventurous, painstaking efforts ultimately paid off with a blockbuster that blew away box-office records. The filmmakers captured moviegoers' hearts by feeding their eyes with a quality film crafted under the strict discipline of a director overseeing a devoted crew that performed meticulous design and addressed every detail.

From Rut to Roaring

Alongside the strong words on paper, the spiritual core of the script is another secret to the film's success.

In recent years, Chinese audiences have been less interested in traditional patriotic films even if they feature big stars. Most studios are stuck in a rut.

"The industry must adapt to the young generation who don't think the same as their elders who grew up in the era of rapid growth shortly after introduction of the country's economic reform and opening up," comments Xue Jing, a senior movie critic. "The *Wolf Warrior* series opted to spearhead a path for collective imagination to shift the language environment from 'weak' to 'strong.' We are strong today, not the weak we used to be, so there is a gap in the tastes of 'weak' and 'strong.'"

Traditional voices, modern demand and Chinese images have been sewn between the lines, twisting the identity of "weak" and "strong," and allowing space for all viewers of every age and from every background to relate emotionally.



Celina Jade, the female lead in *Wolf Warrior 2*. The film grossed US\$126 million in its first week of global release. IC



Supporting actor Ding Haifeng with young African actor Nwachukwu Kennedy Chukwuebuka. The movie recounts the story of veteran Leng Feng, who gets involved in a revolt in an African country during the evacuation of Chinese nationals and local refugees. VCG

New Order in China

In recent years, the world has seen rising anti-globalization and protectionism trends due to slow economic progress, evidencing, to a certain extent, the non-sustainability of capitalist ideology and economic order, which has posed the need for new breakthroughs.

What this film aims to promote behind its “nationalism” is free trade to align with ongoing globalization rather than isolation, which goes against the current. Global communication as such can be seen not only in big picture realms such as the scientific and technological assistance represented by Dr. Chen, but also in the economic trade

detailed in small markets and big factories. The circulation of commodities has enriched the lives of African people materially; the flow of information supported Leng Feng, the hero who sought spiritual revenge. The fair and legitimate aspects of free trade are acknowledged properly.

The greatest success of *Wolf Warrior 2* isn't necessarily its domination at the box office. It has set a new standard for all of its successors. It's not trying to imitate Hollywood by creating a superhero in tights who happens to look Chinese. It creates a whole new image for the country.

Xue Jing believes that against the back-

drop of the era, *Wolf Warrior 2* has depicted a fresh image for China, both domestically and internationally, which is a profound development. “From a nationalistic plot, the movie created space for imagination far beyond Western scope by underscoring the importance of global free trade order and the establishment of moral rules featuring Chinese characteristics,” Xue added. “Domestically, it integrated different groups; internationally, it sculptured a complete Chinese image. It speaks responsibly as its country becomes a great global power. These are factors that make the film so superb and inspiring.”



The production process was unimaginably difficult: Half of the crew was bitten by poisonous spiders; the local driver they hired was robbed; and they endured a tsunami... “It's finally done!” exclaimed Wu Jing, director and the lead actor of *Wolf Warrior 2*. “At least I'm still alive.” IC



China: Through the Looking Glass

Written by Andrew Bolton (Britain),
translated by Hu Yang

Published by Hina Books/Hunan Fine Arts Publishing House,
September 2017

For centuries, China has become known to the world through its cultural artifacts ranging from jade ware and porcelains to its movies of the last few decades, which have greatly inspired Western fashion.

In 2015, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the United States held a fashion exhibition titled “China: Through the Looking Glass,” featuring haute couture and avant-garde ready-to-wear pieces inspired by Chinese culture and flanked by the history of Chinese garments and masterpieces of Chinese and foreign art.

This book is a collection of 200 exquisite pictures from the exhibition taken by eminent British photographer Platon Antoniou, providing a glimpse of the clothes, paintings, porcelains, and movies at the exhibition—an interaction between Chinese culture and Western fashion and imagination.

With images as its media, the book consists of two parts.

The first was titled after *From Emperor to Citizen: The Autobiography of Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi* published in 1964. It features fashion designs inspired by Emperor Xuantong, China’s last emperor, spanning the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the Republic of China era (1912-1949), and the People’s Republic of China, including many pieces that exerted influence on Western designers such as the robes of the Manchus, modern *qipao* or cheongsam, and the Mao suit.

The second part was named after *L’Empire des Signes* after the 1970 book by Roland Barthes. It features Western fashion fused with iconic Chinese culture, such as dragons, Chinese characters and patterns of blue and white porcelain.

The book also includes articles by renowned Chinese and foreign artists, such as Andrew Bolton, curator of the exhibition, and Hong Kong film director Wong Kar-wai, on their understanding of fashion, art and movies, in addition to an Andrew Bolton interview with distinguished British fashion designer John Galliano.

“With images as media, we aimed to establish new ideas about the relationship between the East and the West in the form of a dialogue,” explains Bolton.

“The images in the book span several centuries of exquisite Western fashion, art and movies, culminating in a wonderful mirage of China,” commented Christopher Lyon, a well-known French writer, in the journal *Bookforum*.

Author Andrew Bolton graduated from the British University of East Anglia with a master’s degree. He worked for the Victoria and Albert Museum in London for nine years and joined the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2002. He currently serves as chief curator of the museum’s College of Fashion. Over the last few years, Bolton has organized several fashion exhibitions, published many books, and contributed to art and fashion publications.

(Edited by Zhao Miao)

Ensemble, autumn/winter 1977-78 haute couture, presented by Yves Saint Laurent (French, 1936-2008). Coat of red silk and golden metallic brocade, hat of golden leather. courtesy of Fondation Pierre Bergé-Yves Saint Laurent, Paris

Evening dress, autumn/winter 2005-6, designed by Roberto Cavalli (Italian, born 1940), blue and white silk satin. courtesy of Roberto Cavalli



Evening dress, autumn/winter 2004-5, presented by Yves Saint Laurent (French, founded 1961) and designed by Tom Ford (American, born 1961), yellow silk satin embroidered with polychrome plastic sequins. courtesy of Yves Saint Laurent



Dress, spring/summer 2003 haute couture, presented by House of Dior (French, founded 1947) and designed by John Galliano (British, born Gibraltar, 1960), red and polychrome silk brocade, gold lamé and red synthetic crinoline. courtesy of Christian Dior Couture



House of Givenchy (French, founded 1952). Alexander McQueen (British, 1969-2010). Chopines, autumn/winter 1997 haute couture. Black silk satin embroidered with polychrome silk thread. courtesy of Alexander McQueen

- Excerpts -

Toward an Aesthetic of Surfaces

Text by Andrew Bolton


Like Alice’s make-believe world, the China reflected in the examples of haute couture and avant-garde ready-to-wear fashions in this catalogue and related exhibition is a fictional, fabulous invention, offering an alternate reality with a dreamlike illogic. Its fanciful imagery, which combines Eastern and Western stylistic elements, belongs to the tradition and practice of chinoiserie, a style that emerged in the late seventeenth century and reached its pinnacle in the mid-eighteenth century. Within the conventions and trajectory of chinoiserie, China is a site on which historically changing fears and desires are projected. As a style, it belongs to the broader tradition and practice of Orientalism, which since the publication of Edward Said’s seminal treatise on the subject in 1978 has taken on negative connotations of Western supremacy and segregation. At its core, Said interprets Orientalism as the Eurocentric predilection to essentialize Eastern peoples and cultures as a monolithic other.

While neither discounting nor discrediting the issue of the representation of “subordinated otherness” outlined by Said, *China: Through the Looking Glass* attempts to propose a less politicized and more positivistic examination of Orientalism as a locus of infinite and unbridled creativity. Through careful juxtapositions of Western fashions and Chinese costumes and decorative arts, this catalogue presents a rethinking of Orientalism as an appreciative cultural response by the West to its encounters with the East. As these comparisons demonstrate, China has proved a source of continual inspiration and reinvigoration for Western fashion. Far from being dismissive or disrespectful of its peoples and customs, Western designers have invariably looked to China with honorable intentions, to learn from both its artistic and cultural traditions. Instead of relating Orientalism to modes of power and knowledge, this catalogue relates it to concepts of cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

There is a tonic effect in the placement of Western fashions alongside Chinese costumes and decorative arts. Mutually enlivening and mutually enlightening, the resulting visual or aesthetic dialogues encourage new mimetic and referential readings that are based on subjective rather than objective assessments. As observers and active participants, we are forced to exercise our imaginative capacities, for the China that unfolds before our eyes is a China “through the looking glass,” one that is cultur-

ally and historically decontextualized. Freed from settings, past and present, the objects in this catalogue and in the exhibition galleries begin to speak for and between themselves. A narrative space opens up that is constantly being reorganized by free associations. Meanings are endlessly negotiated and renegotiated. As if by magic, the psychological distance between the East and the West, spanning worldviews that are often perceived as monolithic and diametrically opposed, diminishes. So too does the association of the East with the natural and the authentic, and the West with the cultural and the simulacrum. As these binaries dissolve and disintegrate, the notion of Orientalism is disentangled from its connotations of Western domination and discrimination. Instead of silencing the other, Orientalism becomes an active, dynamic two-way conversation, a liberating force of cross-cultural communication and representation.

Cinema often serves as a conduit for this reciprocal exchange between the East and the West. Frequently, film is the principal—and certainly the most compelling and seductive—lens through which contemporary designers encounter Chinese imagery, and this volume explores the impact of movies in shaping their fantasies. The China of cinema is, of course, a phantasmagoria of make-believe stories and characters located in an elsewhere of endless possibility. Even films that are based on real-life people and events reflect the personal perspectives (and prejudices) of their creators. This invented, imaginary China is not the exclusive preserve of Hollywood. Chinese directors, especially those belonging to the so-called “Fifth Generation,” such as Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimou, depict the nation as both illusory and indistinct. Indeed, their films, aimed at an international audience, can be interpreted as an extension of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Chinese export art in their negotiation of internal/introverted views of China (romanticized national history) and external/extroverted views (exoticized national history). Thus, the China portrayed in the haute couture and ready-to-wear fashions in this publication are doubly removed from reality and actuality.

Mediated by such cinematic representations, the conversations in *China: Through the Looking Glass* attempt to reimagine the relationship between the East and the West not as one-sided mimicry or appropriation, but rather as a layered series of enfolded exchanges. 

Remembering a Century on Stage

Memorial Exhibition Honoring 110th Anniversary of Chinese Drama

Text by Song Baozhen

Photos courtesy of the Institute of Drama Studies under the Chinese National Academy of Arts

The year 2017 marks the 110th anniversary of the introduction of Western drama to China. In the year 1907, the Spring Willow Society, which consisted of a group of Chinese students who had studied in Japan, performed fragments of *La Dame aux Camélias* (*The Lady of the Camellias*) and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

To commemorate the new era of Chinese drama, on July 28, 2017, a 20-day exhibition was jointly launched by the Chinese National Academy of Arts, National Theatre Company of China and Beijing People's Art Theatre.

The exhibition reviews Chinese drama between 1907 and 2017, featuring more than 700 pictures, stage stills and stage

designs contributed by over 50 art troupes and colleges. Videos of some important plays of the past century were displayed on the big screen, bringing the audiences back to decades-old stages.

On display is a wide array of exhibits including first-hand documents, books, props, and restorations of stage costumes and sets as well as items used by famous artists backstage and at home.

Has Chinese drama adopted Western flavor since the introduction? Yes, but not exactly.

The answer is “yes” because today, we are still absorbing its essence. “Not exactly” because after a century of development, integration, transformation and innovation, the

art has been flavored with Chinese connotations, not only in form but also in content, making it part of the Chinese culture.

Rectification vs. Poetic Rhythm

Chinese academics and literati have long adhered to the principle of “conveying truth through writing.” The principle also applies to traditional Chinese operas, which focus on “educating people” via performance. Theater and drama have never served as products of aestheticism beyond reality. Especially in the modern era when the Chinese nation experienced too many life-and-death crises, some noble practitioners aspired to help people who were struggling for survival and introduced

Western drama to China in the hopes of rectifying social evils.

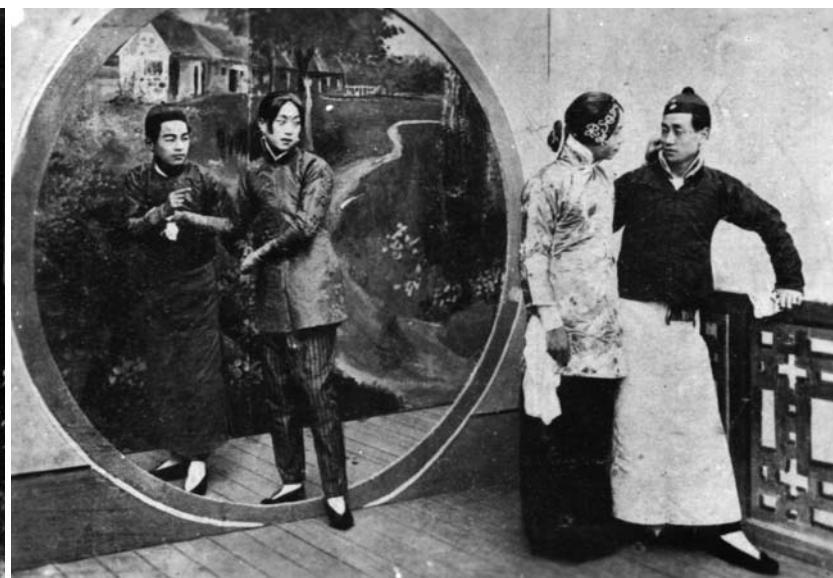
During the May 4th Movement in 1919, for instance, drama was a central player in spreading ideas. At that time, dramatic circles were heavily influenced by Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), who inspired a populist fighting spirit to “dare attack society and fight alone against the majority,” a line from Lu Xun (1881-1936), a leading figure in modern Chinese literature.

“Modern drama is tremendously valuable because of its ideological connotations,” asserted Hong Shen (1894-1955), a director, playwright, educator, and socialist during the Republic of China period (1912-1949).

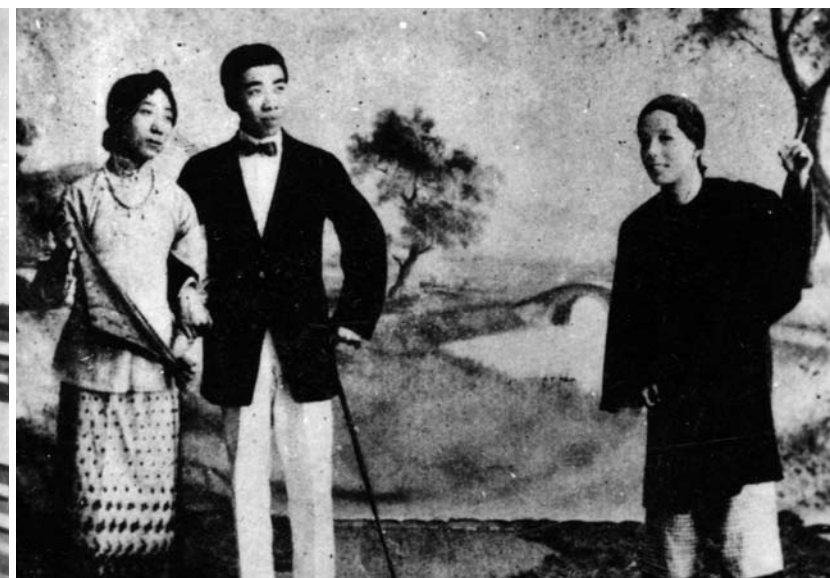
By the 1930s and 1940s, all kinds of drama were being staged, most with heavy political overtones based on the specific times. Western drama would not have gained traction, let alone flourished as it did, if the country had not demanded it pragmatically.



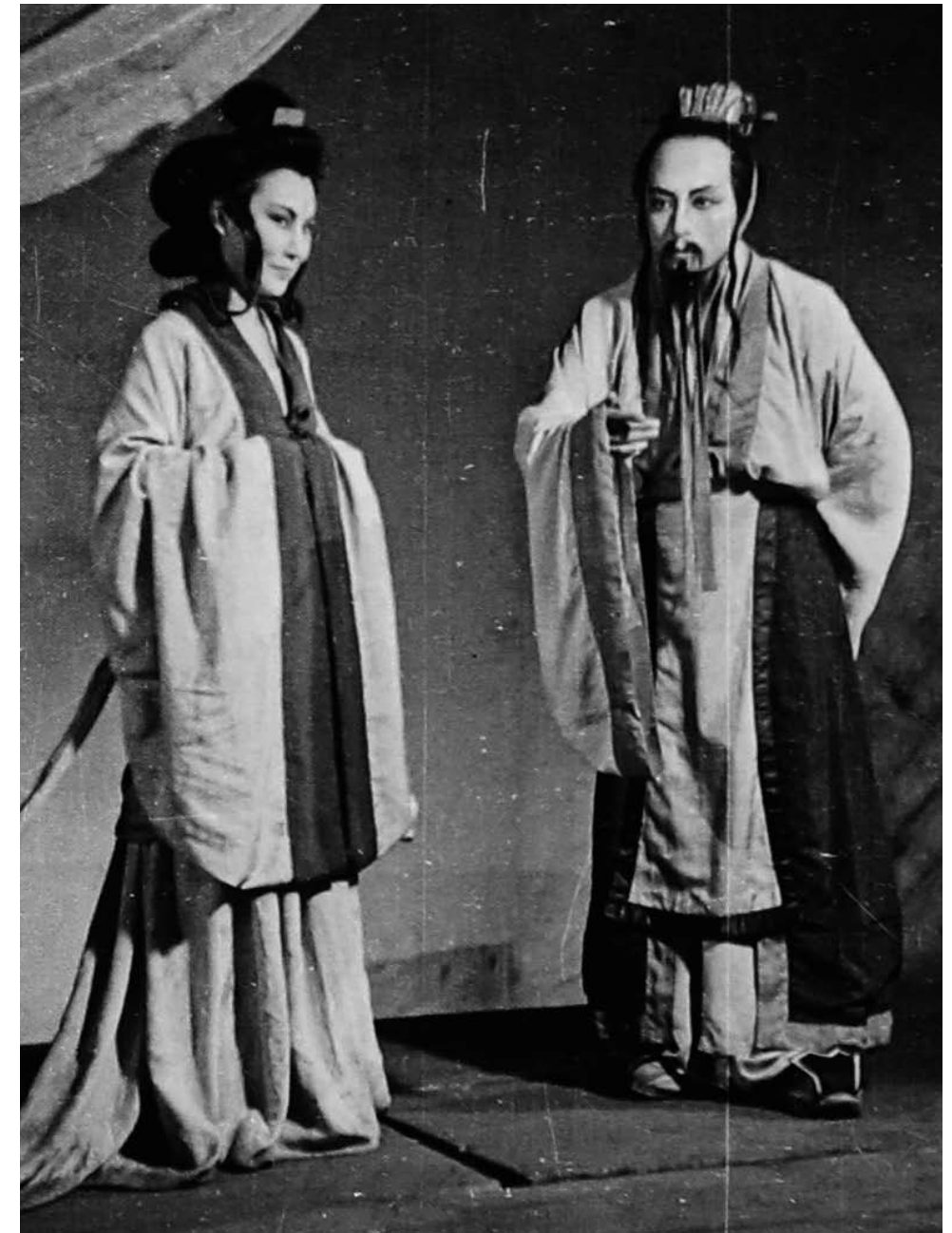
February 1907: The Spring Willow Society, which consisted of a group of Chinese students who had studied in Japan, performs fragments of *La Dame aux Camélias* (*The Lady of the Camellias*). It was founded by Li Shutong (1880-1942), who played the lead.



A still from *Family Feud*, staged by the Spring Willow Society in January 1912.



A still from *An Unfaithful Former Courtier*, staged by the Spring Willow Society in 1914.



A still from *Qu Yuan*, a magnum opus of modern Chinese literary giant Guo Moruo (1892-1978), January 1942.

In the new historical period, the combat mission of modern drama has been transformed, but it remains an important art form serving society and values.

China has highly-developed poetry. Dramatic theorists often look at drama as the evolution and division of poetry. In

the long history of Western drama, many masters had a deep poetic quality in their works. Chinese dramatists, both early and recent, have shown great interest in the poetic rhythm of many timeless Western dramas as evidenced by the products they have staged.



A still from *Return on a Snowy Night* at the Chinese Youth Art Theater, August 1982.



A still from the debut of *Xiaoqing Alley*, a Beijing-style drama, 1983.



A still from the premiere of *The Field of Life and Death* at the Central Experimental Drama Theater, June 1999.



A still from *Fu Sheng*, produced by the National Theatre Company of China in December 2013.

Plays by Chinese dramatists are presented in voices transcending poetic horizon through observation and performance about life, with focus on the real world through feelings and perspectives of criticism, social reality and visionary ideals.

Images of poetically emotional expression live in many characters, such as Fan Yi, the lead female character in *Thunderstorm*, a magnum opus of Cao Yu (1910-1996), and Guan Hanqing, the main character in *Guan Hanqing*, a modern drama by Tian Han (1898-1968), another eminent

Chinese playwright. Chinese playwrights pursued mind connections beyond the lines, to and from multiple points, transcending Western aesthetics of realism.

Strong National Flavor

Chinese drama is based on history, reality and Chinese life. It expresses the quality and cultural character of the Chinese nation by presenting the results of long-term integration and accumulation of modern consciousness and national aesthetic spirit.

Historically, the most celebrated standouts have been mostly writers of excellent national cultural works reflecting universal Chinese ethics and values for social justice.


During its long-term development, Chinese drama has established a style featuring a strong regional cultural flavor. Geographically, work from the black soil of northeastern China tends to be bold and unconstrained, plays from the northwestern Loess Plateau are loud and strong, simple and desolate, productions in Shanghai are modern and urban, and those

in Beijing are natural, graceful and poised, carefree and contented.

The national features of Chinese drama are depicted not only in expression techniques, which utilize elements of traditional operas, making it one of the best ways to adapt Western drama to China, but also by methods of communication, national spirit and aesthetic charm, which have fueled Chinese characteristics and Chinese style from the heart.

Technically, Chinese dramatists have communicated with the aesthetic spirit of

Western drama by using realism, romanticism, and modernism, and at the same time used national artistic spirit, poetic connotations and unique artistic methodology and means to establish national uniqueness in characterization, setting, dramatic conflict and theatrical language.

The century of progress has shown that Chinese drama cannot move forward without highlighting the central essence of Chinese tradition as it absorbs experience from other cultures. 

The author is director of the Institute of Drama Studies under the Chinese National Academy of Arts.

Yang Jiechang: The Whip

Contemporary Chinese artist Yang Jiechang has established himself as a uniquely provocative figure—despite status as an expatriate for nearly thirty years, he has remained deeply immersed in Chinese cultural and artistic traditions. Fully cognizant of the distinctiveness of his position, he commented, “I keep distance from conventions of proper figurative techniques related to realism and globalization, but I also avoid rushing head-first into the ancient conventions of abstract and conceptual calligraphy. That is why I think my art is very particular to both China and the West.”

September 7 – October 17, 2017
Chambers Fine Art, New York



Golden Mountain by Yang Jiechang, ink and color on silk, 3 panels, 142x111 cm, 142x280 cm, 142x111 cm, 2012-2017.



Installation view of the exhibition.

Huan Zhong – Nature Follows Abstraction

The title is derived from the 4th Century B.C. philosopher Chuang Tzu’s concept of ‘Huan Zhong’ in his essay *On Leveling All things*. ‘Huan Zhong’ refers to the space within a circle. The circle represents the realistic world, while the space refers to the abstract and intangible. Chuang Tzu believed that the “essential” can only be attained when one investigates ‘Huan Zhong.’ If one understands ‘Huan Zhong,’ one better understands nature.

The exhibition invited both intergenerational and international artists to experiment within the small ‘abstract’ space surrounded by the ‘reality’ of the World Financial Centre to ask traditional 20th Century questions about abstract art such as “Transcendental or Experiential?” and “Abstraction or Nature?” which are still relevant in today’s de-centralized art environment. Does the homogeneity, universality

and rationality associated with abstraction still hold, or has a more ‘social’ or ‘economic’ abstraction taken its place, reflecting the present world rather than remaining an extension of the individual?

August 3 – September 22, 2017
KWM artcenter, Beijing



Li Shan No. 100 by Li Shan, 2012.

PSA Collection Series – Li Shan

In 1993, Li Shan shifted the focus of his decades-long career in painting to topics related to biology. He claimed to be making forms once reserved for God, and created a new artistic discipline: BioArt. It all started with Li’s long-time fascination with the existence of life, explorations of the biological code resulting in complete lifeforms, and advocacy for equality and uniformity between different lifeforms and species. This exhibition focuses on Li Shan’s BioArt-themed projects, which are firsts in China. Of the pieces on display, two involve living organisms and the rest are plans, sketches, drawings and documents about his BioArt projects.

August 26 – November 26, 2017
Power Station of Art, Shanghai

TeamLab: Living Digital Forest and Future Park

This exhibition presents the work of teamLab (an interdisciplinary group seeking to collaboratively navigate the confluence of art, technology, design and the natural world) completed this year including the *Fleeting Flowers* series, which is making its public debut. This series uses digital technology to create a dynamic painting depicting vivid images of animals in countless flowers that constantly bloom and wither, simultaneously expanding the expressive forms of color and making a metaphor for the connected, cyclical nature of life. Reinterpretation of nature has always been a core theme of teamLab’s work. Their dazzling technical spectacles often conceal questions about human existence, and their artworks strive to provide urbanites a new sense of vitality for life in the natural world and new realizations about their own connection to the world around them.

May 20 – October 10, 2017
Pace Gallery, Beijing



Part of the teamLab’s *Fleeting Flowers* series.



Tao Yuanming by Zhang Lang, 420x120x260cm.

Exhibition of NMC Sculptures

The 26 sculptures on display cover specific themes related to Chinese civilization and history. Faithful to history and original in design, these sculptures present the diverse and glorious cultures of China and embody the cultural values and the contemporary spirit of the Chinese nation. Among them are not only sculptures of historical figures, but also group sculptures and relief works as well as decorative wall sculptures. The variety of forms enriches the artistic representation in this exhibition of historical figures and events.

On regular display
National Museum of China (NMC), Beijing



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