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by Chen Yehua/Xinhua

New Welcome Ceremony, New Chinese Image

June 6, Beijing: A state welcome ceremony is held by Chinese President Xi Jinping for Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People before their formal talks.

To better display the new image of the country in the new era, some changes have been added to the welcome ceremony for foreign leaders visiting China. Highlights include more honor guards, more trumpets playing at the ceremony, new music played

by the military band and the newly established female honor guard procession. All these changes make the ceremony more stately, more solemn and more magnificent.

The new welcome ceremony, especially with the newly reformed Honor Guards of the PLA, evidences the fruitful achievements of Chinese military reforms led by Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Xi Jinping.



by Yang Lei/Xinhua

➤ Chinese Brands at Russia World Cup

June 14, Moscow: A Chinese couple from Jiangxi Province attending the 2018 FIFA World Cup excitedly poses with the mascot on the event's opening day.

Although China's national team failed to qualify for the World Cup this year, people can still feel China throughout the event thanks to the dominating presence of Chinese brands ranging from elevators, mascots and commemorative coins to crayfish.

According to statistics, some 100,000 Chinese fans visited Russia for the tournament. Following the

Chinese tourists, Alibaba's digital payment platform Alipay is accepted by more than 4,000 merchants in the country.

For the first time, as many as seven Chinese companies—real estate developer Wanda, home appliance maker Hisense, dairy giant Mengniu, smartphone maker Vivo, technology and entertainment experience company Luci, menswear brand Diking and electric vehicle manufacturer Yadea—successfully bid to become official sponsors of the World Cup.



VCG

Dragon Boat Race in Hainan

June 18, Lingao County, Hainan Province: People take part in a dragon boat race to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival, which was on June 18 this year. Dragon boat races with strong local traditional characteristics are quite exciting and tend to attract many tourists from home and abroad.

Over the 30 years of development since Hainan Province was established, maritime sports have developed rapidly on the island, from traditional sailing and windsurfing to new emerging sports like kite surfing and diving. Hainan has already become a water sports paradise.



VCG

➤ Relief from *Gaokao* Stress

June 8, Changsha, Hunan Province: After finishing the last section of the national college entrance examination, students stream out of the testing room like birds. That day, the national college entrance examination, or the *gaokao*, ended in some places in China.

About 9.75 million students, the highest in eight years, registered for this year's examination from June 7 to 8. The two-day exam is regarded by many as a critical turning point in a student's life due to its ability to

provide a "one-way" ticket to higher education.

Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan emphasized fairness as she inspected preparations for the exam. "The *gaokao* is a crucial system to ensure equality in education," Sun declared. The *gaokao* will continue to reform exam content with an emphasis on overall competency, and college enrollment will keep expanding to encourage comprehensive and individualized development of students, she added.

Trump-Kim Summit

Seeking a Sense of Security

Text by staff reporter Hu Zhoumeng

Only when leaders from the U.S. and DPRK transform consensus into concrete and concerted measures can this “sense” of security become real security.

The Trump-Kim summit on June 12 in Singapore broke through over half a century of hostility between the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and marked the first time a sitting U.S. president met face-to-face with the top leader of DPRK over the past decades. Despite the frequent rhetorical exchanges last year and turbulent lead-up to the meeting, the historic summit is expected to help accelerate denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through political solutions.

This sensational meeting aimed to foster a sense of security. “Just landed—a long trip, but everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office,” Trump tweeted on June 13 as he went back to Washington DC. “There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea.” This evidences that for any country, security is always one of the most pressing needs.

Once isolated from the international community, DPRK was facing stifling sanctions imposed by the U.S. and pressure from the joint military exercises involving the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, leaving DPRK vulnerable to pressure from the U.S., the only superpower in the world. In his

book *Parallax Visions: Making Sense of American-East Asian Relations*, Bruce Cumings, professor of the history department at the University of Chicago, argued that the U.S.’ nuclear threat gave DPRK a justifiable reason to conduct its nuclear testing. For DPRK, the drive to develop nuclear weapons was not to use them, but as a deterrence aggravated by outside pressure. Today, DPRK has increasing demand for economic development and improving people’s livelihood, so it craves for a peaceful and stable environment.

From the perspective of the U.S., long-running sanctions and pressure failed to force DPRK to give up developing nuclear weapons. In the autumn of 2017 after DPRK completed its sixth nuclear test, it launched an inter-continental ballistic missile that analysts deemed capable of reaching the U.S. So, the traditional model of rejecting dialogue with DPRK could not guarantee American security. Even though Trump once threatened “fire and fury” against DPRK, he needed to take new strategies for opportunities to find solutions to this issue.

Even though substantial measures were not listed on paper, the Trump-Kim summit eased tensions on the Korean Peninsula for now, a win-win outcome for both countries. In their joint agreement, the two parties agreed to establish a “new type of DPRK-U.S. relations” and build a “permanent and durable peace-keeping mechanism on the Korean Peninsula,” achieve “full denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula” and promote peace and prosperity. Previously, Washington insisted on “complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization” while Pyongyang said it only accepted “phased, simultaneous actions toward denuclearization.” Neither version was written into the agreement, evidencing



June 12, 2018: U.S. President Donald Trump meets with the top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Kim Jong Un in Singapore. Xinhua

compromise from both sides. Compromise is one of the key reasons that dialogue is necessary in the first place. The positive effects of the Trump-Kim summit can be attributed to both parties’ willingness to compromise, which allowed dialogue to be held on more equal footing.

China has always remained committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, maintaining peace and stability on the peninsula and peacefully resolving the Korean nuclear issue through political talks. “Achieving denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, ending hostility and confrontation that has lasted for more than six decades, and seeking lasting peace and prosperity on the peninsula and in the region keep abreast of the trends of the times, and meet the common aspiration of the international community,” commented the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement.

Hostile chess moves hurt security of both sides. Only when leaders from the U.S. and DPRK strengthen mutual trust, maintain dialogue and transform consensus into concrete and concerted measures through further negotiations can this “sense” of security become real security. And only when each other’s security demands are fully respected does a path to peace on a Korean Peninsula emerge.

Trump's Trade War Will End American Dominance

Text by Zhong Feiteng

A trade war would only urge China to open further and fuel aspirations for the Belt and Road Initiative to boost Eurasia's common economic development.

Just when it seemed that China and the United States had reached consensus on bilateral trade, the Sino-U.S. trade tensions suddenly escalated. On June 16, China decided to impose additional duty of 25 percent on approximately US\$50 billion worth of imported products originating in the U.S., as a countermeasure against the Donald Trump administration's announcement to impose additional tariffs on US\$50 billion worth of Chinese goods the day before. This measure by the U.S. government flies in the face of what was achieved in negotiations between the governments of China and the United States. The Trump administration is still hell-bent on launching a trade war, which will lead to severe consequences.

Since the end of World War II, no major economic power has ever imposed a 25 percent additional tariff on another country, and never has a bilateral trade war reached US\$100 billion so quickly. The incident triggered global worries and a chain reaction. Many U.S. allies are closely watching Trump's trade protectionism schemes. IMF chief Christine Lagarde raised warnings in early April that a Sino-U.S. trade war would force the world economy to accelerate

isolationism rather than integration.

Both China and the United States are deeply rooted in the world economy. For many other countries, they are the largest trading partners or the largest export markets. The competitive industries of the two countries are seen throughout the global industrial chain. If China and the United States suspend mutual cooperation, the existing global production, transport and sales layout would be disrupted.


As the two largest economies in the world, responsible behavior from China and the United States is crucial to the stability of the global economy. China has repeatedly stressed that it would not start a trade war but does not fear one. Trump's remarks about trade wars emit a certain naiveté considering he seems to believe that the United States would easily win. Most major economies have long been accustomed to accepting the leadership of the United States, but when the current U.S. leader becomes irresponsible, the prospects for recovery of the world economy diminish and countries are forced to cope with a world economic interaction model dominated by short-term behavior. Trump-style economic logic will only massively increase operating costs of enterprises.



April 26, 2018: Workers at a Californian almonds factory in the United States. They hope that China-U.S. trade frictions can be addressed as soon as possible. Xinhua

The *World Economic Outlook* report released by the IMF in early April projected a 3.9 percent global growth and a 5 percent growth for trade volume in 2018. This is the highest estimate since 2012, but still significantly lower than the growth rates in 2007. If the additional tariffs of the two countries take effect on schedule on July 6, the IMF will surely significantly amend its April forecast, which will further shake the confidence of investors everywhere.

More bad news for the world economy came from the dive in foreign direct investment. According to the *World Investment Report 2018* published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in early June, global foreign direct investment flow fell by 23 percent in 2017, and the share of foreign added value in global trade fell to 30 percent between 2016 and 2017. This means that the expansion of international production and global value chains is slowing. The Trump team's analysis is based on 2017 data, which will seriously mislead U.S. decision-making.

In a world economy powered by industrial chains, the pattern of interaction between major economies cannot be altered over night. A trade war will only urge China to open further and fuel aspirations for the Belt and Road Initiative to boost Eurasia's common economic development. An interconnected Eurasian economy will end the era of American dominance more quickly. 

The author is director and researcher of the Major Countries Relationship Research Department of the National Institute of International Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



Tea for Me

Text by José A. Morente Pérez

The most wonderful thing about tea is not the drink itself, but everything else it brings along with it.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when I started liking tea; it feels like I have always had some affection for it. My earliest memory is of my aunt's country home in Antequera in southern Spain. I remember leaving home at twilight during the summer to pick peppermint leaves to make Moroccan tea. We would brew it at night and then chill it to enjoy cold the next day. I was a very active kid, so my aunt wouldn't let me drink too much. Still, whenever I was home, the little jar of tea would not last for more than a couple of hours. And I was not very happy about sharing it.

In Spain, we don't drink tea so religiously like they do in England. Coffee is much more popular. However, thanks to the many Arab people living in Spain, especially in the south part of the country, it is relatively easy to find Arab tea houses. And no city in Spain is more influenced by Arab culture than Granada, the capital city of the Nazarite Kingdom. There, tea shops can be found all over the place. I lived in the city for almost six years and frequented tea shops with friends to enjoy the drink in the beautiful atmosphere of these exotic places. I met my girlfriend in a tea house. I offered her a poor explanation of my fascination with tea: "I don't know much, just tea and herbs." This made her laugh, so I guess it worked. But now when I look back, I think I had no idea about tea back then.

First Impressions

When I came to China for the first time, tea wasn't on my list of things to do. I got an opportunity to study Chinese in Beijing thanks to a scholarship from the Confucius Institute. Right next to my university was a tea house. I went there with some friends for my first cup of tea in China and fell in love with it. It felt like a whole new world waiting to be discovered. I didn't know many foreigners who love tea as much as I do, so inviting them to a tea house wasn't an option, and I lacked any Chinese friends because my Chinese was not good enough. During the year I got the chance to assist with a few tea activities, during which my passion kept increasing. I also had the chance to visit Maliandao Tea Street a few times and tried a wide variety of Chinese tea. Maliandao is the biggest tea market in China, located near the Beijing West Railway Station. By the end of the year, I packed up my kung fu tea set and several different varieties of Chinese tea. Five years later, I still think about brewing tea for my friends at the university all the time. And again, I look back and see I knew nothing.

Fuzhou: Tea Capital

I left China and did not return for a while. Back in Spain, I actually forgot about tea a bit, somehow, but it felt like something was missing in my life. China never lets go of you. Eventually, I started looking for



The author, José A. Morente Pérez, holds a basket of tea leaves before they undergo the "rattling" process, a distinctive step of making Tieguanyin—a premium variety of Chinese oolong tea—in Anxi, Fujian Province. courtesy of the author

opportunities to return to this country. I got a job offer in Fuzhou, the capital of coastal Fujian Province in southeastern China. As most people do before traveling, I checked the internet to find more about the city. It is surrounded by mountains, which attracted me almost as much as tea. Little did I know about the hidden surprise waiting for me: Fuzhou is not only a beautiful city surrounded by gorgeous mountains, but also the global Chinese tea capital.

Upon arriving in Fuzhou, I quickly noticed that everybody was drinking tea, and tea tables were everywhere. In fact, it seemed impossible to sit at a table or have a conversation without drinking tea. Moreover, people in Fujian Province are very picky about the way they brew their tea, and the tea ceremony was likely born there.



October 20, 2017: Contestants of the “Chinese Bridge” language competition learn about Chinese tea culture with middle-school students in Kunming, capital of China’s southwestern Yunnan Province. VCG

Learning from a mentor is deeply rooted in Chinese culture. After moving to Fuzhou, I moved into a shared apartment with a guy named Raph who happened to know as much about Chinese tea as any Westerner I had ever met. The combination of certain factors like me having a deep interest in Chinese tea, living in the world’s Chinese tea capital and sharing an apartment with a person obsessed with it created a perfect storm for total immersion in Chinese tea and its culture.

From Tea to People

One of the best things about this hobby is that if you like Chinese tea, you end up hanging out with Chinese people. As a result, your Chinese speaking skills and knowledge of the culture increase faster. With stronger

Chinese language skills, you can more easily learn about tea and its culture. This is the most wonderful thing about tea—not the drink itself, but everything else it brings along with it. And one thing tea has given me is love and respect for China and its culture.

When you are truly connected with the locals, they stop regarding you as a foreigner, which is a difficult task for a Caucasian in China. I have visited many tea fields in China and traveled many extremely beautiful places to seek the best tea and learn about cultivation and processing techniques, but ultimately I discovered the best people more than the best tea. Tea has given me the chance to meet people and visit stunning places all over China. So tea also reminds me of traveling. One of my favorite places to gather with people over tea is far away

from the mountains: China’s capital—Beijing. As you can imagine, it is home to millions of tea enthusiasts. One can even join the Beijing Tea Club, which offers a unique environment to learn about tea and meet interesting people. I am eternally grateful to this organization not only because it enabled me to meet other people fond of tea and facilitated so many experiences to grow my love for China, but also because I felt like at home in that group. There, I was no longer a foreigner, which is the best thing that can happen to you while living abroad. A beautiful phrase in Chinese reads “*yuan fen*.” It refers to fate or chance bringing people together, and that is what tea is all about—bringing people together. ☞

— The author is a Spanish engineer who has been living in China for the past five years.



SCO Qingdao Summit Cooperation for the Future

Text by Zhou Xin

The SCO will foster a better future for the region and the world.



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, held in Qingdao, Shandong Province from June 9 to 10, 2018. by Ding Lin/Xinhua

ure

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Qingdao summit attracted great attention from around the world.

The group has gone through 17 years of cooperation, and its latest expansion has made the summit in Qingdao a milestone and fueled discussions on the future direction of the SCO. SCO member states are adhering to the bloc's guiding "Shanghai Spirit" of mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development, according to Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov. Participants conducted comprehensive cooperation in areas such as security, economy and trade, and people-to-people exchanges, playing a positive, constructive role in global and regional issues, he added.

Liu Jinsong, China's ambassador to Afghanistan, noted that as an observer state, Afghanistan's peace and stability are significant to the SCO and its member states. He insisted that SCO member states place tremendous attention on problems in Afghanistan, with China playing an important role. Not only has the SCO opened more channels of diplomacy for the Central Asian state, but it has also offered an appropriate platform for comprehensive cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors, including China. China supports the country's participation in activities under the framework of the SCO.

Xue Yaping, director of the marketing and international cooperation department under China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, said at a press conference that huge potential exists for tourism cooperation among SCO member states. "Tourism cooperation is already an important part of economic cooperation among SCO member states, and it has proven conducive to consolidating and developing good neighbor relations among them," Xue declared. In 2017,

tourists from other SCO member states made 3.62 million trips to China, up by 11.75 percent year on year.

Professor B. R. Deepak from the Center of Chinese & Southeast Asian Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University remarked that during the development of the SCO, it has upheld the "Shanghai Spirit" and erected a model for new international relations characterized by mutual respect, justice, equity and win-win cooperation. The "Shanghai Spirit" promotes construction of an open and inclusive Asia and is conducive to regional peace and development, economic integration and mutual trust among countries. As for future cooperation, India has wide-ranging hopes. In Professor Deepak's opinion, the SCO has provided India with more opportunities to develop and a platform for cooperation—deepening existing exchange and facilitating cooperation with Central Asian countries. The SCO strives to fight terrorism. Intelligence sharing and anti-terrorism drills are conducive to peace and stability in the region.

India's first trip to an SCO summit as a full member presented a great time for India to look for opportunities to work jointly with countries in the region on economic development, regional connectivity and security, remarked Sutirtho Patranobis from *Hindustan Times*. It's a new platform for India and China to interact with each other. Their relationship experienced rough waters last year because of the military standoff, but since then both countries have been working to improve ties. In April, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in Wuhan for an informal summit. Consensus emerged from that summit, and the SCO platform will give these two as well as other leaders more opportunities to achieve progress on their agreements. 

Upgraded Shanghai Spirit for a Better Future

Text by Wang Xiaoquan

The Qingdao summit has upgraded the Shanghai Spirit at a critical time following the expansion of the SCO, which will help the SCO and the world integrate into a community with a shared future.

After adding India and Pakistan as full members in 2017, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has been widely expanded in terms of area, population and resources, becoming a globally influential organization. On the flipside, SCO member states now have starker differences in national conditions, history and culture.

Consequently, the major challenge facing all member states is integrating the new members into the SCO to jointly set off on a historic mission.

The Qingdao summit upgraded and enhanced the Shanghai Spirit at a critical juncture following the expansion of the SCO and pointed the direction for future development of the SCO, making it a major milestone in the organization's development process.

In his speech at this summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping first injected the Shanghai Spirit with five kinds of concepts—development concepts (innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development), security concepts (common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security), cooperation concepts (open and inclusive

cooperation for win-win outcomes), culture concepts (equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between civilizations) and global governance concepts featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, which has greatly enriched the connotations of the Shanghai Spirit and established clearer standards for SCO member states to conduct cooperation in political, security, economic and cultural fields.

These new ideas, as symbols of Chinese cultural essence, are already widely recognized by members of the SCO, evidencing that China and the other SCO member countries have reached higher consensus on values and concepts.

Promotion of the Shanghai Spirit will enhance the cohesion, action and influence of the SCO. As developing countries, SCO members are encountering similar challenges, and great potential and demand for them to work together continue expanding. However, not all the member states have deep mutual trust. Unity and trust based on the Shanghai Spirit have become even more important because it will determine the future development of the SCO, especially after India and Pakistan joined in.

The Treaty of Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the Member States of the SCO reached under the guidelines of the Shanghai Spirit and the joint declaration issued at the SCO Qingdao summit will undoubtedly play an active and important role in SCO members overcoming their differences and boosting mutual trust.

Upholding the Shanghai Spirit, President Xi brought up specific proposals for cooperation in security, economy, culture and international issues under the SCO framework, addressing concerns of all SCO members. Security cooperation focuses on defense, law enforcement, information security and fostering peace in Afghanistan. These proposals aim to address new challenges faced by all SCO member states.

For economic cooperation between SCO members, President Xi emphasized the docking of development strategies, trade facilitation and trade balancing. He also suggested many measures demonstrating that China is not pursuing maximization of its own interests, but rather seeks to break bottlenecks hindering economic and trade cooperation under the framework of the SCO through



The 10th International IT-Forum with BRICS and SCO Participation opened in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia on June 5, 2018. VCG

friendship, justice and pursuing shared interests. The SCO differs from other regional cooperation organizations thanks to its coordination of development strategies, which reflects mutual respect for state sovereignty and national interests of its member states. China proposed to establish a 30 billion yuan (US\$4.7 billion) equivalent special lending facility under the framework of the SCO Interbank Consortium. This is a sign of China's willingness to cooperate. It also evidences the common will of SCO members to escape the hegemony of the U.S. dollar and build a more fair and reasonable new regional economic order.

Cultural exchange will lay a solid foundation for the strengthening of mutual trust and win-win cooperation among SCO member states. The

organization has developed a maturing mechanism for people-to-people exchange, which covers various fields. In the future, the SCO needs to utilize existing mechanisms for cultural exchange and expand their scales. To meet the needs of other member countries, China will formulate targeted proposals for cultural exchange. For example, China will provide 3,000 training opportunities in human resource development for SCO member states to relieve their shortage of qualified professionals in the field. Propelled by China, other member states will also take concrete measures to help expand scope, deepen cooperative levels and enlarge the scales of cultural exchange within the group.

Despite operating as a regional organization, the SCO is definitely

not closed. In his speech, Xi proposed setting up international cooperation partnership networks, signifying that the organization is willing to cooperate with other countries and international organizations worldwide to build an "open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity" in accordance with the Shanghai Spirit. The upgraded Shanghai Spirit will not only chart the course for the SCO, but also inject new energy into the development of the world and enable the SCO and the world to integrate into a community with a shared future. 

■ The author is deputy director of the Institute of Belt and Road Initiative under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

President Xi's Speech at the 18th SCO Summit Laying Foundations for China's Future

Text by Swaran Singh

The SCO Qingdao Declaration reflected consensus, confidence and commitment about various time-bound plans of action.

On June 10, 2018, at the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as Chinese President Xi Jinping handed over the chairmanship to Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov and promised China's full support in preparing the next summit, his short but succinct opening speech had already outlined how China will

continue to play a leading role in the construction of the SCO's community of shared future.

What made this speech of President Xi especially noticeable was that Canada on the same day was hosting the industrialized nations' G7 summit which made this expanding leadership vacuum all the more glaring, creating grounds for SCO nations to accept their

expanded responsibilities in formulating global discourses and initiatives. Juxtaposed with President Xi's January 2017 speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, his words at the SCO Qingdao summit appeared almost prophetic, forecasting evolving global geopolitics and the SCO's role in it.

While photographs of these two leadership huddles showed the SCO summit full of enthusiasm and bonhomie, the body language of G7 leaders betrayed their anguish and anxieties. Most G7 nations blamed it on President Trump's whimsical policies towards his allies, the most recent being his arbitrary raising of trade tariffs. Refusing to sign on their joint communique, Trump had called host Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "dishonest and weak." The Qingdao Declaration, on the other hand, reflected consensus, confidence and commitment about various time-bound plans of action. Meanwhile, China hosting dozens of SCO meetings and its summit this year has further cemented President Xi's credibility as a global leader in ensuring equitable, free and open trade for

June 8, 2018: A booth for reading materials at the media center for the SCO Qingdao summit. VCG





A bird's-eye view of the fully automated container terminal at the port of Qingdao, in eastern China's Shandong Province. Xinhua

shared prosperity.


Xi's Qingdao speech included three broad themes:

First, his message was clear that the time is up for any "self-centered, shortsighted and close-door policies" which left no doubt that it was directed at President Trump's recent protectionist policies. He underlined the need to "reject Cold War mentality and confrontation between blocs and oppose the practice of seeking absolute security on oneself at the expense of others." Vibrations of this message were felt worldwide as the contrast was clear between the exclusive nature of G7 and the inclusive approach of the SCO.

Second, Xi outlined several generous offers that will keep China integral to the SCO community

building. China will train 2,000 law enforcement officers of SCO nations in next three years. For forging closer people-to-people ties for building the SCO family in sectors of education, science and technology, culture, tourism, health, disaster relief and media, Xi offered to provide 3,000 training opportunities of human resources development for SCO member countries. For supporting development projects, Xi announced the setting up of a RMB 30 billion special lending facility within the framework of the SCO Interbank Consortium. Also, on the Belt and Road Initiative that he put forward, Xi underlined the new thinking of "delivering shared benefits through extensive consultations and joint contribution."

Finally, Xi talked of the SCO's

guiding Shanghai Spirit inculcating respect for cultural diversity where mutual learning will help it overcome the sinister "clash of civilizations" theory. Xi said democracy in international relations has become an unstoppable trend of the times. This is where he called for upholding what he called "innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development" as key to ensuring "common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security." Xi's Qingdao speech outlined his broad vision for future and how the SCO could emerge as a model to reckon with. 

■ The author is a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and senior fellow at the Charhar Institute, Beijing.

Expanding Financial Cooperation for More SCO Development Momentum

Text by Xu Wenhong

In the long run, the financial sector will be a crucial area for current and future cooperation of SCO member states.

After nearly 20 years of development, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become a regional organization covering the most area and the greatest population in the world. In the long run, the financial sector will be a crucial area for cooperation among SCO member states.

At the recently concluded SCO Qingdao summit, participating countries fully tapped into the potential of the existing SCO cooperation mechanisms such as the SCO Inter-bank Consortium and the SCO Development Fund by further deepening cooperation. By expanding the scope of local-currency settlement, carrying out pragmatic currency swap cooperation, learning from each other about establishing international financial centers, and strengthening cooperation in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing, they have made positive progress in maintaining regional financial stability and improving the new international financial order.

Financial Cooperation Necessary

With the expansion of development of trade and investment relations between member states and

the addition of India and Pakistan to the SCO, investment cooperation between China and other SCO member states in tourism, culture and finance has spiked and become a long-lasting development trend.

Strengthening financial cooperation is tremendously significant to the development of the SCO for a variety of reasons.

First, it is an inevitable trend to promote SCO economic and trade cooperation and deepen regional economic transformation, upgrading and integration.

Second, it will play an important role in promoting the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China.

Third, promoting local-currency settlement cooperation between SCO member states can effectively hedge exchange rate risk and promote the RMB's global status.

Fourth, SCO member countries should help and learn from each other about combating money laundering and terrorism financing, establishing regional international financial centers and jointly promoting regional economic and financial development.

Fifth, it is conducive to maintaining stability of the financial sector across the entire region, promoting coordinated and consistent policy

to prevent potential crises, fostering cooperation in reforming the new international financial order, and strengthening the cohesion and solidarity of the SCO.

Pragmatic Cooperation in Currency Exchange

Promoting local-currency settlement and currency exchange is an important facet of SCO financial cooperation.

Trade between SCO member states is large-scale and frequent. To reduce transaction costs and avoid risk, member states have been engaged in several rounds of consultation to strengthen usage of financial instruments, improve financial cooperation and help bank card clearing institutions and payment agencies carry out cross-border business.

In recent years, the People's Bank of China has signed bilateral local-currency swap agreements with several countries and regions under the SCO framework including Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and other neighboring countries.

In August 2002, local-currency settlement business was first launched in bilateral trade between China and Russia. By 2009, transaction volume had increased 67 times over. China has also carried out direct or



A stone tablet in front of the headquarters of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Beijing. Founded in 2016, AIIB is the world's first multilateral financial institution established under the proposal of China. by Li Xin/Xinhua

registered currency transactions with Kazakhstan and other countries to facilitate its trade and investment cooperation with those countries.

During the SCO Qingdao summit, participants discussed further promoting local-currency settlement in bilateral trade as well as how to gradually expand it to general trade and non-trade areas.

Fighting Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing

Combating terrorism is an important duty and mission of the SCO. Strengthening cooperation in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing is another important sector for financial cooperation among SCO member states.

On October 6, 2004, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) was launched in Moscow by China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Subsequently, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and India also joined the group. Observer status has been granted to 15 countries and 20 international organizations.

With aims to reduce the threat of international terrorism, ensure transparency, reliability and security of

capital flows, integrate into the international financial system and intensify the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, EAG has become an important platform for non-traditional security cooperation within the SCO framework.

During the SCO Qingdao summit, participants also discussed how to strengthen cooperation in establishing international financial centers in the region. The Chinese government has explicitly proposed making Shanghai into an international financial hub by 2020 to match China's economic strength and the RMB's global status.

Russia's Moscow and Kazakhstan's Astana have also desired to become international financial centers. In addition, Pakistan's Karachi and India's Mumbai both intend to expand the current construction of international financial centers. During the process, countries in the region could learn from each other and provide greater support for development of the regional economy.

Improving the New International Financial Order

Alongside the development and expansion of the SCO, greater cooperation in preventing and

reducing the impact of the financial crisis to the regional economy and maintaining financial stability in the region and even the world has become increasingly important for SCO financial institutions.

Organizations including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, BRICS New Development Bank and SCO Development Bank will use currency swap and other innovative financial instruments to enhance the development of regional transport, trade and investment facilitation while coordinating national development strategies of member countries.

Considering the trend of globalization and regional economic integration, the SCO, as an international organization of developing countries, will see greater opportunities as well as challenges in the future and has already shouldered important responsibilities in promoting global economic growth, financial stability, trade reform and financial regulation formulation. Therefore, further cooperation between member states is needed to establish a healthier international economic and financial order.

At the SCO Qingdao summit, under the guidance of the "Shanghai Spirit," participating countries examined dual channels of security and economic cooperation while crafting a new model of regional cooperation and a community with shared future. For the long run, financial cooperation under the SCO framework will inject continuous momentum for the development of the organization. 

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The Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) assembly workshop of CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. in Qingdao City, Shandong Province. The city provides about 60 percent of China's EMU trains that are put into operation every year.

QINGDAO Town of High-speed Rail

Text by Liu Haile Photographs by Xu Xun

Riding the tide of the SCO cooperation mechanism, Qingdao's high-speed rail industry will definitely see a bright future by cooperating with countries around the world.

With the help of a computer, several technicians are debugging a “Fuxing” electric multiple unit (EMU) train at the assembly workshop of CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. Known as the newest model of China’s high-speed bullet trains, Fuxing EMUs travel at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour, with top speeds hitting the 400-kilometer mark.

“Averagely, 22 EMU trains roll off our assembly line every month,” said Zhang Fangtao, chief designer of the Fuxing EMU in the company. According to him, the research on Fuxing EMUs began in 2012. After numerous tests in a few years that followed, it was first put into operation on the Beijing-Shanghai Railway in June 2017.

“A lot of innovations have been made to improve the Fuxing train’s reliability and safety,” Zhang noted. “Compared to the previous generations, the windshield of the operator’s cabin becomes larger with the increase in designed speed. Moreover, it is further reinforced to resist bird strikes or hits by small stones.”

In June, Qingdao, the host city of the 2018 summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), became a center of attention worldwide. Before that, the coastal city had already gained fame as a cradle of high-speed rail, one of China’s “four great new inventions.”

In September 2017, China’s National Technology Innovation Center for High-speed Trains was set up in Qingdao, injecting more impetus into the city’s high-speed rail industry. Currently, Qingdao is home to more than 120 key rail transportation enterprises, including



Technicians debug a “Fuxing” EMU train at the assembly workshop of CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. in Qingdao City, Shandong Province.

CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. and Bombardier Inc. The city provides about 60 percent of the country’s EMU trains that are put into operation every year, as well as 20 percent of light-rail trains.

Ahmed Zidan from Jordan was deeply impressed when he visited the EMU assembly workshop of CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. “I’ve stayed in China for nine years and taken high-speed trains many times,” he said. “Indeed, China has developed very fast over the years.”


One factor driving the country’s rapid development is technological innovation. As a leading manufacturer of bullet trains, CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. has established a national EMU engineering research center and a national key laboratory of high-speed rail system integration, and cultivated more than 2,000 technicians.

Taking the construction of the Belt and Road as an opportunity, the Qingdao-based company has gone further to introduce its high-speed train products to more countries, including the United States, Singapore, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. In addition, the company has

established overseas R&D centers in countries like Germany and Thailand, in a bid to build a global innovation system.

“Innovation is the key to the ‘golden gate’ of high-speed rail,” said Liang Jianying, chief engineer of CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. The company has joined hands with 15 enterprises, universities and research institutions to launch the research of high-speed maglev trains that can run 600 kilometers per hour.

Liang said that the research of maglev trains with a speed of 600 kilometers per hour is vital to improving China’s high-speed transportation network and further sharpening the country’s edge in the field of rail transportation.

Upholding the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development, the SCO summit held in the coastal city of Qingdao is expected to consolidate a community with a shared future for humanity. Riding this tide, Qingdao’s high-speed rail industry will definitely see a bright future by cooperating with countries around the world. 

The Voice Behind the Voice

Multilingual Call Center Serves the SCO Summit in Qingdao

Text and photographs by Liu Haile

It was interpreters, whether on-site or remote, who helped make the voice of participants at the SCO Qingdao summit heard by more.

On June 8, just one day before the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) commenced in Qingdao, a coastal city in China's eastern Shandong Province, Zhang Chen, a volunteer from Qingdao University of Science and Technology, demonstrated to reporters at the summit's media center how a white multilingual handset works.

"This equipment is called YeeBox, with which users can translate their voice into six languages including English, Russian, Mongolian, Persian and Hindi," she grinned. "All one needs is to press a button, and the gadget can connect to a multilingual call center, where interpreters translate real-time what the user said into any of the six languages he or she chose."

The YeeBox and the multilingual call center are provided by Global Tone Communication Technology

Co., Ltd. (GTCOM), the official language services provider for the SCO Qingdao summit.

The summit gathered guests from SCO member states such as India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and observer countries including Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia. Language services were vital for them to cross language barriers and communicate better with each other during the summit.

According to Wang Xiaodong, vice president of GTCOM, more than 200 sets of such equipment have been deployed at places like railway station, airport, customs, and venues for the SCO summit. "If necessary, more YeeBoxes will be deployed to provide real-time interpretation services," he added. Besides the YeeBox, they also provided a kind of AI-based translation machine that can automatically provide interpretation services in 35 languages.



Global Tone Communication Technology Co., Ltd. (GTCOM), the official language services provider for the SCO summit in Qingdao, is utilizing big data technology to support its translation and interpretation services.




Interpreters work at the multilingual call center for the SCO summit, located at Qingdao Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone.



At the multilingual call center for the SCO summit that is located at the Qingdao Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone, dozens of interpreters were busy answering calls that poured in via the YeeBox. “We have about 200 interpreters working for the SCO summit at the call center,” Wang said. “Some of them are teachers from colleges and universities. They work in

three shifts around the clock. Currently, we handle hundreds of calls daily, and the number is expected to rocket when the two-day summit begins.”

The SCO Qingdao summit, which ran from June 9 to 10, occurred at a time when the world is in need of concerted action to address challenges and threats ranging from regional conflicts to the

spread of terrorism, from populism to unilateralism, and must advance economic globalization and improve global governance to benefit all. To this end, many representatives at the event voiced their support for closer partnership under the SCO framework. It was interpreters, whether on-site or remote, who helped make their voice heard by more. 

A New Day of Rigorous Party Governance

Text by Qi Weiping

Improving Party conduct is an important facet of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.



September 22, 2017: A Party member from Huainan City, Anhui Province visits an exhibition about building a clean and honest government, which aims to help Party members improve ability to fight corruption and prevent degeneration. VCG

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era was developed amid the remarkable development of the country since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Comprehensive and rigorous governance over the Party has been warmly welcomed by the people. And the drive to build a clean and honest government has achieved historic success. According to the 18th CPC National Congress, strict governance over the Party is a necessary requirement for the Party to uphold its historic mission, respond to the people's needs and solve problems head-on.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has always emphasized strict governance over the Party. On November 15, 2012 at a press conference held by members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee, Xi declared, "Our responsibility is to work with all the comrades in the Party to uphold the principle that the Party should supervise its own conduct and run itself with strict discipline, effectively solve major problems in the Party, improve our conduct and maintain close ties with the people. By so doing, we will ensure that our Party will remain at the core of leadership in advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics." This statement years ago evidences that since the early days of his leadership, strict governance over the Party has been the focus.

The report to the 19th CPC National Congress included crucial political decisions such as the conclusion that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new

era. This is an important development culminating from the historic achievements and historic changes of the past five years. The Party with Xi at its core has demonstrated tremendous political courage and a great sense of mission. It has solved many tough problems that were long on the agenda but never resolved, and accomplished many things that were wanted but never got done. Also, full and rigorous governance over the Party resulted in highly increased efficiency.

Improving Party Conduct in the New Era

Improving Party conduct has been an eternal theme of Party building. Along the 97 years of development of the CPC, efforts to this end have produced some of the greatest successes and achievements of the Party during the process of the Chinese revolution, construction and reform. And the CPC has closely linked the importance of improving Party conduct to the Party's cause.

Party building is a journey to which there is no end. Different eras call for different tactics to improve Party conduct. Before the reform and opening-up period, the long-term "left-leaning" mistakes and the ten-year "cultural revolution" (1966-1976) decimated the caliber of Party conduct, so in its wake, this mission has remained a problem threatening the survival of the Party.

However, since the 18th CPC National Congress, by focusing on persisting Party conduct issues during the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the CPC has enhanced its tactics for improving the conduct of Party members and promoting comprehensive and strict



October 19, 2017: At the press center of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Yang Xiaodu, head of the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention under the State Council, and Qi Yu, deputy head of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, introduce the work on Party building and full and vigorous governance over the Party, attracting many journalists from home and abroad. Xinhua

governance over the Party. The task in the early days of reform was to arrange order out of chaos, and the mission has since evolved into a drive to strengthen the right and eliminate the wrong, both of which require improvement of Party conduct to seize the spirit of the times.

At the first collective study of the Political Bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that it has always been the CPC's consistent and clear political position to combat corruption, promote political integrity and keep the Party healthy, and that building a fine Party culture and a corruption-free Party is a major political issue of great concern to the people.

Since its 18th National Congress, the CPC has launched various activities to inspire Party members to walk the straight and narrow and maintain a strict stance against the practice of formalities for formalities' sake, unnecessary bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance. Through great efforts, it overcame the difficulties in establishing comprehensive and strict governance over the Party and improving the conduct of Party members. Improving Party conduct is



Officials from the Discipline Inspection and Supervisory Commission of Luoyuan County in Fuzhou City, Fujian Province, talk to local villagers. Xinhua

a highlight of the CPC's work in the new era.

Focus, System and Guarantees

Improving the conduct of principal Party members and officials is crucial. As role models of the Party, principal Party members and officials influence the conduct of the whole Party. Xi stressed on correcting the critical minority of top cadres and ensuring high-quality cadres at all levels. To meet the necessary standards, they should not only be firm in political and theoretical conviction, but also demonstrate excellent conduct.

Strengthening Party rules and enforcement of regulations guarantees better conduct of Party members. While exercising strict self-governance on all aspects of the Party, the CPC combines strengthening rules and regulations with improving conduct, turning the page on a new chapter for Party building. Xi once stressed that the Party should seriously implement comprehensive measures for improving conduct, that all regulations should be followed, and that all those who disobey the rules should be punished. He also noted that deepening reform should provide long-term guarantees for

excellent conduct.

Xi has elaborated that as a ruling party guided by Marxism, the CPC should not only be guided by the great power of truth, but also conduct itself with the utmost moral quality. The power of truth is manifested by the correct theory of the Party, and the power of moral quality is displayed through excellent conduct. The CPC should combine rule-based Party governance with ruling by virtue. Regulations and punishment should be emphasized, and Party members should be guided by strong beliefs and sound morals to enhance the noble character and

integrity of Party members in the eyes of the public.

New Era, New Calls

Practice has always been carried out under specific historical conditions. The CPC's emphasis on improving Party conduct in the new era has distinct characteristics of the times.

First, it firmly grasped a people-centered political stance by improving Party conduct. Improving Party conduct keeps the Party healthy. But the significance of strengthening Party conduct is not limited to the Party itself. Party conduct directly affects the people, and a people-centered philosophy should be the emphasized political stance of Party members. The CPC's conduct should be determined by its advanced nature as a Marxist party. The consistency of the interests of the Party and the people and ensuring full and strict governance over the Party require a people-centered approach. As Xi Jinping said, "We must guard against and correct with resolve the practices the people oppose and resent." Serving the people is an important feature of Xi's thought on strengthening Party conduct.


Second, the CPC is striving to solve major dilemmas and problems hindering improvement of Party conduct. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in November 2012, the Party's conduct has improved and new accomplishments have been made through solving problems. It has diagnosed the problem, formulated a plan and taken action to win over both Party members and the general public with remarkable improvements in Party conduct. Targeting existing problems is another important feature of Xi's thought on strengthening Party conduct.



Police officers escort suspects of economic offences. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China has launched a series of international campaigns on fugitive repatriation and asset recovery including Net of Heaven Action, Fox Hunting and Red Notice. Xinhua

Third, the Party is paying more attention to top-level design to strengthen Party conduct. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, improving Party conduct has focused on addressing the "four forms of decadence," acting in strict accordance with the code of Party conduct for intra-Party political life, strengthening internal oversight, improving the Party's political ecosystem, and resolutely correcting misconduct in all forms. Xi's thought on strengthening Party conduct embodies the distinct features of top-level design and guides the new stage of advancing Party governance in a comprehensive way.

Fourth, improving Party conduct

demands the courage to carry out self-reform. The great social reform carried out by the Party requires the courage to carry out self-reform, face problems head-on and conduct self-analysis. Chronic and persistent conditions need to be addressed with courage. Improving Party conduct in the new era requires determination strong enough to "leave footprints on the road we walk and handprints on the iron we grasp" and perseverance in anti-corruption efforts to achieve final success. 

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Shenzhen

40 Years of Reform and Opening Up

Text by Li Xia

Photographs courtesy of the Publicity Department of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee and the Shekou Museum of Reform and Opening unless otherwise credited

Four decades ago, a tide of philosophical emancipation swept across China, heralding the beginning of reform and opening up in the country. Chinese people shook off the chains of outdated mindsets and dogmatism to return to the practice of seeking truth from facts. They broke down the walls of the planned economy and embarked on a journey towards the embracing of the markets. The slogan “emancipate the mind” and an extensive debate leading to the conclusion that “practice is the sole criterion for testing truth” freed Chinese society from calcified ideology and propelled the country into a new era of reform and opening up.



Besides being an economic center in southern China, Shenzhen is also a center for technological innovation, a regional financial center and a trade and logistics center. by Qiao Zhou

In the late 1970s, China's reform and opening up first started in Shekou, Shenzhen, in the southern province of Guangdong. During his inspection tour of Shenzhen in December 2012, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, pointed out that Shenzhen was the first Chinese city to launch the reform and opening up and remains the most influential and best-developed Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, designated Shekou as the pace car of economic reform and opening up. Xi Zhongxun, then first secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, called on the province to become the "first to eat the crab." Yuan Geng, founder of the Shekou Industrial Zone, felt like he was risking his life while pressing ahead with the reform process. The great courage, wisdom, vision and sense of responsibility of those pioneers inspired the passion of later generations of reformers.

In 1978, after the conclusion of the third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, Xi Zhongxun, then first secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, and several other reform pioneers submitted a report to the CPC Central Committee proposing construction of an export-oriented industrial and trading zone, hoping to become the "first to eat the crab" in economic reform. Upon deliberating the situation, Deng Xiaoping creatively presented the idea of building SEZs and encouraged reformers to



Deng Xiaoping at the third plenary session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in December 1978.

act boldly. As head of the Shekou Industrial Zone, Yuan Geng felt like he was risking his life to continue the reform and opening up. Such determination and courage reflected the difficulties and obstacles that reformers faced at the time.

Before 1979, China adopted a "big-pot" distribution system under which everyone was paid evenly irrespective of his or her performance. In 1981, Shekou formulated the slogan "time is money and efficiency is life." In the early 1980s when most Chinese people lacked knowledge about economic efficiency, the slogan hit many ears like a "spring thunder breaking shackles on the mind."

Many reform policies concerning new distribution systems, management systems, personnel systems, employment systems, payment systems and housing systems were incubated in Shekou. In the process, new concepts related to competition, the market, contracts, information, operational performance and vocational ethics

gradually took shape, fostering the most innovative cultural and ideological developments in the modern era.

At a crucial time when doubts about reform began to mount, Deng Xiaoping urged officials to be bolder in reform and have the courage to experiment. "We must not act like women with bound feet, but take bold action to blaze a new trail after determining the right direction," he declared.

The development of Nanling, a village comprised of some 100 households in Shenzhen, evidenced that a leader's courage and determination are vital to eliminating poverty. In 1974, Zhang Weiji, head of the village's First Production Unit, was doomed to one-year public criticism for leading villagers in developing side businesses. In 1979, the persimmons that the villagers were growing got sold to state-owned purchasers for only 0.18 yuan per kilogram, but their income could increase tenfold if they processed those persimmons

and sold them directly. However, operation of such a business back then risked criticism as “walking a capitalist road.” “How could socialism be superior if everyone lived in poverty?” Zhang Weiwei argued.

Soon after China implemented the reform and opening-up policy, Nanling Village applied for a loan of 1.7 million yuan to improve the business environment of the locality with hopes of attracting foreign investment. Facing pushback from villagers, Zhang promised that he alone would take responsibility for the debt if the village defaulted on the loan.

In 1983, four production units in Nanling Village merged and a new

village committee was established. Zhang introduced the practice of anonymous ballots to elect village leaders, the earliest known attempt for grassroots democratic autonomy in China.

In 1984, Nanling Village became the first to introduce the rural shareholding system, and villagers were rewarded dividends the same year. By then, the majority of China's rural areas had just begun to implement the household contract responsibility system.

The courage and determination of grassroots reformers like Zhang Weiwei were driven by their personal suffering from poverty and their aspirations to bring better living

standards to their fellow villagers.

Before China's reform and opening up, Shenzhen was a non-descript, secluded town, sharply contrasting Hong Kong, a bustling international financial center just across a river. As the country opened its doors, the people living in the region adjacent to Hong Kong developed wide vision and freer minds. Many went abroad to experience the outside world and learn advanced science and technology and different cultures. The reform and opening up of Shenzhen proved that openness promotes progress and seclusion leads to stagnation.

The Shekou Museum of Reform



- ① A public election campaign for directors of the Shekou Industrial Zone Co., Ltd. in 1990. CFB
- ② On the afternoon of December 1, 1987, the municipal government of Shenzhen held a land usage rights auction, at which Luo Jinxing (who held the No.11 auction paddle), manager of Shenzhen Real Estate Company, successfully bid for a 8,588-square-meter land plot for residential use, with a term of 50 years.
- ③ Zhuyuan Hotel, the first company to carry out employment reform in Shenzhen.



SANYO Electric (Shekou) Limited, the first Japanese wholly funded enterprise in China. Migrant workers became an iconic group in Shekou, Shenzhen at that time.

and Opening in Shenzhen Sea World Culture and Art Center is staging an exhibition commemorating the country's 40 years of reform and opening up titled "The Story of Spring." A paragraph in the introduction of the exhibition reads: "In 1978, as the debate on the criteria of truth heated up nationwide, the State Council of China sent a delegation on a foreign survey in hopes of learning from the advanced experiences of developed countries. A plan for comprehensive reform and opening up was taking shape. In May 1978, a delegation from the Chinese central government, headed by Gu Mu, then vice premier of the State Council, conducted a survey of five Western European countries. It was the first state-level governmental economic delegation dispatched by the government of the People's Republic of China to developed capitalist countries since its founding in 1949."

Back then, conducting field surveys, compiling useful lessons and introducing investment from developed countries were key measures taken by China to promote the reform and opening up.

In January 1980, Shekou officially began soliciting investment from



At the Shekou Museum of Reform and Opening, visitors are attracted by recorders and television sets produced in Shekou during the 1990s. by Wang Lei

around the world. Like a siren signaling China's reform and opening up, this move caused global attention. On September 25, 1983, Shekou Harbor was approved by the State Council to become an open national port.

Zhang Weiji, a farmer in Nanling Village, realized that cooperation with foreign investors would bring vitality to his village. In 1979, Shenzhen began to develop processing and compensation trades (processing materials or assembling supplied components). Zhang and several villagers waited outside luxury hotels in hopes of meeting businesspeople from Hong Kong. Eventually, they found several Hong Kong investors who would go

on to build factories in their village.

After Zhang Weiji retired, his son Zhang Yubiao was elected secretary of the Party branch of Nanling Village. As the village was built into a community, he became its Party chief. Born in 1974, Zhang Yubiao witnessed the dedication of his forefathers in pushing the reform and opening up as well as Shenzhen's transition from a small fishing village into a modern metropolis. He hatched a plan to develop Nanling as more than just a village or community, but from a global perspective.

Four decades ago, Deng Xiaoping declared that "poverty is



not socialism.” In 2012, Xi Jinping stressed that “our mission is to meet the aspirations of the people for a better life.” In the 1980s, the CPC Central Committee decided to establish the Shenzhen SEZ with hopes that Shenzhen would lead the country’s reform and opening up and socialist modernization and blaze a new trail for achieving prosperity for the country, fostering the rejuvenation of the nation and improving the well-being of the people.

On May 6, 1979, more than 100 Nanling villagers including Zhang Weiji’s wife, tried to sneak into Hong Kong. Then, their son Zhang Yubiao

was just five years old. About 100 households in the village in Bao’an County relied on bank loans to carry out agricultural production and lived on “resold grain” (state-purchased grain sold back to a grain-producing area in case of disaster) and government relief.

In 1980, the *Regulations on Special Economic Zones in Guangdong Province*, proposed by the State Council, was approved at the 15th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 5th National People’s Congress, heralding the beginning of the construction of Shenzhen SEZ. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Nanling Village also merged into a fast lane of development. Under the leadership of Zhang Weiji, local villagers cooperated with investors from Hong Kong and tapped into the potential of their collective strength to develop manufacturing, tourism and trade. As a result, the collective economy of the village gradually boomed.

In 1984, Nanling became the first to open a village hospital adopting a cooperative medical-care system. Even migrant workers could enjoy free medical care in the hospital if they paid a medical insurance fee of two yuan per month. In 1986, the first industrial zone was founded in Nanling, enabling the village to transform from an agricultural economy into an industrial economy. By the end of 1991, per capita annual dividends exceeded 10,000 yuan in the village.

Deng Xiaoping’s speeches during his inspection tour of southern China in 1992 turned the page on a new chapter of the country’s reform and opening up. During this time, Zhang Weiji led Nanling villagers to build four industrial

zones and introduce a dozen hi-tech companies from both home and overseas, substantially accelerating the development of local tertiary industry. In 1994, the *Regulations on Joint-stock Companies in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone* was enacted, and Nanling Village established a joint-stock company. Some formerly collectively-owned assets of the village were transformed into privately-owned shares. All villagers could earn dividends annually according to the shares they owned.

Since 2015, Nanling has considered equity investment substantially important. The village joined hands with Tus-Holdings Co., Ltd. under Tsinghua University to establish a hi-tech industrial park and an investment fund of which Nanling Village holds 50 percent stake. It also invested 120 million yuan to acquire an investment company and another 300 million yuan to establish Shenzhen’s first venture capital fund owned by a community-level joint-stock company.

Zhang Yubiao has set goals of cultivating one or two excellent listed companies controlled by Nanling Village Community in three years and building its own financial platform. He hopes to ring the bell alongside villagers on the day their companies are listed on the stock market.

How should people and society progress alongside rapid economic growth? In 2017, Shenzhen formulated “six measures” to enhance local citizens’ personal quality: Enlightening the mind, enhancing morality, observing the law, promoting intelligence, advocating culture and improving physical health. According to the municipal government of Shenzhen, the talent demanded by



Shenzhen Cruise Center at Prince Bay in Shekou.

reform and development should not only be proficient in cutting-edge technologies, but also be of high cultural quality and socially civilized.

The greatest wish of officials in Huaide Community is to provide local residents greater spiritual assets than material wealth and to make them richer in terms of the mind

rather than just financially better off.

Most Huaide residents are from the Pan clan. Their ancestors moved to the area from Xingyang, Henan Province in the late Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). The village's name "Huaide" literally means "cherish memories of the morality of ancestors." In the 1990s, local residents raised funds to reconstruct their

ancestral temple that was destroyed during the "cultural revolution" (1966-1976). Today, ancestral temple culture and the honor of ancestors play an important role in the administration of modern communities.

Huaide Community is exploring a path to modern community governance which would likely help enhance both social self-management



capacity and personal quality of residents. A social governance pattern featuring public participation, joint contribution and shared benefits has taken shape in the community. Based on an autonomous administrative structure covering multiple levels ranging from community officials and neighborhood chiefs to residential custodians,

lawyers, psychologists, anti-drug volunteers, senior care centers and other social organizations, the community provides sports, cultural and entertainment facilities, organizes charity activities and provides public services. This development has facilitated remarkable progress in areas like public security, neighborhood care, environmental protection, sanitation, dispute mediation and community culture. In the process, not only has the personal quality of residents been improved, but also the community's self-management ability has enhanced as well.

On the day he was elected secretary of the Party branch of Nanling Village, Zhang Weiji promised that villagers would have enough to eat, new houses to live in and the ability to become rich and healthier. Decades later, all of his promises have come to pass. In 2015, per capita annual income surpassed 150,000 yuan and the village's collectively-owned fixed assets reached three billion yuan. Now, under the leadership of current Party chief Zhang Yubiao, local residents want more than just material wealth, but human progress and development.

"Our village advocates the principles of joint contribution and shared benefits," Zhang Yubiao noted.

"Every adult works, and those who only earn income from rentals don't earn much respect. We don't long to become rich overnight, but hunger for peace with our neighbors. Here, people care and help each other and create a heavy ambiance of warmth. This is the most attractive trait of Nanling Village."

After four decades of development, Shenzhen has accumulated enormous material assets and fostered a healthy society. In the 1990s, many visitors left the city with an



A bird's-eye view of Shennan Road in Shenzhen. Over the past 40 years, Shennan Road has witnessed the tremendous changes taking place in the city.

impression that it was dirty and messy with a high rate of theft. Today, Shenzhen is a highly orderly and hospitable metropolis. Drivers yield to pedestrians, and even a stranger will be warmed by the smiles on the streets. According to Wang Weizhong, secretary of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee, Shenzhen is a city of good Samaritans since as much as 10 percent of its total population are regular volunteers.

During his inspection tour of Guangdong Province, Xi Jinping asked Shenzhen to never cease its drive to reform and opening up. The achievements made by Shenzhen SEZ are representative of the tremendous changes and historic achievements realized by China since its reform and opening up. The 40 years of the city's reform and opening up have proven that emancipation of the mind and opening are the best strategies for China to stand up, become wealthy and maintain strength. 

NANLING VILLAGE

Like Father, Like Son

Text by Huang Liwei

Behind the development miracle of Shenzhen's Nanling Village are struggles across two generations of local residents.

Over the past 40 years, the four-square-kilometer Nanling Village in Longgang District of Shenzhen has transformed from a poverty-stricken village into a modern neighborhood with collective fixed assets of 3.5 billion yuan and per capita annual income of 150,000 yuan.

The village's development miracle is attributed to struggles across two generations of local residents.

Poverty Breeds a Desire for Change

Before China's reform and opening up in the late 1970s, Nanling villagers "relied on loans for production and lived on government relief," and the impoverished life forced many to flee away, according to 73-year-old Zhang Weiji, who formerly served as Party chief of Nanling Village.

Zhang began to serve as a village official since the 1960s. Before China implemented its reform and opening-up policy, 576 villagers from 134 households there were divided into four production teams. Zhang decided to build a factory on empty land in collaboration with some companies by introducing outside investment.

Early in 1980, after Zhang

communicated with multiple stakeholders, the village joined hands with an electronics factory, the first such partnership in Shenzhen.

Zhang Weiji led village officials and villagers to improve the environment, carry earth from the mountains to smooth out the road and plant trees to beautify the village.

In 1987, the first industrial zone was built in Nanling Village. A total of 14 enterprises moved in and the fixed assets of the village grew to 5.3 million yuan. Most villagers became employees of these companies and began working eight-hour days to earn monthly salaries.

Zhang Weiji (right), former Party branch secretary of Nanling Village, and Zhang Yubiao, secretary of the Party Committee of Nanling Village Community. by Chen Jian



The villagers showed great respect for their senior Party leader and a willingness to follow him wherever he decided to go next.

In 1982, Nanling Village received its first land acquisition compensation fee of 430,000 yuan, when Zhang Weiji served as captain of the village's first production team. After extensive discussion and consideration, he decided to use the money on

development.

Some doubted the decision at first but soon changed their mind after realizing the money would be invested in building factories and expanding production.

In 1983, the township government proposed merging the four production teams in Nanling, and the villagers rallied around Zhang to lead the work.

Zhang proposed combining the

assets of the first production team into a joint fund to foster common prosperity. He persuaded villagers by going door-to-door and ultimately merged the assets.

Zhang was elected Party chief of the village and director of the village committee. The four production teams in Nanling Village were formally merged.

Zhang Weiji solemnly promised

At the Nanling Village Community Service Center, village Party branch secretaries from the old revolutionary base areas visit to learn about experiences that fostered prosperity in the community. Zhang Yubiao, secretary of the Party Committee of Nanling Village Community, shares Party building experience and the economic transformation of Nanling Village Community. by Chen Jian





Former Party chief of Nanling Village Zhang Weiji recounts stories about local development at the central square of Nanling Village Community. by Chen Jian

his fellow villagers that they would always have enough to eat, live in new houses, have extra money to spend and enjoy long and healthy lives.

Almost 35 years later, Zhang is proud to have kept those promises. “I meant what I said,” he grinned. “They would never have followed me if my heart wasn’t in it.”

He is usually the first to offer to shoulder others’ woes. When rain flooded factory workshops, he jumped in the water with a bucket to drain water.

To make the village more beautiful, seven family members of village officials have served as voluntary cleaners for more than 20 years. The village built a bathroom especially for migrant workers, and Zhang’s wife oversees the supply of hot water.

“Not only is our Party chief capable, but he takes the lead on

everything, so we always trust him,” explained Li Hongqing, former assistant to Zhang in Party affairs.

“Every Party member or official must remain fully devoted to serving the public,” Zhang asserted. He still serves his fellow villagers to this day.

Village Party members and officials have never enjoyed privileges. They receive the same shares and benefits as everyone else and none have ever broken the law.

A New Chapter

Zhang Weiji’s eldest son Zhang Yubiao was born in 1974 and holds a master’s degree in management from South China University of Technology.

In 1994, Zhang Yubiao returned to the village after graduating from college and became head of the village’s Youth League branch like his father did. In 1998, he began

serving as Party chief of the village, director of the village committee and chairman of the village’s economic development company.

Zhang Yubiao no longer has to face choices like splitting up portions of rice to feed more people and instead eyes avenues to lead Nanling Village to “greater glory.”

In the early 1990s, Nanling Village witnessed a new round of entrepreneurship. The village invested more than 90 million yuan, introduced eight foreign-funded enterprises and built the Golden Park Industrial Zone, which helped the village earn 10 to 20 million yuan in revenues each year, equivalent to an increase of 20,000 yuan in per capita income.

In 2004, Shenzhen began to accelerate the urbanization of rural areas.

Nanling Village transformed from a village into a community and

established a shareholding company. In 2006, Nanling set up a community Party committee, the first of its kind in Shenzhen.

Nanling is home to 1,000 native villagers, more than 6,000 registered locals and a resident population of 80,000. Creating a happy, livable modern community has become one of

Zhang Yubiao's greatest goals.

"I respect my father very much, but I am not him," remarked Zhang Yubiao. "I have to blaze my own path."

In 2012, the Party's 18th National Congress proposed a new development strategy. Zhang Yubiao began to realize that the sustainable development of Nanling had to be driven by


innovation.

In 2017, Nanling invested 300 million yuan to set up Shenzhen's first venture capital fund under a community-level stockholding company and undertook a group of forward-looking and high-growth innovative projects. To eliminate backward production capacity, Nanling terminated a contract with a traditional company early and paid 20 million yuan for breaking the contract.

A few years ago at a Nanling shareholders meeting, Zhang Yubiao promised that he would resign if he failed to foster a successful transformation in three years. Just as they did to his father, the villagers chose to trust the new leader, and they collectively set off on a new journey towards economic prosperity.

Zhang Yubiao collaborated with a company associated with Tsinghua University and joined hands with specialists from Sun Yat-sen University to establish a science and technology park and a design research institute. Rent is no longer the major source of revenue, and instead earnings come from equity.

Today, Nanling has built a science and technology park and set up the Nanling Equity Investment Fund Management Co., Ltd. which has financed the development of artificial intelligence, electronics, information technology, healthcare, new energy and new materials, and introduced dozens of high-tech industries.

"In the past we relied on farming. Later we 'cultivated' a real estate industry," said Zhang Yubiao. "Now we have to 'seed' high technology. I am confident we can incubate several high-tech companies and become bigger and stronger. One day, I will be there to ring the bell with villagers after Nanling produces a listed company." 



Nanling Village Community has established a service mechanism supported by Party members, social workers and volunteers. The community has registered 34 social organizations and 20 voluntary service teams. by Wang Lei



Residents exercise at the Nanling Village Community Service Center. by Chen Jian

HUAIDE

Governing a Village with Passion

Text by Huang Liwei

From a village to a metropolis, changes have taken place not only in the administrative system but also in the ideas and concepts of social governance.



Young lion dancers from Huaide. by Wang Lei

From a small fishing village to a bustling international metropolis, Shenzhen has undergone enormous changes over the past 40 years since China implemented the reform and opening-up policy. During this exponential growth, changes have taken place not only in the administrative system but also in the ideas and concepts of social governance.

In May, journalists from *China Pictorial* visited Huaide Community

of Fuyong Sub-district in Bao'an District, Shenzhen. From the Huaide Ancestral Hall to the community service center and to the residents' homes, they learned about the dramatic changes that have occurred in yesterday's villages thanks to the administrative concepts of modern communities, featuring joint contribution and shared benefits.

First "Dividend Village"

Upon entering Huaide, known as the first "Dividend Village" in Fuyong Sub-district, visitors will see seniors pleasantly chatting under the trees or young mothers playing games with their kids in front of the ancient ancestral hall. The famous Shenzhen speed seems to slow way down there.

The history of Huaide, literally meaning "honoring ancestors' benevolence," can be traced back to the late Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).

"Huaide has experienced tremendous changes thanks to favorable conditions in climate, geography and human capital," asserts Fang Quanwei, who has served as a village official for over 20 years. "Over the past few years, we have capitalized on each favorable condition, including our country's implementation of economic reform and opening-up policies, our geographical location near Hong Kong and Macao and our great vision and unity."

Located in west-central Bao'an District, Huaide links the north and the south of Shenzhen.

Before 1979, Huaide Village primarily earned a living from agricultural production, and its annual per capita income was less than 200 yuan. In 1983, it began seeking external investment and launched an industrial park.

In the early 1990s, Huaide Village



Fang Quanwei explains the village code of Huaide, which has been preserved in the ancestral hall. Family traditions have greatly enhanced the governance of the community. by Wang Lei

received 30 million yuan in compensation for land acquisition. The village committee agreed that the money should be used for the long-term development of the collective economy.

Village officials went door-to-door to persuade those entitled to compensation to join in a long-term plan. Eventually, all villagers agreed to use the money to build an industrial park, which was named Cuigang No.1 Industrial Park and covered 47,000 square meters.

In the aftermath of the long stretch of rapid urbanization, village officials have maintained a keen eye for business development. They have continuously maintained and enjoyed appreciation of collective land resources and practiced large-scale land acquisition and construction of industrial areas. They hire outside professionals to enhance the development of commercial real estates, conduct intensive reform and are now in the process of building a modern central business district as well as an industrial park to boost the headquarters economy.

By 2017, the total assets of collectively owned enterprises in the village reached over 5 billion yuan, with profits of 460 million yuan and



per capita dividends of 310,000 yuan, making Huaide the leading “Dividend Village” in the locality and the pride of its residents.

From Village to Community

In 2004, Shenzhen hastened its urbanization of rural areas and became the first city in China to eliminate the rural institution system and household registration.

Huaide Village was also restructured into Huaide Community, and its collective economy was transformed into a shareholding system. The villagers were elevated to community residents and shareholders.

The rapid advancement of industrialization and urbanization has spawned the “rampant” growth of villages such as Huaide. Problems such as real estate speculation, population influx, renovation and maintenance of dilapidated buildings, environmental sanitation, and disputes among neighbors have triggered concerns as to how the stable development of the entire community

would be ensured.

Huaide people are again using their wisdom to lead the establishment of a unique pattern of modernized community governance.

According to Pan Jiaodong, Party chief of the community, two prominent features characterize Huaide’s community governance. Firstly, they increase the say of the community’s Party committee, which consolidates the Party committee’s core position. Secondly, they highlight service to the people and promote a pattern featuring joint contribution, joint governance and shared benefits.

Over the past few years, the community’s Party committee has made considerable achievements in governance. It set up the Common Homeland Construction Committee (CHCC), Property Management Association, and Volunteers Association in addition to various social organizations to take care of senior residents and provide education and training, cultural and sports entertainment, and neighborhood aid.



Veteran community volunteers deliver vegetables to households with seniors over the age of 70. by Chen Jian

Since its founding, the CHCC has focused on addressing the most pressing issues in the community, hearing residents’ complaints and brainstorming solutions with all organizations and people from different groups to effectively handle conflicts and disputes in a timely manner.

Moreover, the community has carried out various charity activities to attract civic participation from the wealthy. The “Silver Hair” choir has attracted many seniors who love to sing. The youth basketball league provides young people with more activities. After-class child care services have solved the problem of the gap between the time when children get home from school and when parents get home from work.

“Our dreams are way past contentment,” smiled Pan Jiaodong. “Our final approach is to encourage everyone to make a difference alongside social progress.”

In accordance with the unified deployment of Bao’an District, in 2017, Huaide was designated as a pilot community for the establishment of a governing system for modern communities.

Mother’s Kitchen Bakery in Huaide Community. by Chen Jian





Residents of Huaide Community take a group photo in front of the ancestral hall. by Wang Lei

Good Family Traditions

Huaide takes pride in its incomparable advantages, which include good traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation.

“Since the first settlement of the Pan clan, the people of Huaide have maintained graceful Confucian family traditions,” explains Pan Jiaodong. These family traditions and parental guides have been compiled into the *Chronicles of Huaide Village*, which has been disseminated through various forms such as songs, cultural works and


inscriptions in the Pan Ancestral Hall. To this day, residents in the community have followed those traditions passionately.

Volunteering is another common practice in Huaide. The community’s Volunteers Association was established, and over 30 percent of local residents are engaged in community charity activities.

Since 2016, volunteers have provided vegetable-purchase services to the doorsteps of the elderly over the age of 70 living in the community. Over the past couple of years, the coverage of this voluntary

service has evolved from 40 to 50 households to all local families with vulnerable people such as the elderly, the sick and the injured.

In recent years, many social work teams in Shenzhen have begun to open offices in local communities to work more professionally and efficiently.

Huaide has also launched a charitable care fund with 1.3 million yuan from local shareholding companies and more than 300,000 yuan from other organizations. The fund aims to help the poor, encourage advancement and support entrepreneurship. 

Long Wei “Phoenix” Flying to Shenzhen

Text by Li Xia

“Why does Shenzhen attract so many people? Because it is a beacon of hope. These talented people are attracted not by money but by the career prospects the city affords.”

The Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen (RITUS) is a new type of research institution, the first in Shenzhen, jointly established by a university and local government. Over the last two decades, it has incubated more than 1,500 enterprises, including 21 listed companies.

Long Wei is a key member of iCore Group Inc. under RITUS and

serves as both director of the RITUS Intelligent Oil and Gas Research and Development Center, and general manager of iCore Group Inc. “We are both a company and a research institute,” Long explains. “Only in Shenzhen will you find such fusions.”

Long Wei graduated with a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from Tsinghua University in 1996. He then headed to Johns Hopkins University in the United

States where he received a Ph.D. in energy resources. After graduation, he was hired by BP, one of the world’s top oil and gas companies.

Over the last few years, he has concentrated on researching gene detection of oil and gas and exploring reserves of oil and gas including unconventional combustible ice through rock scanning and analogue simulation.

This technology has been applied by the environmental protection industry to detect the content of PM10/PM2.5 pollutants in the soil and atmosphere and their three-dimensional spatial distribution, evaluate the impact of the environment on health and establish a digital soil gene pool, which can guide project design of a precise soil remediation scheme.

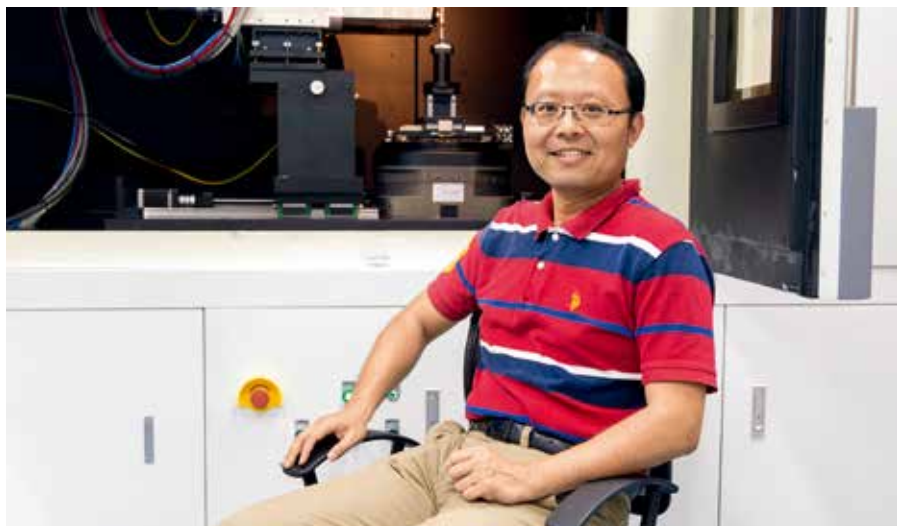
In technical terms, the advantage of this technology is to face down world-class challenges in accurately simulating the role of solid/liquid interfaces in a real and complex micro-channel network and reduce the simulation calculation error from more than 100 percent to less than 15 percent to meet the industrial practical application standards.

The self-developed geotechnical genetic digitization testing and big data intelligent decision-making system can help lower costs and increase efficiency of project operations and has been widely applied commercially.

Using this technique to analyze rock and soil has become more economical. In the past, tens of millions of yuan were required to lift tons of big rocks from the seabed to explore for oil. Today, however, oil can be detected with several kilograms of crushed stones from drilling.

This innovation also makes it possible to quickly establish a large database of geotechnical genes, reduce technical decision-making cycles

According to Long Wei, Shenzhen is a city of innovation. It is inclusive and open-minded, with internationalized vision. by Wang Lei



from several months to several days and implement digital and intelligent testing and analysis processes to help reduce engineering costs and improve efficiency while preventing accidents.

The global oil and gas industry has a market of 100 billion yuan annually. The wide application of such a technology in oil and gas exploration and production could bring huge economic benefits, significantly improve drilling efficiency and prevent anomalies.

The smart precision drilling demonstration project jointly conducted by iCore Group Inc. and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) on the South China Sea can reduce investment costs by up to 3 billion yuan annually. Moreover, this technology can provide early warning before potential operational malfunctions and avoid major disasters.

Foreseeing the prospects of this technology, RITUS sought out the research team of the technology and advised them to apply for the “Phoenix Program” launched by the Shenzhen municipal government in 2010 to bring more high-tech talent to the city.

In 2015, the team members were approved by the program, and at the end of 2016, five Ph.D. researchers with study experience abroad, including Long Wei and Jiu Cheng, returned to China and settled in Shenzhen to contribute to the development of China’s energy, marine and environmental protection industries.

The first visit to Shenzhen gave the team a good impression. During presentations, judges expressed concerns about whether they had sole rights to the intellectual property. They were also asked how they would protect their intellectual property going forward if they returned to China to start a business. For the team, the

more the emphasis placed on intellectual property protection, the stronger the motivation to innovate.

Shenzhen’s talent funding program has proven highly attractive and its funds are generous. For example, the “Phoenix Program” provides a special subsidy of up to 80 million yuan for a selected world-class team, and comprehensively supports high-level overseas researchers who decide to launch a startup or a research project in Shenzhen by providing preferential policies.

People benefiting from the program can enjoy incentive subsidies of 800,000 to 1.5 million yuan in addition to other supporting policies for settlement, children’s education, employment of spouses and medical insurance.

Of course, the entrepreneurial team must be able to bring benefits to the city and increase its GDP. They can’t solely focus on research and development, but must also contribute to industrialization.

The arrival of Long Wei’s team filled RITUS’s voids in the fields of energy security and ocean research.

“The top ten of the Global 500 companies are almost all oil companies,” Long noted. “International oil companies invest up to 10 billion U.S. dollars in R&D every year.”

Many of China’s traditional terrestrial oil exploration companies such as Daqing Oilfield in Heilongjiang Province and Tarim Oilfield in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, as well as Australia’s Roc Oil Co., Ltd. and many U.S. universities and mining enterprises, have shown great interest in the team’s projects and technologies and have begun extensive cooperation.

“Seventy percent of China’s crude oil is imported,” Long said.


“To become less dependent, we must develop our own oilfields. Energy is very important. We also want to make a difference in helping our country gain a greater voice in the energy sector.”

Like many returned graduates who have studied abroad, the team came back with a strong sense of mission.

Considering the technological monopoly wielded by developed countries, the team members are very open-minded and confident. “China is now paying greater attention to protecting intellectual property rights,” Long said. “This further boosts people’s willingness to innovate. The United States has done a good job in this area, as has Shenzhen.”

Long Wei lived in the United States for nearly 20 years. When he arrived in Shenzhen, it didn’t feel much different from the United States. To him, Shenzhen is an innovative, inclusive, open-minded and internationalized city.

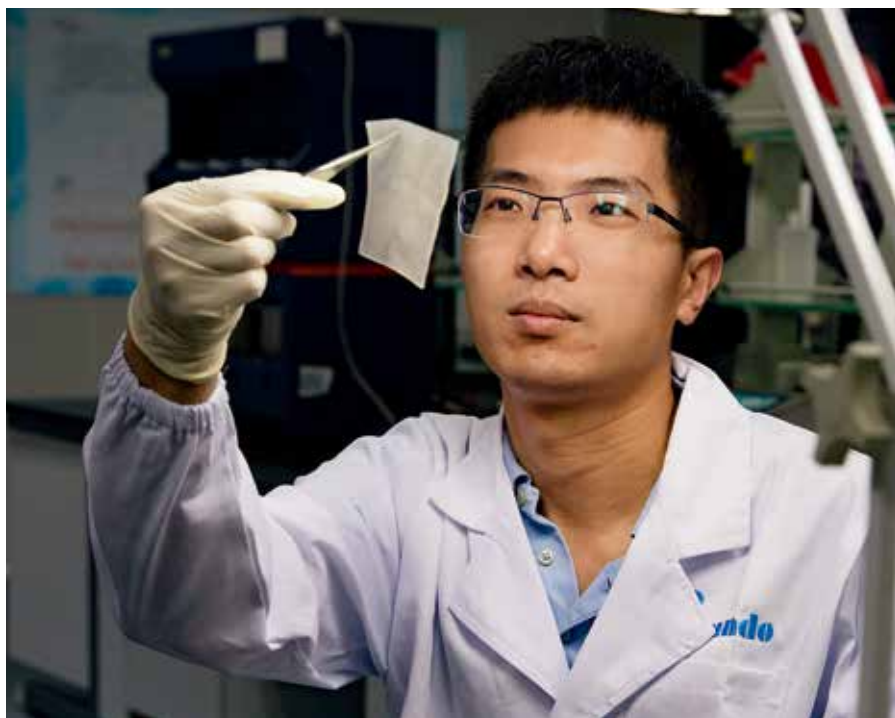
“The building of the Shenzhen municipal government is called the Civic Center, which has impressed me deeply. It is a service-oriented government. Many private enterprises in China like BYD, Tencent and Huawei are all supported by the Shenzhen government.”

Shi Lei, head of the General Office of RITUS, remarked: “Why does Shenzhen attract so many people? Because it is a beacon of hope. These talented people are attracted not by money but by the career prospects the city affords. This city offers more opportunities than the United States. It provides greater job satisfaction. Shenzhen would hardly have become what it is today without the introduction of such a large pool of talent. It owes its great industrial transformation to the great progress it made in science and technology. We are confident.” 

She Zhending Down to Business in Shenzhen

Text by Wang Lei

“Shenzhen’s entrepreneurial environment is mature, so many are eager to start business in the city.”



This year marks the 10th anniversary of She Zhending’s resettlement in Shenzhen—his new home and land of opportunity. by Chen Jian

Dr. She Zhending, founder of Shenzhen Lando Biomaterials Co., Ltd., has developed the first Chinese-made double-layer artificial skin after eight years of tireless work with his team. The company leads

the country in technology related to orderly regeneration of dermal tissue, which benefits countless skin disease sufferers.

On August 8, 2017, the company’s artificial skin products were approved by the China Food and Drug

Administration, and they are now widely used in clinical medicine.

In 2008, Liu Weiqiang, vice president of the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen, appointed She Zhending director of the institute’s Biomaterials Laboratory.

A native of Hubei Province, She Zhending was admitted to Tsinghua University in 2000, where he majored in materials science and engineering. He was recommended for a doctoral program upon graduation, which he completed in 2009.

After completing a residency at the General Hospital of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, She stayed at the hospital for three years, which enabled him to get acquainted with almost everything related to hospital operations.

Then, he started thinking about launching his own business to develop high-end medical biomaterials to boost Chinese products which lagged behind in the international market.

When the Shenzhen-based Research Institute of Tsinghua University approved his idea, She’s only concern was whether he could launch the project on his own.

“We can help with personnel and labs,” Liu Weiqiang declared. She’s worries melted away. He arrived in Shenzhen, where he teamed up with several schoolmates who also hold Ph.D. degrees and industrial specialists in different fields.

“After graduation, all I could think about was starting a business,” She recalls. “I had no interest in working for a company. I wanted to start my own business, and I wanted to lead the sector of my focus.”

In 2010, She Zhending and his team began to conduct surveys and determine the research projects to

which they were about to be committed. “We targeted on two kinds: projects that are unprecedented in China, and those with huge market potential, both of which had to be cutting-edge internationally.”

They soon discovered “artificial dermis.” Also known as artificial skin, it is the material that guides the orderly regeneration and reconstruction of the skin. The raw materials are of animal origin, which are currently extracts from bovine Achilles tendons and pig cartilage.

The concept may seem simple in theory, but involves a wide array of scientific realms including biology, chemistry, macromolecules, materials, immunity, cytology, medicine and statistics to perfectly match tissues between animals and humans.

More importantly, the team had to address difficulties related to immunity and degradation, the rate of which must match the regeneration of dermal tissue, and the study cycles could be very long.

When their first product was sent for clinical trials, She and his team were very nervous. But they were overjoyed by the results, which helped them attract investment of 10 million yuan (US\$1.54 million), followed by another 60 million yuan (US\$9.27 million) very quickly.

At that time, several other teams in China had already conducted research in this field for more than 10 years, but She’s team quickly overtook them through full use of their outstanding capacity and leveraging various supporting policies from the local government.

Regenerative medicine refers to the promotion of self-repair and regeneration through the principle and methodology of life science, materials science, clinical medicine,

computer science, and engineering.

Lando specializes in tissue regeneration. The key to its artificial dermis technology is the induction of orderly dermal regrowth and the inhibition of scarring or contracting through the dermal matrix template.

“The artificial dermis we produce has a three-dimensional porous structure,” notes She. “About a week after transplantation, capillaries in the base and periphery of the recipient bed soon grow into the dermis.

After two to three weeks, the stent is fully vascularized and the thin autologous epidermis transplanted, completing the wound closure with minimal invasion at the donor site. Subsequently, the scaffold induces orderly regeneration of the dermis and progressively degrades.”

According to She, the biggest obstacle to recovery from a deep burn is the scar. Scar repair at the joints, armpits and other moving parts of the limbs can effectively improve the patient’s quality of life, and a restored appearance is the only way to fully heal a burn victim.

A handful of countries such as the United States have led the world in artificial dermis technology, which remains quite expensive. The artificial dermis produced by Lando, however, is starting to dominate the market due to its lower price and better clinical results than imported products. Today, the company’s products are used extensively in top-notch hospitals throughout China.

Shenzhen Lando Biomaterials Co., Ltd. is located in the Guangming New District. “We enjoy favorable conditions for business and accommodations with well-equipped facilities, which have saved a lot of commuting and made our employees happy,” says She.




She Zhending (middle) and his colleagues. Lando is a very young team with an average age that is barely over 20, a trend seen in many startup companies in Shenzhen. by Chen Jian

Lando is a very young team with an average age in the early 20s, similar to many startups in Shenzhen.

The city’s policies for industrial incubation and technological talent, as well as its inclusive business environment, have attracted many young and promising entrepreneurs.

“Shenzhen has jumped ahead in preferential policies for high-level entrepreneurs,” says She. “Each step of the venture is supported with multi-layered and comprehensive auxiliary policies. Shenzhen’s entrepreneurial environment is very mature, and many people are eager to start business in the city, where entrepreneurship is the focus.”

“In hindsight, it’s clear that Shenzhen was the right choice,” asserts She. “It was also right to insist on doing what I like.”

This year marks the 10th anniversary of She Zhending’s arrival in Shenzhen, which is now his home. In 2017, as one of the 17 grassroots Party representatives from Shenzhen, he was honored to attend the 12th Party Congress of Guangdong Province and became one of the first provincial Party representatives from the Guangming New District over the past decade since its establishment. 

Cao Wenjing Second-Generation Shenzhen Immigrant

Text by Li Xia

Like many successful second-generation immigrants residing in Shenzhen, Cao Wenjing's personal growth is intimately linked to Shenzhen's rise, so she has a deeper understanding of the city's prosperity, rule-based administration, self-respect and inclusiveness.

Cao Wenjing considers herself a typical second-generation Shenzhen immigrant. In 2000, she arrived in the city with her parents who were nearly 40 years old. They had previously held public office in Huangshi, Hubei Province.

She transferred to Shenzhen's Binhe Middle School halfway through the first year. The entire school spoke Cantonese, but she could only speak Mandarin at the time.

She was deeply impressed by an open horizon of mass information, most of which came from Hong Kong. She still fondly recalls the Hong Kong fashion weekly *YES!*, which was published from 1990 to 2014.

Because of big differences between Shenzhen and Huangshi textbooks, her first English exam score was only 50 points, whereas in Huangshi, she had regularly scored 120. She wanted to give up and felt like a loser.

After the national college entrance examination, Cao was accepted to Shenzhen Vocational and Technical

College to study industrial analysis and inspection. After graduation, she joined Shenzhen Water Group as a laboratory technician at a water quality monitoring station.

Her parents were pleased with her job and considered it a good choice based on her college studies. They also thought it a safe vocation for a female because of the limited volume of social contact.

Ten years after she joined the group, Cao was director of its General Office.

Cao admires her parents for making the choice to pack up and leave home so late in life.

After becoming director of the General Office, Cao decided she needed more self-fulfillment. "Entrepreneurship seemed the most unknown realm to me, so it seemed like a good place to start."

Influenced by her parents, she quit her job. "My parents were both born in 1960," she says. "When they arrived in Shenzhen, they were almost 40. It was cool for people at their age

to make such a big decision. I believe they made the right choice because Shenzhen has so many opportunities."

One of her parents' closest friends hails from the Chaoshan region, Guangdong Province. Uncle Chen arrived in Shenzhen at the age of 16, carrying only dreams and a small bag of belongings.

"Basically, he tried every trade you can imagine," Cao explains. "He once operated a restaurant and eventually started a real estate company. Stories like these are common in Shenzhen. Everyone is hard-working, and every chance counts."

By chance Cao got into the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) business. The owner of the house was looking for a partner and approached her. She decided to seize the opportunity because she thought it aligned with her hobby of designing floral arrangements.

Cao Wenjing is optimistic about the prospects of the B&B in Jiaochangwei, a coastal village in Shenzhen. "Why don't you look into building another one around here?" she jokes. "It's a really popular spot."

Her B&B hotel Yanyu, literally "Rock & Islet," is located near a military base in Shenzhen's Dapeng District, along a narrow coastline of 3,000 meters. The area now has nearly 400 B&Bs, which compete fiercely against each other.

The change has been incredibly stressful for Cao because she estimates needing about seven years to earn back the landlord's investment. For now, she is only trying to earn back the huge investment.

Yanyu features floor space of more than 400 square meters, with 10 rooms decorated in black and white with strong modern appeal. The building looks natural, elegant and pleasant compared to others, which appear



Cao Wenjing has had the opportunity to experience the city's prosperity and civilization alongside her own development. by Chen Jian

either exotic or rustic.

"In Shenzhen, I get a lot of respect as a hospitality industry entrepreneur," Cao notes. "Our guests are polite. They offer to share their expensive wines."

She has become even more optimistic about the future development of Dapeng District since the establishment of the Dapeng New Area Administrative Committee. The entire area is becoming a national 5A scenic spot. "We're naturally blessed to work in such a setting," Cao asserts.

Shenzhen is known for its strong civil organizations, and the B&B Association was established in Jiaochangwei. "When I opened my business, other shop owners came to help," Cao recalls. "Later, when two young girls launched their hotels, I went to help. Now many young entrepreneurs come back from abroad with many new concepts and ideas in tow. I've learned a lot through talking to them."

Shenzhen has everything a business could need. As long as you have

an idea, you can make it a reality. "If I wanted to franchise out my B&B in another city, I would find investors after they came to assess what I've done here," Cao says. "But, I have never heard of anyone from Shenzhen starting a business elsewhere. Shenzhen is always their first choice for startups."

Cao can list the advantages of Shenzhen: no geographical discrimination—"All those who come here are Shenzhen people," high inclusiveness, high degree of civilization, and everyone obeying the rules and regulations.

"My strength is my diligence," she grins. "My only regret is that I never received much formal education, which remains a pain in my heart."

The shelves of Yanyu's sitting room are packed with black and white photos and books such as the hit Chinese sci-fi novel *The Three-Body Problem* and the famous contemporary literary work *Ancient Boat*. "That's about the extent of my reading list," she admits.

Cao maintains a large circle of friends. Ten years ago, she started


getting interested in photography due to the influence of friends who were 10 to 20 years older. "In my mind, they are super cool—they stayed focused on one thing, photography, for a lifetime. Now, in their fifties, they live in farmhouses, develop film, smoke a pipe, raise cats and dogs and build their own little utopia. I'm a bit idealistic and impulsive, so I understand them."

As for Uncle Chen, he is a special case. "When he turned 60, he gave all of his business to his brothers. He took some money and went to Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province, where he contracted several hills to achieve his long-cherished dream of establishing the Laobanzhang Pu'er Tea Plantation." Cao has great admiration for him.

Education certainly helps many, but there are many paths to cultural accomplishment. This is evident in Cao Wenjing. At the age of 32, she talks in a decent but unsophisticated manner, cheerful but not flamboyant, considerate yet not contrived.

Like many successful second-generation immigrants in Shenzhen, Cao Wenjing's life is inextricably linked to the city's development, so she has a deeper understanding of its prosperity, rule-based administration, self-respect and inclusiveness.

The experiences of her parents' generation in entrepreneurship were gritty but successful, kindling a daring spirit to make bold choices alongside pragmatic progress.

Communicating with friends of different ages who have succeeded in different walks of life has taught her to take what comes and make the best of things. Many new Shenzheners like Cao have grown up to be grateful, kind and appreciative of all life has to offer. 

Shenzhen

Dreamers' Heaven

Text by Shi Lei

Shenzhen has become a top destination for the thinkers of tomorrow.

Twenty-eight years ago when I first arrived in Shenzhen, only a single bus line reached the Shekou Industrial Zone from the Luohu Railway Station, and a single trip took two hours. In those days, only small private stores sold electric appliances like televisions and refrigerators and offered no warranties or repair service. Even so, many young people like myself chose to stay because the city was totally different from China's inland cities. Despite its rustic qualities, it gave us hope—hope to change our lives.

In the early 1980s when the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was first built, manufacturing enterprises from Hong Kong and Taiwan dominated the place. In the 1990s, considering its limited territory, Shenzhen eyed upgrading its industry to high-tech realms that require smaller spaces, emit less pollution and have greater added value. But the city lacked colleges, institutes and a talent pool. So the municipal government of Shenzhen invited some inland universities to establish research institutions in the city. At the end of 1996, the first local academy—Research Institute of Tsinghua University in

Shenzhen—was launched jointly by the Shenzhen municipal government and Tsinghua University. The former invested 80 million yuan in the construction of the institute, a big expenditure for a government whose total annual revenue was only 3.7 billion yuan at that time.



A true immigrant town, Shenzhen is so inclusive that everyone strives for a common goal and easily reaches consensus. ”

Thanks to the sound academic and industrial environment of Shenzhen and Guangdong Province, this new type of research and development institutes enjoyed rapid growth.

Tsinghua University has taken advantage of its alumni resources and global reach to help its graduates win support from the Shenzhen municipal government's "Phoenix Program" and Guangdong Province's "Pearl River Plan" and built a platform to help overseas graduates return to start business. In recent years, the institute has produced five



Shi Lei, assistant president of the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen, in his office. Thanks to the sound academic and industrial environment of Shenzhen and Guangdong Province, the institute enjoys rapid growth.

teams that have won grants under the “Phoenix Program” and three teams for projects under the “Pearl River Plan,” not only enhancing its research level but also accumulating industrial strength for the city and the province. The city hopes all of these teams will become high-tech giants in the future.

Today, more than 60 universities from around China and the world have set up research institutions in Shenzhen. Over the past two decades, the local government launched a series of plans to attract high-caliber professionals by providing subsidies to new graduates. Shenzhen is now home to more than 20 million residents, ten times more than the population in the 1990s. And the average age of its population is only 30 years old. The influx of

so many young people has injected considerable vigor and creativity into the city. A true immigrant town, Shenzhen is so inclusive that everyone strives for a common goal and easily reaches consensus.

Adhering to its original aspiration to become a high-tech city, Shenzhen has evolved into an advanced technology hub. Radiating from the high-tech industrial park in its Nanshan District, Shenzhen High-tech Industrial Zone now houses over 60 institutes and headquarters of many elite high-tech enterprises like Tencent and DJI. Thousands of such companies operate in the area covering only several square kilometers but create a total industrial output worth thousands of billions yuan. The high-tech industrial park in

Nanshan District alone hosts 150 listed companies, over 80 percent of which are high-tech firms.

Over the past 20 years, Shenzhen has become the top destination for innovative startups. It has become the city for dreamers due to its sound market environment, advanced model of governance, preferential industrial policies, perfect industrial support and chains, abundant private investment capital and special culture of an immigrant city. These factors have also fueled Shenzhen’s miraculous growth in the past few decades. 

The author is assistant president of the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen and director of the institute's General Office.



Brave New World of Chinese Sci-Fi

Text by Gong Haiying

Chinese-American author and translator Ken Liu has been helping introduce China's science fiction to the world.

In February 2018, the Chinese version of *The Dandelion Dynasty*, the first English novel by Chinese-American writer Ken Liu, was published. This traditional Western fantasy epic has “re-imagined” the emergence of China’s Han Dynasty (202-220 A.D.). It combines the scientific spirit of the West with classical aesthetics of the East. The core of the story and its narrative is a mix of Western and Eastern elements, just like Liu himself, who grew up in a culturally diverse atmosphere.

Liu translated Chinese sci-fi works *The Three-Body Problem* and *Folding Beijing* into English. The “nearly perfect” translation (according to author Liu Cixin) helped *The Three-Body Problem* become widely known in Western countries. The novel is now hailed as a “treasure of global science fiction.” China’s science fiction is now world-famous. Meanwhile, its translator Ken Liu has emerged as an excellent science fiction writer.

Since he began to publish in 2002, he has been honored by many major international awards for science fiction such as the Hugo Awards, the Nebula Awards and the World Fantasy Awards.

The Print of Oriental Culture

Born in the 1970s in Lanzhou, Ken Liu moved to the United States with his parents when he was 11 years old. He studied British literature and law at Harvard. Despite his Asian roots, Liu managed to receive the education of a Western elite. He writes in native English but is heavily influenced by Eastern culture. Liu Cixin once remarked that Ken Liu’s works have managed to “combine scientific imagination and traditional Chinese culture in a delicate and profound manner.”

In *The Dandelion Dynasty*, Ken Liu mixed Eastern elements such as ancient Chinese legends, history, military plots and technical innovation in a novel manner. Influenced

Ken Liu delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Nebula Awards on November 1, 2014. Xinhua



by “Steampunk” science fiction, the novel created a world dominated by highly developed ancient Chinese engineering technologies. Ken Liu said, “I want to create different aesthetics yet feature some of the cool machines of ancient China such as movable type printing, a kite for military spying invented by Lu Ban (507-444 B.C.), and a wooden ox used for transportation of army provisions invented by Zhuge Liang (181-234).”

Ken Liu has read many books on Chinese history and is a fan of ancient Chinese poetry and contemporary Chinese chivalric novels,

which have greatly influenced his writing. *The Paper Menagerie* (2012), his first work to win a Hugo Award, depicts the cultural collision between a second-generation immigrant to America and his mother. Due to a rebellious attitude and juvenile logic, the protagonist missed out on much of the profound love of his mother. Liu’s subtle writing style in this novel is impressive.

Liu’s writing has “an Oriental charm”—reserved, with limited words but profound meaning. Chen Qiufan, a famous Chinese sci-fi writer, explained Ken Liu’s style in cinematic terms: “Rather than a



In February 2018, the Chinese version of *The Grace of Kings* of the trilogy *The Dandelion Dynasty*, the first English novel by Chinese-American writer Ken Liu, was published.

close-up, Liu will give you one side of the face or a back to the camera. Buried under the water are waves of emotion.”

In *The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary*, Ken Liu invented a Japanese studio called Yurushi. Chinese sci-fi writer Xia Jia first translated it as “Kuan Shu” (forgiveness), but Liu suggested she change it to “Ren Shu” (benevolence and forgiveness). The switch was inspired by a sentence from *The Book of Han*, a history of the Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-8 A.D.), expressing hope that the Chinese would forgive with benevolence.

Promoting Chinese Science Fiction

In addition to writing, Ken Liu has also translated science fiction by contemporary Chinese authors including Chen Qiufan, Xia Jia and Hao Jingfang into English, playing a key role in introducing China’s sci-fi works to the world. Chen Qiufan’s





In 2014, Ken Liu translated the first volume of the renowned Chinese sci-fi trilogy *The Three-Body Problem* into English, and China's science fiction has since garnered global fame. Above are the covers of the three volumes of this trilogy. Ken Liu translated the first and third volumes.

work *The Fish of Lijiang*, translated by Ken Liu, won the World Fantasy Awards in 2012, the first to a Chinese author.

“When I begin the project, the first step is adjusting the narrative structure to tell the story in a way that is familiar to American readers,” Liu reveals. When translating Xia Jia’s *A Hundred Ghosts Parade Tonight*, Liu translated China’s traditional 24 solar terms into English phrases that could be easily understood instead of using transliteration. For example, *Jingzhe*, the third term, is translated as “Awakening of Insects.”

Of Liu’s translations, the most famous is the English version of *The Three-Body Problem* published in 2014. This book is about a Chinese story, but in order to introduce the environment to a new culture, Liu decided to maintain the original meaning as accurately as possible to retain a bit “wonder and strangeness.” But to help Western readers understand the political background, Liu introduced

footnotes, which are rare in English novels. “I wanted to help English readers understand the history related to the story with a few footnotes.”

In 2015, Liu Cixin said in his acceptance speech for the Best Novel of the 73th Hugo Awards that “translation always transcends cultures and space, and as for this book, Ken Liu is the bridge.”

After finishing that translation, Ken Liu invited many American celebrities in the field of science fiction to write book reviews (including David Brin, who serves as a member of the advisory board of NASA’s Innovative and Advanced Concepts group). Many of the reviews were published in major media outlets such as *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, which ultimately facilitated publication of the English version by the big publishing house Tor Books.

Ken Liu is a rare and outstanding figure in cultural exchange between China and the United States, not



only because he translates well, but also because he enthusiastically promotes the works with all available resources. Often through his guidance, a growing number of emerging Chinese science fiction writers are




Ken Liu (left) and Liu Cixin met science fiction fans at the award ceremony for the fifth Nebula Awards in November 2014. by Li Yibo/Xinhua

finding more platforms such as American magazines *Clarksworld* and *Lightspeed* to present their works to Western readers. Japanese author Tachihara Toya once sighed, “Our science fiction is not as famous

as China’s because we don’t have Ken Liu.”

Ken Liu believes that the value of science fiction lies in the possible expression of the future. The metaphors involved in huge

changes inspire us to examine ourselves. Along with many other Chinese science fiction writers, he is influencing how people around the globe examine the world and explore the future. 

Blue-Collar Innovation

Text by Zhou Chenliang

“I’m happiest when I see electricity light up all households. It is my simplest joy, and all my colleagues feel the same.”

Zhang Liming is an employee at the State Grid Tianjin Electric Power Company. After 31 years since he joined the company, he has become a “blue-collar innovator.” He has managed or participated in over 400 technological innovation projects. He is also captain of a team comprised of members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Tianjin’s Binhai New Area, which offers free services for citizens.

After extensive experiments, Zhang and his colleagues invented a new tool that saves time when repairing a transformer problem caused by a melted fuse. With the invention, they can fix this problem in only 8 minutes compared to about 45 minutes without it. This technique was awarded a patent and has already been applied in many other places. It saves at least 3 million yuan every year.
by Qin Bin



On May 28, 2018, Zhang was awarded the title “Role Model of the Era.”

Pioneering Emergency Repair

Zhang has remained continuously engaged in emergency repairs since he started working, and he still wears overalls all year round. “I seldom turn off my cell phone,” he reveals. “When I hear rain start falling at night, I get up or even go to the office to ensure I arrive at the scene of an accident as soon as possible.”

On November 20, 2016, it snowed heavily in Tianjin. The community Zhang oversaw suffered a sudden power failure. Zhang and his colleagues arrived at the power station soon after receiving the call. They discovered that part of the underground electrical cable of the community was broken. The problem was not difficult to solve. They just had to climb the utility pole, turn off the breaker and isolate the faulty part. However, because the pole was frozen, the climbers couldn’t be completely secured.

After a short discussion, Zhang and his colleagues devised a solution. They removed some of the ice on



To eliminate the risk of live-line working, Zhang and his colleagues created a live-line working robot in 2017 with the help of artificial intelligence technologies. courtesy of State Grid Tianjin Electric Power Company



the pole and installed the climbers, and then Zhang and two colleagues formed a “ladder” to support the climbers with their shoulders, from which another colleague worked with a tool that extended to five meters. It was still snowing heavily, and the cold wind chilled their bones. He Li, Party chief of the community, recalled the scene: “It was the first time I witnessed an emergency repair. It was really shocking. To express our gratitude, we made a silk banner and gave it to them. When we entered their office, we were again shocked because the room was already full of banners. Behind every banner must be a touching story.”

Innovation Workshop

The communities that Zhang serves are all located in the Binhai New Area, the first free trade zone in northern China. Over 140 companies listed among the *Fortune* Global 500 have offices there. Ensuring a continuous power supply in the area and eliminating problems are Zhang’s primary tasks.

To perform an excellent emergency repair job, one first needs familiarity with circuits. When leaving work, Zhang often walk past a line of circuits with a notebook in hand making notes. Over the years, he has checked over 80,000 kilometers of power lines and drawn more than 1,500 circuit diagrams. He has developed a unique skill to diagnose accidents: He can often guess the nature and general place of the accident and sometimes even the cause of the accident based on the affected area, environment and condition of circuits and equipment, which gives his team more time and efficiency to perform an emergency repair.

Zhang Liming also pays close



Over the past 11 years, Zhang Liming's service team has provided regular door-to-door assistance for 150 families with aged, sick or disabled members in 11 communities. They have completed nearly 10,000 service tasks, and over 100,000 households have benefited from their work. by Dong Fang



attention to improving his work and management. He invented the “Liming Emergency Repair Book Case” in which all of his tools can be fixed in set places to save time in an emergency. He has streamlined his work process, shortening the necessary time to solve a high-voltage fault from three hours to less than an hour. After extensive experiments, he and his colleagues invented a new tool that saves time when repairing a transformer problem caused by a melted fuse. With the invention, they can fix this problem in only eight minutes compared to the previous 45 minutes without it. This technique was awarded a patent and has already been applied in many other places. It saves at least three million yuan every year.

In 2011, a new workshop was named after Zhang: Zhang Liming Innovation Workshop. It is the first workers' innovation studio of State Grid Tianjin Electric Power Company. His workshop has created over 400 new technological results and has been awarded more than 140 patents, 20 of which are firsts for smart grids. Zhang's workshop has also incubated eight another innovation workshops and cultivated many other “blue-collar innovators” who have produced immense economic benefits.

To eliminate the risk of live-line working, Zhang and his colleagues created a live-line working robot in 2017 with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies including sensing, recognition and cognition. By the end of 2018, the robot is expected to be able to perform all jobs involving live-line working, a big leap from machines operated by men to AI robotics. The project has become a key AI technological project of Tianjin Municipality.


Captain of CPC Service Team

Zhang is also the captain of a service team mainly comprised of CPC members, which was founded in 2007. The team offers emergency repair services.

On April 12, 2017, a local community was scheduled to have power shut off for basic maintenance. However, the service team got a call from Ms. Fan, a citizen in the community, just before the outage. Fan tearfully explained that her 96-year-old mother was bedridden and clinging to life with the help of a respirator. The outage would have endangered her life, so Zhang and his colleagues rushed to her home with a generator. They set up a 20-meter circuit line and supplied the home with power for 11 consecutive hours during the outage.

Zhang and his team members also printed cards with their phone numbers, and distributed them throughout the communities they serve. In 11 years, the service team has provided regular door-to-door assistance for 150 families with aged, sick or disabled members in 11 communities. They have completed nearly 10,000 service tasks, and over 100,000 households have benefited from their work.

“I'm happiest when I see electricity light up all households,” Zhang grins. “It is my simplest joy, and all my colleagues feel the same.”

Zhang Liming has taken the baton from the older generations of power workers. Through analyzing over 10,000 power supply accidents, he has summed up typical solutions for more than 50 cases. He also created the “Case Bank for Emergency Repair” and “Handbook for Emergency Repair.” Zhang passes on his expertise to his colleagues, carrying on the tradition of the older generations. 



Leaving Ivory in the Wild

Text by Chong Yatu

On January 1, 2018, China banned all trade in ivory, imposing stiff penalties on anyone caught buying or selling ivory products in the Chinese mainland. Since then, every trading market for ivory products in the Chinese mainland has been shut down, resulting in a dramatic drop in their trade.

May 29, 2015: More than six hundred kilograms of confiscated ivory and ivory products are shown to the media before being destroyed in Beijing by China's State Forestry Administration and General Administration of Customs. VCG



About three months ago, Kenyan wildlife conservationist Daphne Sheldrick, known to many as “elephants’ adopted mother,” passed away at 83 after devoting her whole life to elephant protection. Her book *The Orphans of Tsavo* touched many Chinese people and illuminated them about the importance of protecting the animal.

On January 1, 2018, China banned all trade in ivory, imposing stiff penalties on anyone caught buying or selling ivory products in the Chinese mainland.

Since then, every trading market for ivory products in the Chinese mainland has been shut down, resulting in a dramatic drop in ivory product trading.

A Good Model

Ivory artware has played an important role in traditional Chinese culture and many Chinese people still adore ivory products. So, for a long time, ivory trade was acceptable in China.

But in recent years, the public awareness about elephant protection has increased exponentially. In 2016, China announced a ban on all ivory trade and processing activities by the end of 2017. During the six months after the ban went into effect, China shut down 172 companies engaged in processing or selling ivory and suspended online retailers while strengthening the fight against illegal transporting and smuggling of ivory and ivory products.

On May 29, 2018, a crackdown against ivory smuggling by Beijing Customs seized six tusks—the 13th such bust this year. Since the beginning of 2018, the Chinese government has launched special campaigns to fight endangered

June 21, 2018: An elephant drinks at a watering hole in the Amboseli National Park. In the past five years, about 150,000 elephants were killed by poaching, one every 15 minutes. At this rate, the largest mammal on the planet will be extinct in 15 years. VCG



species smuggling including ivory, confiscating 158 ivory artworks and busting a dozen smuggling rings.

“The ban is the fruit of the efforts of the Chinese government and insightful activists from across China and around the world,” declares Professor Qin Tianbao, vice dean of the School of Law and director of the Research Institute of Environmental Law at Wuhan University. “Ivory trading is still legal in many countries, which worries animal protection organizations because hunters have considerable economic motivation to

kill elephants.” Qin believes China’s move to ban ivory trade sets a shining example for other countries.

Market Effects

Many animal protection organizations hail China’s ban as a “milestone for global wildlife protection.” Peter Knights, founder of WildAid, proclaimed, “China’s exit from ivory trade is the greatest single step towards reducing elephant poaching.” And he called for other countries to follow.

China has consistently been

monitored by animal protection organizations because Asian countries including China compose an important consumer market for ivory. Due to historical, cultural and traditional factors in many Asian countries which are home to ancient civilizations, many people remain fond of exquisite ivory products, considering them a symbol of social status and identity.

In the past five years, about 150,000 elephants were killed by poaching, one every 15 minutes. At that rate, the largest mammal on the



already outlawed ivory trade or are in the process of eliminating it,” notes Qin. “Other countries will follow.”

Data has already evidenced the effectiveness of China’s ban. According to TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network, when China had barely announced its plan to prohibit ivory trade two years ago, the domestic price of ivory dropped by 50 percent. And in the first half of 2018, China’s Customs saw a 50 percent drop in smuggling busts from the highest level in previous years.

The declining price has greatly lowered the profits for smugglers and poachers, which has reduced illegal hunting in African countries. The Kenya Wildlife Service declared that the population of elephants killed by poachers in Kenya decreased to 46 in 2017, a big drop compared to 390 in 2013. Meanwhile, in 2017 poaching crimes in Tanzania fell down by 55 percent compared to 2015.

Remaining Challenges

On January 29, 2018, WWF, TRAFFIC and China Wildlife Conservation Association jointly

held an international symposium. At the event, local government officials, corporate representatives and other attendees presented constructive suggestions while praising China’s ban on ivory trade.

Some local governments revealed that due to the ban, some ivory-related companies had gone out of business, significantly impacting tax revenue, employment and even social stability. Especially for some senior craftsmen, it is near impossible to abandon a lifetime of experience to begin working a different job. Smoothing the transition is a daunting task for local governments.

And some argue that after more than 2,000 years of development, ivory carving has become an important intangible cultural heritage in China. Since the ban went into effect, traditional carvers have been left without material on which to work and an acceptable alternative has yet to emerge.

Professor Qin also stressed the importance of international cooperation. He believes that protecting wild animals requires coordination across various sectors in multiple countries including wildlife rangers, transportation providers and retailers. Merely restricting the consumer market is far from enough.

The Chinese government is looking at the issue from all angles. On May 8, 2018, Chinese officials met with their Ugandan counterparts in Kampala and reached an agreement to jointly combat trafficking of wild animals and plants. From June 5 to 7, 2018, the Chinese government sponsored lectures in Malawi and Tanzania on protecting wild animals and plants and eliminating wildlife trafficking. 

planet will be extinct in 15 years. This grim forecast prompted China’s issuance of the ban.

Only a handful of countries and regions in the world have announced bans on ivory trade. The United States banned the trade in June 2016, and China’s Hong Kong is expected to eradicate ivory trading gradually by 2021. However, many European and Latin American countries have yet to enact similar restrictions.

“The three largest trading markets for ivory—the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and the United States—have

May 24, 2017: Officials from Beijing Customs check smuggled ivory. VCG



Second-tier Cities Compete for First-class Talent

Text by Zhang Xue

The essence of talent competition in second- and third-tier cities is a fight for talent dividends.

“What is the most precious resource of the 21st century? Talent!” This popular movie line hearkens to the ongoing battle for talent in China. Since last year, a number of second- and third-tier Chinese cities have launched talent recruitment programs, and competition for talent is revving up.

This summer, a record 8.2 million Chinese university graduates enter the workforce. Considering the limitations and increasing housing prices in Beijing, Shanghai and other first-tier cities, more and more young graduates are looking to up-and-coming second- or third-tier cities.

Raging Competition

In 2017, Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province in central China, kindled the trend by urging a million college graduates to stay in the city to start businesses. Wuhan rolled out favorable policies enabling newcomers to obtain local *hukou* (permanent household registration) with their diplomas.

Chengdu is revamping its talent policy to address the housing problem of Rongpiao, or “Chengdu drifters.” The city will loosen its *hukou* policies to help skilled migrant workers settle



On June 22, 2018, Wuhan University held its 2018 graduation ceremony. A total of 15,239 students graduated from the university this year, including 7,279 with bachelor's degrees, 6,826 with master's degrees, and 1,134 with doctoral degrees. VCG

permanently, even before securing employment. University graduates seeking employment in Chengdu can enjoy seven days of free lodging courtesy of the city.

In Nanjing, news that university graduates from elsewhere seeking jobs in the city could receive a job subsidy of 1,000 yuan swept across social networks and triggered heated debate in the media.

Changsha offers 6,000 yuan, 10,000 yuan, and 15,000 yuan rent and living allowances to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree holders respectively for the first two years after they settle down in Changsha. It also offers as much as 30,000 to 60,000 yuan in subsidies to master's and doctoral degree holders seeking

to buy their first home in the city.

So far, more than 20 second- and third-tier cities have joined the competition for talent. The cities are offering subsidies, free accommodation plans, preferential *hukou* policies and other methods to attract talent, with each providing more enticing conditions than the last. The cities share a dream: finding ways to attract talented people to become residents.

Now, changes in migratory patterns affecting the future development of such cities are frequently reported. Chinese recruitment website BOSS recently released a 2018 in-season talent trend report. The report noted that in contrast to past college graduates heading to work in first-tier cities

like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, more and more are choosing cities like Hangzhou, Wuhan, Chengdu, Zhengzhou and Xi'an. Furthermore, of young professionals leaving first-tier cities, 35.5 percent head to one of the above five.

Why Compete for Talent?

The improvements in second- and third-tier cities and the higher survival threshold of first-tier cities are two invisible hands pushing in the same direction.

Second- and third-tier cities demand urgent economic transformation and upgrading, and the massive demand of industrial transformation and upgrade exacerbates the scramble for talent. With the decline of China's demographic dividend, the talent dividend is now front and center. Modern economic development has shown that human resources are the inexhaustible driving force of economic growth. On the surface, the cities are lobbying for talent, but they are really vying for human capital dividends. The creativity inherent in human resources is fundamental to fostering greater possibility and supporting the long-term sustainable development of a regional economy. China's economic development has already shifted to a phase of high-quality development. In contrast to the large-scale innovative industrial pattern in first-tier cities, second- and third-tier cities more desperately need the talent dividend to promote industrial upgrade. At the same time, reform and development of second- and third-tier cities also create more opportunities.

Take Wuhan as an example: It announced a goal to attract 100,000 research or alumni professionals with overseas studying or working

experience, a million college graduates working in innovative industries or starting businesses in the city, and a million skilled employees. This drive works in conjunction with Wuhan's goal to become a high-level innovation center.

For many years, China's first-tier cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen have attracted a continuous inflow of talent with their developed economic conditions, mature infrastructure, high-quality public services and broad space for development. Numerous elite schools in such cities also helped attract young talent. The continuous influx of talent has resulted in rapid economic and social development of the first-tier cities as well as exponential population growth of these cities. By the end of 2017, the resident population of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen was 21.71 million, 24.18 million, 14.5 million and 12.53 million, respectively. The downsides of such magnitude such as rising housing prices and more frequent traffic jams have become big problems in these cities. In recent years, many have voiced a desire to flee first-tier cities.

To help cure big-city ailments, Beijing and Shanghai pioneered population control plans. According to them, by 2020, the resident population in Beijing will be limited to 23 million for a considerable period of time. By 2035, the population of Shanghai will be limited to about 25 million. In 2017, the resident population of Beijing reached 21.7 million, leaving limited growth space. It is becoming natural for graduates to look to options in second- and third-tier cities.


The Key: Retaining People

Wuhan is winning the battle for

talent. The municipal government proposed to create a "city of youth, dreams, innovation and vitality." Many new policies have been launched such as preferential treatment in obtaining a *hukou*, subsidies for housing, aid to secure employment and grants for entrepreneurs. In 2017, a total of 301,000 college graduates chose to settle in Wuhan.

To attract more talent to the city, last year Wuhan decided to build affordable housing for university graduates and enable them to buy or rent apartments at a discounted price as low as 20 percent of the market price. Today, more than 7,000 such apartments have been provided in Wuhan. After online registration and verification of credentials, graduates can choose a room and move in immediately.

Some experts remain skeptical about Wuhan's heavy spending on talent. "Now, many second-tier cities are actively recruiting talent," says Yang Yiyong, director of the Institute of Social Development under the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research. "But even huge government subsidies will not keep them here after we first get them. We must give the drivers of these businesses enough room to develop, instead of just providing a home for employees."

While sparing no effort to attract talent, those cities should also waste no potential talent. Some experts point out that after recruiting a star, the real challenge is optimally utilizing the talent, integrating the individual's growth with urban development, providing a stage on which to perform, ensuring optimization of talent advantages and creating a virtuous circle of talent growth and urban development. 



Time-Honored Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot

Text by Mo Qian

A boiling pot cooking a wide variety of ingredients together creates a unique taste every time and a singularly inclusive dining atmosphere.



In 2006, Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot was titled as a "Time-honored Brand" of China. by Qin Bin

China is home to diverse regional cuisines and a blossoming foreign food scene, but for many, nothing tops the hotpot ritual of dipping fresh ingredients into a boiling broth. And Chongqing-style hotpot is particularly celebrated for its spicy soup and unique dining culture.

Qiaotou (literally, “end of a bridge”) Hotpot is a century-old restaurant in Chongqing and has been listed as an intangible cultural heritage of the southwestern Chinese municipality.

“Traditional cooking skills, great taste and a sincere and honest management philosophy compose the essence of Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot,” declared Li Bo, the fourth-generation inheritor of the seasoning skills that have also defined Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot.

Keeping Traditional Taste

Li Bo has worked at Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot since he was 17 years old, making him nearly a 30-year veteran.

Li started his career as a waiter, before being promoted to kitchen backup, where he learned how to prepare ingredients and honed his slicing skills. Two years later, he finally got the chance to learn about the seasoning.

Li knows as well as anyone how difficult it is to become a good seasoning chef. One must be able to tell various spices apart, know how to match them and expertly stir-fry in addition to having comprehensive seasoning skills. For example, bullet chili peppers from various places differ in pungency and taste.

Chefs must make good use of different ingredients to create the optimal taste. “For example, sesame paste can reduce spiciness as can oil



By mixing different seasoning sauces, the customers can create their preferred flavor themselves. by Qin Bin



Li Bo, the fourth-generation inheritor of the seasoning skills that have defined Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot. by Qin Bin

and garlic sauce,” Li noted.

Li illustrated that most classical seasoning chefs relied only on experience and don't use any quantitative or standardized data for reference. Therefore, as a seasoning chef, one must be not only diligent, but also sensitive and clever. In different types of weather and temperatures, the effect of seasoning can be quite different.

“Even when researching and developing a new seasoning recipe, we must preserve the basic flavor of Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot, and keep it hot and spicy with full of flavor, so we need to keep learning and make timely adjustment to let the seasoning produce the ideal result,” he said.

As an inheritor, Li Bo often ponders over how to best preserve the essence of the old brand, “It still comes down to orthodox traditional techniques, great taste and a sincere and honest management philosophy.”

Xia Hongliang, chairman of Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot Catering Service Co., Ltd., shares Li's sentiments. “As a time-honored enterprise, our first mission is to pass on traditional skills, maintain the spirit of craftsmanship, do good things and be a responsible enterprise,” he said.

Originating from the Dock

At the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and in the early Republic of China (1912-1949) period, hotpot



An excerpt from *Stories of Time-honored Brands in Chongqing—Qiaotou Hotpot*, a comic book penned by Zou Sixin, which recounts the origin and history of Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot. courtesy of Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot

spread across the country.

Located at the junction of the Yangtze and Jialing rivers, Chongqing is known for its well-developed water transportation network and has remained a major hub of southwestern China since ancient times.

In the 1930s and 1940s, harbor transportation developed into a major local industry and many locals began working at the docks.

Back then, dock workers performed considerable heavy lifting every day for a very limited income, so they tended to choose cheap and convenient food, but also dishes that provided enough energy to fuel their labor.

Some dock workers got the idea

to build a stone stove by the shore and boil the guts and organs of cattle and poultry thrown out by slaughterhouses, seasoned with chili, pepper, ginger and garlic. Entrails rescued from the waste bin were transformed into a tasty delicacy in the pot, earning the nickname “Liangunao” (meaning “everything in the same pot”).

In the 1940s, Li Wenjun, a wooden-boat businessman, inherited his father’s food vending business Qiaotou Lianguonao and expanded it by building several huts near Haitangxi wharf, then an important water passage linking Sichuan and Guizhou.

He made a bold innovation

in seasoning by adding cooking wine, crystallized sugar, fermented beans, ginger and butter to make the soup spicy and flavorful. He also introduced dipping sauce made of sesame oil and egg white in a small plate to serve with the main dish.

Because of the low cost and great flavor, such food was a big hit with dock workers. Many traveling merchants passing by the wharf became active promoters of the restaurant. With the fast spread of the restaurant’s fame, Li Wenjun formally changed its name to “Qiaotou Hotpot.”

Meaty Hotpot Doctrine

Today, Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot



Today, Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot with its robust hot and spicy flavors is booming across China. by Ma Gengping

operates more than 100 booming franchisees across the country. Even when changes are made in the seasoning to adapt to the local tastes, its unique hot and spicy taste remains.

To expand sales channels and enable people to enjoy their flavors at home more conveniently, Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot Seasoning Co., Ltd. was established in the late 1980s. Now it produces an annual output of 1,400 tons according to Xia Hongliang. In 2006, the company began building its own ingredient bases to grow peppers and other spices to ensure a top-quality supply and maintain the authentic taste.

According to online sales data of time-honored brands released by


Alibaba's Tmall.com in January 2018, Chongqing Qiaotou Hotpot is among the top ten best-selling old brands overseas. Its customers come from 173 countries and regions.

The advancement of society has provided great opportunities for the popularization of hotpot. Improved transportation networks have increased exchange and integration between the northern and southern areas of China as through the provinces, which has enabled certain local cultures to expand into national culture.

The heavier flow of people has minimized differences in dining culture between different regions of China, giving hotpot's inclusive

dining style huge development potential and market.

In fast-paced cities, "can't wait" diners are comforted when a boiling pot arrives at their table instantly. And by enjoying hot and spicy food, many pressures of life and work could melt away into the "hot fun."

A boiling pot cooking a wide variety of ingredients together creates a unique taste every time and a singularly inclusive dining atmosphere, which aligns with the "Doctrine of the Mean" (or Zhongyong) in traditional Chinese culture. Few meals are as popular with Chinese around the world as time-honored hotpot. 



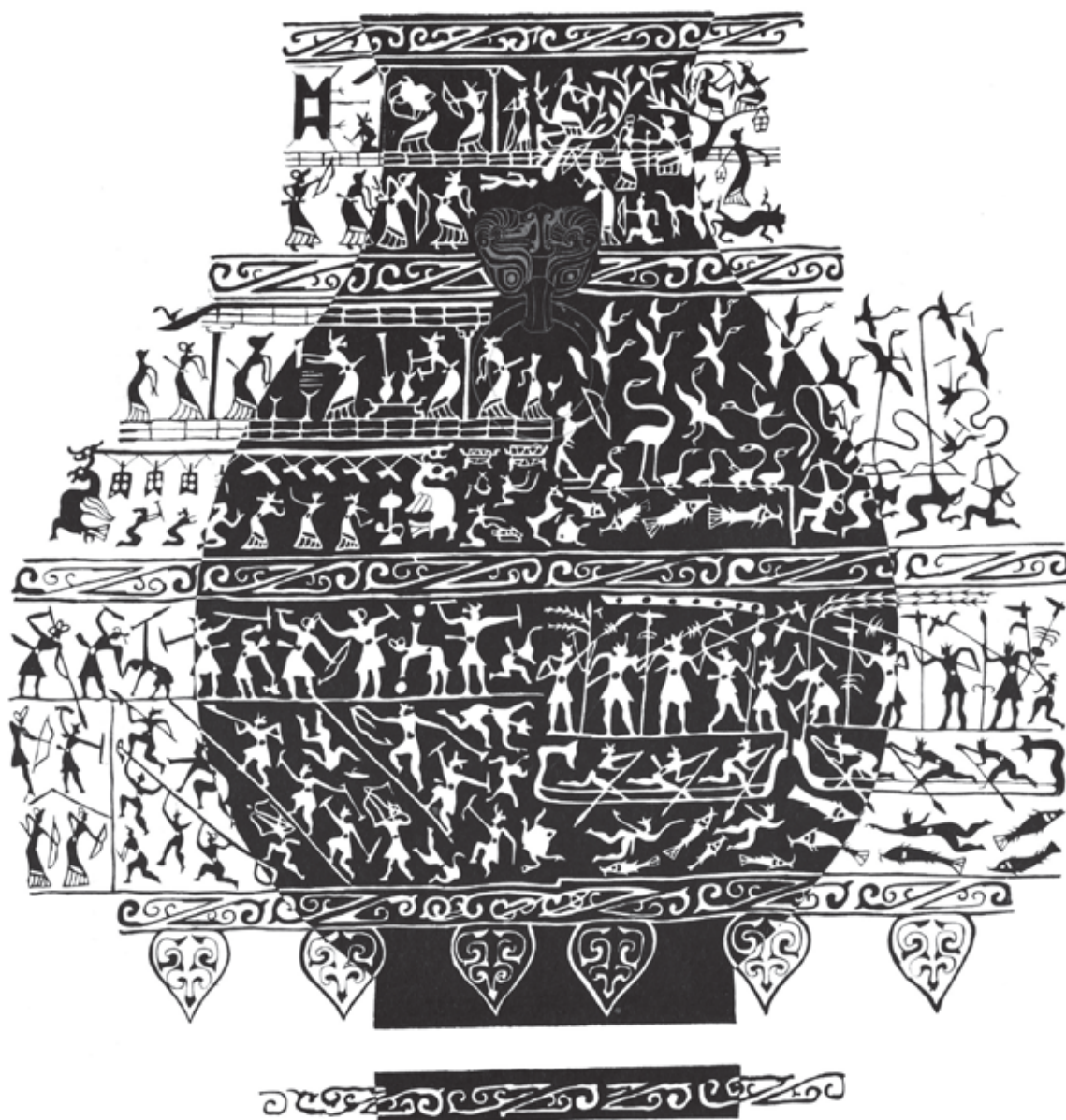
Beautiful Ancient Things in the Palace Museum

By Zhu Yong Published by People's Literature Publishing House, April 2018

“Every ancient thing demonstrates the strength of history and time.”

The Palace Museum was developed from the imperial palace of Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) dynasties. It is the world's largest and best-preserved ancient architectural complex. As of the end of 2016, the Palace Museum housed nearly 1.9 million items in its collection, of which rare cultural relics account for 42 percent of all those housed in Chinese museums. Of all the museums in the world, it holds the most relics and welcomes the greatest number of visitors.

Bronze works from the Shang (1600-1046 B.C.) and Zhou (1046-256 B.C.) dynasties, terracotta warriors from the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), bamboo slips from the Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-220 A.D.), tri-color glazed porcelain from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), ceramics from the Song Dynasty (960-1279), furniture from the Ming Dynasty



A drawing of patterns on a bottle dating back to the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), housed in the Palace Museum. The patterns show activities such as fishing, hunting, and banqueting.



A terracotta warrior of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), housed in the Palace Museum.



A tri-color glazed porcelain horse of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), housed in the Palace Museum.



A porcelain ware from the Ru Kiln in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), housed in the Palace Museum.



A cloak that used to be worn by a queen or empress on informal occasions in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), housed in the Palace Museum.

and garments from the Qing Dynasty can all be found in the Palace Museum. In this book, author Zhu Yong analyzes the most emblematic items from each era and outlines the life of 18 valuable exhibits with stellar prose. Together, all of these objects form the art history of the Palace Museum, preserving the beauty of Chinese cultural heritage. The book also includes nearly 100 high-quality pictures of relics housed in the Palace Museum and museums around the world.

Why does the author refer to these items as “ancient things” rather than “cultural relics”? According to him, he wanted to emphasize the icons of each time. In the preface penned by the author that is titled *Gravels of the Forbidden City*, he wrote, “Every ancient thing demonstrates the strength of history and time.” Indeed, every dynasty has its unique character, and the “ancient things” in the author’s description reflect the cultural spirit of those dynasties.


Daily Sunshine, an emerging media outlet established in Shenzhen in 2001, remarked, “The author wrote not just about ancient things themselves, but also covered elements including history, art, nation and military closely related to those things. Such ancient things are footprints



A red plate with peony patterns of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), housed in the Palace Museum.

across time and embedded with memory, civilization and wisdom.”

Writer Feng Jicai once declared that Zhu was obsessed with China’s past culture and regarded it as an integral part of his spirit. History, normal everyday life, national character, aesthetic genes and marks of sensibility are all melted in it. All of these come possible because of his love of Chinese culture.

Zhu Yong, born in 1968, is a renowned contemporary author and scholar as well as director of the Institute of Films and Televisions of the Palace Museum. He formerly worked as a resident artist at the University of California, Berkeley. He published the historical novel *The Bloody Imperial Court* and the historical prose collection *Secret Corners in the Forbidden City*. A total of 12 volumes of *Zhu Yong’s Selected Works* have also been published. He created several major documentaries and has won many awards. 



The painting, *Competing for Beauty*, depicts peacocks in spring. Its painter Jiang Ping used Western techniques when painting the peacocks' feathers.

Chinese Stories in Traditional Paintings

Text by Yu Ge

“Traditional Chinese painting is like embroidery—both need to be carefully examined to find their hidden meaning.”

In the early 1940s, Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), one of the most famous traditional painters in modern China, spent nearly three years copying murals preserved in the Buddhist grottoes in Dunhuang, in China's northwestern province of Gansu. In 1944, he held an exhibition in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, to display what he copied. Among the visitors was a 10-year-old boy, who still has a brochure from the exhibition.

The boy was Jiang Ping, who was born into a family of calligraphers and painters. His father, Jiang Fanzhong, was a friend of Zhang Daqian. Three years later in 1947, Jiang Ping became Zhang's youngest student.

Over the past seven decades, Jiang Ping has continuously absorbed Zhang's painting techniques while exploring his own style, eventually reaching the status of a painting master of Sichuan. In May 2018, 84-year-old Jiang Ping held a solo exhibition at the “China Treasures” art gallery in Beijing Hotel, displaying over 120 paintings he finished over the past 20 years.

On appreciating traditional Chinese art, Jiang told visitors:

“Traditional Chinese painting is like embroidery—both need to be carefully examined to find their hidden meaning.”

Silent Mountains, Glassy Ponds

Traditional Chinese painting is popularly referred to as “ink-wash Danqing.” In fact, “Danqing” refers to heavy colors such as cinnabar and turquoise used in art creation. Therefore, the name “ink-wash Danqing” not only includes references to two

different coloring styles, but also represents two major genres of traditional Chinese art: ink-washing painting and realistic heavy-color painting.

Zhang Daqian was dubbed the “Eastern Brush” by many in Western art circles. Many of his works integrate realistic and freehand styles. Jiang Ping inherited this strategy and is particularly proficient in realistic painting. His exhibition in May displayed both ink-wash and heavy-color paintings involving subjects like



The exhibition displayed over 120 paintings by Jiang Ping. by Han Wancheng



Cicadas in the Moonlight depicts five lifelike cicadas flying or perching on willows bathed in the moonlight, creating an elegant, poetic ambience in line with the verse on the painting.

flowers, birds, landscapes, animals and insects, fusing humor with solemnity.

In contrast to freehand painting featuring rough and simple lines with focus on setting the mood, realistic painting requires drawing details with exquisite, meticulous strokes similar to classical Western oil painting.

Perhaps this is why Jiang Ping likened traditional Chinese painting to embroidery: both require painstaking meticulousness. “Realistic painting is time-consuming, and each piece of work could take more than a month to complete,” he said.

Moreover, traditional Chinese painting is often accompanied by calligraphy, poetry and seals, which enrich the artistic value of the painting. Jiang Ping believes that “poetry is music to painting, and painting is dance to poetry.” He often selects a poem before beginning a painting and likes to write meaningful verses that eulogize virtues and good character on his paintings. According to Li Yansheng, a former researcher at the Palace Museum, Jiang Ping inherits Zhang Daqian’s style that retains the core value of traditional Chinese scholarly painting.

“Jiang Cicada” and “Jiang Fan”

Jiang Ping’s paintings depict a wide array of subjects including flowers, birds, fish and insects. He is so noted for his cicada paintings that he was nicknamed “Jiang Cicada.” A painting depicting cicadas in the moonlight was particularly popular at the exhibition. In the painting, five lifelike cicadas flying or perching on willows bathed in the moonlight create a poetic ambience.

In traditional Chinese culture, the cicada symbolizes nobility and moral integrity, so it’s a popular subject for many painting masters.

Jiang Ping began to draw cicadas



The "China Treasures" art gallery in Beijing Hotel, founded in 2008, is committed to promoting and collecting precious artworks created by state-class masters that are considered "national treasures." by Cheng Gong

in the 1980s. After careful research of cicada paintings from past dynasties, he concluded that few of those works devoted much detail to the insect's wings and some even incorrectly depicted its body structure. Accurately representing the cicada's body structure and vividly depicting its thin, transparent wings became Jiang's mission. Over the next several years, he collected cicadas from the wilderness, made specimens and studied their bodies carefully. "Just like Qi Baishi's depictions of shrimp, I apply the thickest stroke before the ink dries," Jiang revealed. "This is how I clearly depict the veins on their wings."

According to senior Chinese collector Li Baojia, Jiang Ping's cicadas differ from those of his teacher Zhang Daqian. "Jiang's cicada paintings are more meaningful and convey profound traditional Chinese culture."

Along with cicadas, Jiang Ping's work on fans is also outstanding. Many of his painted fans are on display at the exhibition as well. Chinese fan culture has a long history. As early as the 18th century, Chinese fans were introduced to Europe via the Silk Road and gained popularity with the upper class of the West. After centuries of evolution, fan painting and calligraphy have become icons

of classical Chinese culture.

Jiang had already become passionate about fan painting and calligraphy by a young age. So far, he has created more than 1,000 pieces of one or the other. He integrated and absorbed highlights of other artists to form a distinctive fan painting style after further exploring the aesthetic and visual effects of color brushwork. He once published a collection of fan paintings, for which famous Chinese art critic Liu Chuanming wrote in the preface: "Painting on fans, especially folding fans, requires not only following the curves of the fan to fill the space but also realistic techniques to draw the emptiness. Jiang Ping performs exceptionally well in both regards, so his fan paintings are imbued with an archaic touch and preserve orthodox styles of traditional fan painting."


Bond with "China Treasures" Art Gallery

The host of the 2018 exhibition, the "China Treasures" art gallery in Beijing Hotel, is located adjacent to Tian'anmen Square, the Palace Museum and Wangfujing Pedestrian Street. Li Jing, founder of the gallery, formerly worked with civil aviation companies and media organizations

which left her with rich experience in management and investment. She has been committed to the protection and inheritance of traditional Chinese culture for many years. In 2008, she founded the art gallery to promote and collect precious art created by state-class masters that are considered "national treasures."

Li Jing was impressed when she first saw Jiang Ping's work. "Many senior artists spend all of their time painting rather than promoting their art," she explained. "But their works are very impressive. What kinds of Chinese stories are worth hearing? I prefer stories from senior artists who have inherited traditional culture."

Along with traditional calligraphy and paintings, the art gallery has also collected more than 100 pieces of cloisonné and carved lacquerware. Both crafts were part of the first group of Chinese intangible cultural heritage. Many art and crafts masters have established cooperative relations with the art gallery including contemporary Chinese carved lacquerware master Man Jianmin and cloisonné master Xiong Songtao.

During Jiang Ping's painting exhibition, the art gallery organized several events themed around traditional Chinese culture to accent traditional Chinese painting with performances of *guqin* (a traditional seven-stringed plucked instrument) and tea ceremonies. On June 9, 2018, Djoomart Otorbaev, former prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, visited the art gallery and showed great interest in traditional Chinese calligraphy, painting and royal treasures. He pointed out how special Chinese culture is and how much of it cannot be found in any other country. He also expects more excellent Chinese cultural achievements to begin being exported. 

New Directions: **Yang Luzi**

June 9 - August 12

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing

This exhibition features two groups of photos by artist Yang Luzi: a trilogy of black-and-white images titled *A Great Empire Needs Great Color* and a full-color series called *What Are the Wonders When You Were Born*. The themes of these two groups of works are related but different, manifesting the artist's ideas on time, history and civilizations.

Born in 1987, Yang Luzi earned a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from Harvard University in 2011 and a master's degree in the art of film production from the California Institute of the Arts in 2016. She lived in Germany for two years, where she studied comparative poetics, which shows in her work.



Poster for the exhibition "New Directions: Yang Luzi."

Animamix Biennial 2017-2018

May 26 - August 28

MoCA, Shanghai

Themed "Ballade" and tracing a timeline from present to future, the exhibition features works by 43 Chinese artists. Displays include paintings, sculptures, animation, virtual technology and interactive new media art. Combining AI bioengineering, computer neural network and interactive games, the exhibition explores virtual reality animation, cartoons and games.

Poster for the exhibition "Animamix Biennial 2017-2018."



Da Vinci & Lu Ban

May 29 - August 28

Riverside Art Museum, Beijing

This exhibition displays inventions in realms including art, architecture and crafts from both the East and the West across 2,500 years. It features 102 original manuscripts by Leonardo da Vinci, 50 installations, and the technological achievements of Lu Ban, an inventor from the Spring and Autumn Period (770 -476 B.C.). With the help of multimedia digital technology and

holographic images, the exhibition comprehensively demonstrates the remarkable wisdom and civilization created by human beings.



Poster for the exhibition "Da Vinci & Lu Ban."

Turning Point—40 Years of Chinese Contemporary Art

June 6 – October 7
Long Museum, Shanghai

Long Museum has selected nearly 100 influential works created in the last four decades in its collection including oil paintings, traditional Chinese paintings, sculptures, photos and installations and arranged them sequentially to trace the development of China's art since 1978.

The exhibition is divided into four eras: 1978-1984, 1985-1989, 1990-1999 and post-2000. It highlights the practice and exploration of Chinese artists and the sustained vitality of Chinese art.



The Third Generation by He Duoling and Ai Xuan, oil on canvas, 180×190 cm, 1984.



Purple Air by Liu Wei, 2009.



La Town by Cao Fei, 2014.



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