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Cover: A bird's-eye view of Shanghai's Pudong at night, July 13, 2018. by Wang Zhengkun



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by Xie Huanchi/Xinhua

➤ Closer Ties Regardless of Global Changes

September 11, Vladivostok, Russia: Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) shakes hand with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their talks.

Xi arrived in the Russian port city earlier in the day for the fourth Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) upon an invitation from Putin.

During their talks, Xi and Putin acknowledged that

China-Russia ties have been developing with stronger momentum this year and have entered a new period of faster development at a higher level.

Regardless of changes in the international situation, China and Russia will steadfastly promote their ties and commit to safeguarding world peace and stability, agreed the two heads of state.



by Liu Zhen/CNS

➤ Further Opening of Financial Sector

September 20, Tianjin: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (left) holds a dialogue with representatives from communities such as industry and commerce, finance, think tanks and media outlets attending the Summer Davos 2018. The dialogue was hosted by Klaus Schwab, executive chairman of the World Economic Forum.

Li said the opening up of the financial sector of a nation was closely related to its development phase, economic level, and regulatory capacities.

“While maintaining financial stability, China is determined to further open up its financial services, fully implement the pre-establishment national treatment and the negative list system, and gradually remove limits on business licenses and foreign ownership,” Li said.

Currently, China has removed the caps on the foreign ownership of banks. Foreign ownership caps on insurance and securities companies will also be lifted, he said.



VCG

➤ Goodbye Jakarta, Hello Hangzhou

September 2, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province: Thousands of citizens gather at Wulin Square to watch the closing ceremony of the 18th Asian Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

China's ancient city of Hangzhou, famous for its scenic lake and temples, will host the 2022 Asian Games. When the flag handover ceremony was held and the 8-minute "Hangzhou Time" cultural performance was staged at the ceremony, the pulse of Asia

flowed through Hangzhou, and the welcome message was well conveyed. Cheers burst from the crowd and the world.

The Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC) has promised an event of the "highest possible standards," and now HAGOC is working to meet all expectations. The city is the third Chinese host of the continent's premier sports event after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010.



by Qin Lang/Xinhua

➤ NIO Makes NYSE Debut

September 12, New York, United States: William Li (left, front), founder and chairman of Chinese electric vehicle startup NIO Inc., celebrates after ringing the bell as NIO stock began trading at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

The Shanghai-based company, trading under the ticker symbol NIO, announced the pricing of its IPO of 160 million American depository shares (ADSs), at

6.26 U.S. dollars per ADS for a total offering size of approximately US\$1 billion, assuming underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional ADSs.

William Li stressed that the great potential of the Chinese market and the robust and competitive industrial base there have injected great momentum into his startup. Founded in 2014, NIO, dubbed China's Tesla, is a pioneer in China's premium electric vehicle market.

China's Macroeconomic Logic Behind the "Six Stabilities"

Text by Su Jian

Taking both international and domestic macroeconomic situations into consideration, the CPC Central Committee's introduction of "six stabilities" is tremendously important.

On July 31, 2018, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a conference to analyze China's current economic situation. The conference also emphasized that work must be done to stabilize employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign capital, investment and expectations. How is China's current economic situation looking? Why did the CPC Central Committee introduce the "six stabilities?"

Challenges for China's Real Economy

According to figures released by China's National Bureau of Statistics on July 16, the country's GDP expanded by 6.8 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2018, down by 0.1 percentage point from the same period last year. Growth rates of both investment and consumption endured significant decreases.

In terms of prices, although price growth rate is not high, the upward pressure on pricing is becoming increasingly evident. China's consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of inflation, demands special attention. In July, CPI grew 2.1 percent year-on-year, up by 0.2

percentage point from June. The growth rate of consumer prices has witnessed a modest increase. Analysts believe there is a possibility that prices will continue to go up in the second half of the year.

China's producer price index (PPI), which measures the costs for goods at the factory gate, has also risen. Pricing trends for consumer goods are closely related to CPI. Since April this year, the growth rates for the prices of consumer goods such as food and clothing have seen month-on-month rises.

Risk of Escalating Trade War

Trade friction between China, as an export-oriented economy, and the United States remains an important factor influencing China's current economic situation. The escalated trade war directly affects people's expectations for China's future economic development, which in turn affects their immediate decisions on investments and consumption in China.

In terms of economics, China used to serve as the "world's factory" in the international arena. It exported abundant commodities to the U.S. and Europe and enjoyed large trade surpluses. However, with Chinese export commodities placing greater importance on branding and containing higher technical content at present, China is moving towards the U.S. on the value chain at a high speed. Thus, a competitive relationship was formed between the two parties.

The Necessity of "Six Stabilities"

Considering both the international and domestic macroeconomic situations, the introduction of the "six stabilities" is tremendously important. The conference held by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee pointed out that in the first half of 2018, growth rates for many economic gauges dropped,



January 23, 2018: A worker checks new energy vehicles rolling off the production line at an SGMW factory in Liuzhou City, southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. by Zhang Ailin/Xinhua

but not employment. However, according to the macroeconomic figures released by China's National Bureau of Statistics on August 14, employment also witnessed a decline in July. Thus, it is important to stabilize employment and investment.

Stabilizing foreign trade and foreign capital is a long-term economic issue. This situation is dictated by China's developmental stage, and the total global demand is not a figure that can expand easily. In the future, competition will become even more intense.

Since the beginning of 2018, China's financial risk has mounted, making it harder for freed-up funds to flow into the real economy. In general, stabilities in employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign capital, and investment are complementary to each other.

Now, China needs steadily growing foreign trade, and its reform and opening up should be driven to a deeper level to meet the ever-growing consumption upgrade. Besides, stable foreign investments are highly significant to China's currency exchange rate, foreign trade and international image.

During this period, when China's economy is facing great downward pressure, stable policies and solid economic development provide guarantees and enhance enterprises' expectations for the future.

The author is a professor with the School of Economics, Peking University.

The Belt and Road Initiative

New Life for China-Africa Cooperation

Text by Ehizuelen Michael Mitchell Omoruyi

The Belt and Road Initiative is broadening consensus, strengthening friendship and promoting infrastructure development in Africa.

More than a decade ago, the first formal China-Africa summit, officially referred to as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), opened in Beijing on a bright November morning. This year, the meeting coincides with China celebrating its four decades of reform and opening up. It provides a good opportunity for Chinese and African leaders to deepen cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The fact that China is sharing its amazing experiences in industrialization and development over the past four decades with the rest of the world is a key element of its recent

success. China lifted hundreds of millions of its people out of poverty, as attested by such institutions as the World Bank, through investment in urban and rural infrastructure projects and mega-projects in transportation, water and power. This is an unparalleled achievement that could be replicated in Africa.

The Belt and Road Initiative, a vehicle intended to drive growth in regional connectivity, is breathing life into China-Africa cooperation by broadening consensus, strengthening friendship and promoting infrastructure development in Africa. The Initiative has expanded China-Africa cooperation to broader frontiers such as trade, infrastructure, skills transfer, sports, tourism, medicine, technical management and scientific research. It has also enabled Chinese investment and loans in Africa to prioritize infrastructure projects such as Kenya's monumental Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway.

The Initiative has also helped propel bilateral trade between China and Africa recently. For example, China Customs statistics suggested that China-Africa trade was “off to a flying start” with US\$170 billion in 2017, up by 14 percent year-on-year. Furthermore, the trade volume between China and African economies reached US\$116 billion in the first seven months of 2018, up by 18.7 percent year-on-year.

Now, how African economies strategize by leveraging the Belt and Road Initiative is important considering the Initiative is a good channel for Africa to engage China more in infrastructure. Tremendous opportunities exist for Africa to secure Chinese financing for its infrastructure development to support intra-continental trade, which will help facilitate the newly signed agreement to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Africa is also likely to benefit from the newly created China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), which is designed to coordinate China's foreign aid programs. The CIDCA institutionalizes the mutually beneficial and win-win concept of “development coordination” that is a key component of the Belt and Road Initiative. Africa has yet to climb the value chain of mineral processing and manufacturing. With the Initiative African economies could attract such funding to add value to their natural resources and produce commodities, which would help the region unlock the full potential of its natural resources.

We are facing dramatic and dynamic changes in the world. China and Africa have once again come to a crossroads since both sides are undergoing economic and social transformation. Numerous African economies are excited about full participation in the Belt and Road Initiative to reverse Africa's anti-industrialization process after the failed adjustment guided by Western “structured reforms” in the 1980s. The ultimate goal is to accelerate technology transfer, job creation and Africa's comprehensive transformation.

China is now continuing diversified high-tech, labor-intensive and capital-driven industrial capacity cooperation with countries across the African continent as well as with islands nearby. It is certain that the FOCAC Beijing Summit in September 2018 has created even more impetus to accelerate the fourth industrial revolution and fuel an economic leap forward in both China and Africa. 



The Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held from September 3 to 4, 2018. The photo shows a man taking pictures of a flowerbed decoration for the summit. VCG

The author is executive director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University.



Working in China

Text by José A. Morente Pérez

The vast difference between China and the rest of the world makes living and working in the country an enriching and rewarding experience seldom found elsewhere.

Since the opening up of the country to the outside world, many things have changed in the social and economic landscape of China. Among those changes, one is quite noticeable: the appearance of the foreign workers. My love story with China started many years ago. Back in 2011, I took my first lessons in Chinese Culture and Language at the Confucius Institute, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to study at this school. The professionalism of its teachers and staff was one of the reasons why I got hooked on Chinese language. At that time, the central reason I was interested in the Chinese language was to use it to find out more about the culture and eventually to travel around China. Working in China was never part of the plan. Keep in mind that in 2011 China was not recognized as a world power—they did great hosting the Olympic Games in 2008 but still had not reached the reputation of an economic giant, which the country owns these days.

I recall that when I started studying Chinese, people saw me as a

bookworm. But after the “boom” of China’s economy, suddenly I became a smart young entrepreneur who had predicted that China would lead the world in many ways. I really did feel that Chinese would become the language of the future. However, the promise of a good and well-paid job was not enough to motivate me to learn the difficult language—to learn a language well, you have to like the country, the language, its people and its culture. China is a complex country in the sense that you either love it or hate it. Most people I know love it and recognize its status as a truly fascinating place.

May 23, 2009: Over 130 foreigners who work or study in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province, celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival by participating in a rice dumpling-making competition. VCG



Challenges and Rewards

For the most part, working in China as a foreigner is like how it would be working in many other countries. Among the challenges you may face include getting used to the food, learning local languages and local customs and getting used to the business culture. The barriers of working abroad are obvious, but what about the height of those barriers? Food in China is among the most popular cuisines in the world—drastically different from Western food, yet most people love it. The language is difficult to learn, especially for Westerners, but that difficulty makes the reward of learning it much greater. Getting used to the local culture and its customs is key to the adaptation process, but if you succeed, a new world of knowledge and opportunities will open up before your eyes. The difference between China and the rest of the world makes living and working in the country an enriching and rewarding experience seldom found elsewhere in the world.

My working adventure in China started in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, and I still love this city. Everything went smoothly. I found



January 18, 2012: German businessman Bernd Forster (right) celebrates the Spring Festival with his wife Guo Zhonghua (second left), kids and employees in his home in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province. VCG

a job opening on the web, did some online interviews, and after a month of paperwork, I was on a plane to my destination. It was not my first trip to China, and I could speak the language, so I was confident. I was hired by a big Chinese company with almost three hundred employees, only four of whom were foreigners. This was the best thing that could have happened to me because it improved my Chinese language skill dramatically.

When in China

During my time working for the Chinese company, I also found the opportunity to learn about the local business culture—the dos and don'ts and what people expect in basic interactions. China is different from many places in this regard. You have to analyze and understand those differences if you want to fully enjoy your experience. For those who may wonder about the requirements for a work visa in China, work experience and a university degree are usually needed, but you should double check everything well in advance to avoid surprises.


Sometimes the further you go

from home, the closer it gets to your heart, and eventually I saw the sunset of my time at the Chinese company with the opportunity to work for a Spanish company operating in China. Once again, the working environment changed, and along with it, I found new things to learn and to discover. My second and current job in China arrived through “*guanxi*” (network connections). For certain, “*guanxi*” is something you need in China as in many other countries. The Chinese understand that the road to success is usually paved with a vast network of contacts, and the term is a lightning rod for Chinese culture. So if you come to China to work, get ready to hear the word and find out its real meaning and importance. Also remember “*gan bei*,” which literally means “dry cup” and is spoken like “cheers” when making a toast. It is frequently heard when Chinese people dine for social or business purposes.

Social and business relations in China are complex and therefore difficult to understand for foreigners—how to properly address superiors or avoid making people lose face in front of others. Seating

etiquette, how to toast, what to expect during a business meeting, the importance of punctuality during a meeting and how to interpret facial expressions and body language are among the basic norms you must become aware of.

There are plenty of other considerations to be made before coming to China to work. For example, when choosing which area of the country to work in, I recommend doing some research in advance to find out the main industries and resources in the area. For example, it is easy to find an IT-related position or operate your own business in cities such as Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Beijing.

The business world in China is extremely dynamic. Local people are always enthusiastic about hearing good ideas over a cup of tea (or beer) and chatting about feasible projects. This dynamism along with the drive of Chinese people to achieve new goals and grasp success makes China the perfect place to fulfill your dreams. What once was the American Dream is now Chinese. 

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



At the graduation ceremony of the Tianjin University of Technology and Education, African master's degree students get their diplomas. In his speech at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that China would provide Africa with 50,000 government scholarships and 50,000 training opportunities for seminars and workshops, and would invite 2,000 young Africans to visit China for exchanges.

Bedrock for China-Africa Ties

Text by Mithila Phadke

The roadmap for 2019-2021 unveiled at the Beijing edition of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation expanded the framework established at the 2015 Johannesburg summit.

To witness the impact of China-Africa friendship, visit Ethiopia, says Salamawit Kassa. See the African country's capital, Addis Ababa, first.

"Walking around the city can be like a tour of Chinese companies,"

says Kassa, a news producer with Fana Broadcasting Corporation there. "There are over 450 projects happening in every sector imaginable. We have at least 15 industrial parks." Complementing the various construction projects is the Addis

Ababa-Djibouti railway, a Chinese-built 756-kilometer electric rail project connecting landlocked Ethiopia to Djibouti.

"Addis Ababa's development is a window to the development taking place everywhere in Ethiopia, and

by extension, across Africa,” says Kassa. She considers the city’s gains among the fruits of Africa’s deepening friendship with China, which she hopes will strengthen further in the coming years.

This sentiment was at the heart of a two-day event Kassa attended along with fellow media representatives, delegates and heads of nations from countries all over the African continent. From September 3 to 4, 2018, Beijing hosted the third summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). With the theme “China and Africa: Toward an Even Stronger Community with a Shared Future through Win-win Cooperation,” the multilateral summit brought together China and 53 African countries plus the African Union.

The centerpiece of the FOCAC Beijing Summit was the 2019-2021 cooperation plan outlined by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which charted the path for China-Africa cooperation over the next three years with focus on eight key areas: industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, green development, capacity building, health care, people-to-people exchange, and peace and security. Among the highlights were China’s pledge of US\$60 billion of financing to Africa in the form of government assistance as well as investment and financing by financial institutions and companies. Xi called on Chinese companies to invest heavily in Africa over the next three years—at least US\$10 billion, to boost development.

The declaration that for Africa’s least-developed countries, heavily indebted and poor countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries that have diplomatic relations with China, debt incurred in the form of interest-free Chinese government

loans—due to mature by the end of this year—would be exempted was met with thunderous applause. The announcement followed through on the pledge made at the last FOCAC summit in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2015, at which intergovernmental interest-free loans owed by the least-developed countries were waived.

Deborah Brautigam, director of the China Africa Research Initiative at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington D.C., analyzed the pledge of loans and grants in a report. She noted that of the US\$60 billion pledged, only US\$50 billion would be provided by the Chinese government. The difference was to be made up by private Chinese companies’ investments. The government-supplied amount included US\$15 billion of grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans, US\$20 billion of credit lines, setting up a US\$10 billion special fund for development financing and a US\$5 billion special fund for financing imports from Africa.

The last two funds are unlikely to be loan-based, notes Brautigam, making the remaining amount of US\$35 billion less than that pledged at the Johannesburg summit: US\$40 billion.

She breaks the numbers down in her report: “The first pledge of Chinese interest-bearing loans was in 2006 (US\$5 billion). In 2009, the loan pledge doubled to US\$10 billion, and in 2012 it was US\$20 billion. At Johannesburg in 2015, the Chinese pledged a full US\$35 billion in interest-bearing loans of various kinds, and another US\$5 billion in grants and interest-free loans (US\$40 billion in total).”

However, the upside is that it is actually a more concessional package than what was offered in 2015. “China’s foreign aid pledge



2017: Startup entrepreneurs from African countries including Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa and Botswana visit the headquarters of Alibaba Group in Hangzhou and meet Jack Ma, chairman of the group. VCG

(grants, interest-free loans, and concessional loans) has jumped to US\$15 billion,” Brautigam says. This means that the Chinese government’s concessional assistance of US\$5 billion per year is officially the highest level ever given by China to Africa to date.

A common link across all eight key initiatives is the greater focus on building and strengthening local capacity. For instance, China has pledged to “share more of its development practices with Africa” and provide training to young Africans along with scholarships and exchange programs. Ten Luban workshops will be set up, and China will also help open a China-Africa cooperation center to “promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship.” Particularly significant in this regard is the pledge to increase imports, particularly non-resource products, from Africa.

President Xi also declared in his keynote speech at the opening of the FOCAC Beijing Summit that China follows a “five-no” approach in its relations with Africa: no interference in African countries’ pursuit of development paths that fit their



Staffers of the “film and television caravan” bid farewell to local children in Ethiopia. The “film and television caravan” was a major cultural activity promoted by StarTimes, a Chinese media group, aiming to bring quality films and television programs to African viewers. courtesy of StarTimes

national conditions; no interference in African countries’ internal affairs; no imposition of China’s will on African countries; no attachment of political strings to assistance to Africa; and no seeking of selfish political gains in investment and financing cooperation with Africa.

Keeping with China’s call to build an “ecological civilization,” FOCAC 2018 Summit, like the previous summit, ensured environmental cooperation was high on the agenda. As part of a “green development initiative,” the Chinese government will be undertaking 50 projects for green development and ecological and environmental protection in Africa to expand exchange and cooperation with the continent on climate change, ocean, desertification prevention and control and wildlife protection. “China will work with Africa to pursue green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable development and protect our lush mountains and lucid waters and all living beings on our planet,” said Xi. “Let us build a China-Africa community


with a shared future that promotes harmony between man and nature.”

As China and Africa continue working more closely together, some things should be kept in mind to ensure the relationship reaches its maximum potential, opined journalist Kometa Richard Kwang from Cameroon. “Efficient management of resources is key. Resources from China used by Africa need to be utilized well in order to improve the living conditions of the people of African countries. Infrastructure set up by Chinese companies must be properly maintained, and proper training for it should continue for the local workforce.”

Kwang has been covering FOCAC since its first summit in Beijing in 2006. “The Forum laid the foundation for development and cooperation between China and African countries,” he said. “Numerous projects were launched, especially training programs. Many young people from Cameroon and other African countries went to China through several exchange programs that emerged. The Forum has since

expanded greatly in scope and scale.”

The improvement of China-Africa’s ties has resulted in win-win outcomes for both, said journalist Edgar Cueva, who was covering the Forum for CGTN’s Spanish platform. “The core idea behind FOCAC is to build a mutually beneficial relationship between China and the African countries—but it has to be balanced. Its potential is immense and its impact is not limited just to the two parties involved but is also significant on a global scale.”

Indian political analyst and commentator Sudheendra Kulkarni cautioned against global competition arising out of building a relationship with Africa, which could end up being exploitative and harmful for the continent. “Africa doesn’t need rivals; it needs countries working together in harmony,” he says. “This relationship has to be born out of a genuine desire to build a synergistic, mutually respectful bond. And China, with FOCAC, has created a solid foundation for this.” 

A New Chapter for China-Africa Cooperation

Text by Anita Yin

Xi unveiled eight major initiatives to build a closer community with a shared future for China and Africa.



At the media center of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, reporters from home and abroad experience technology combining their personal images with Beijing's most famous attractions. by Guo Shasha

On September 3, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). In the speech, Xi announced that China would implement eight major initiatives, including expanding imports from Africa, for the next three years and beyond to build a closer community with a shared future for China and Africa.

Injecting Certainty

The international community is facing major strategic uncertainties. While U.S. President Donald Trump made the “America First” doctrine his governing concept, great uncertainty still exists as to how the idea will be put into practice further. Brexit talks have reached a disturbing deadlock, leaving the possibility that Britain will walk away with no deal. Currencies of some emerging economies, Turkey and Argentina in

particular, have plummeted, making prospects for their economic development unclear. At the same time, China and Africa are facing their own respective uncertainties. Against this backdrop, the 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit outlined clear plans for mid- and long-term cooperation strategies between China and Africa that will inject certainty into the current global landscape.

“The eight major action plans in President Xi’s speech are all substantial,” opines Zhang Chun, director and research fellow at the Institute for Foreign Policy Studies under the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. “For example, helping Africa’s capacity-building has become an independent part of the action plans even though we were already focused on it. And now China-Africa institutes will be built. I think this step is very important for people-to-people exchange between China and Africa. Additionally, China has decided to set up a China-Africa peace and security fund

to boost cooperation on security, peacekeeping, and law and order. I think this is a great leap of China’s provision of global public goods, especially in the security arena.”

This FOCAC summit has also provided new ideas for transformation of the international system. China endeavors to become an innovation-oriented nation under the framework of the international system. During this process, a key issue that needs to be pondered over and addressed remains that of whether the rise of a major country benefits or harms the international community. Across human history, developing countries have often fallen victim to rising great powers. Relatively recently, the slave trade and colonial wars offered grim proof. The 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit marked an important step for China to become an innovation-oriented nation under the framework of the international system, which will ensure developing countries are the greatest beneficiaries of China’s rise.

Four “News”

In his report, Xi emphasized the connectivity among action plans such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and development strategies of various African countries.

“We welcomed four ‘news’ in the action plans proposed by China in Xi’s speech,” remarks Zhang. “The first was ‘alignment,’ which refers to aligning China’s Belt and Road Initiative with the AU Agenda 2063,



More than 2,600 reporters from home and abroad cover the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. by Guo Shasha



May 20, 2018: Local children perform martial arts at the inaugural ceremony of the Preparatory Committee of Africa-China Culture and Arts Exchange Society in Gaborone, Botswana. VCG

the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development programs of African countries. Such alignments will greatly promote a closer community with a shared future for China and Africa.”


“The second ‘new’ is emphasizing sustainability,” Zhang continues. “From Xi’s speech, we saw a lot of adjustments in support of Africa, especially the portfolio of the capital China will provide for Africa. For example, we have tripled grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans to Africa compared to the 2015 Johannesburg Summit. They’ve increased from US\$5 billion to US\$15 billion, covering sustainable projects related to peace and security, capacity-building and people-to-people exchange.”

“The third ‘new’ is ‘quality.’ Over the past 18 years, China-Africa cooperation has expanded exponentially in quantity. In his speech, Xi mentioned quality a lot. We will now stop pursuing cooperation

marked by volume but instead seek high-quality cooperation. The fourth ‘new’ addresses doubts, which some foreign analysts have expressed, about who will win more in the win-win cooperation between China and Africa. This time, China promised to set up a US\$5 billion special fund for financing imports from Africa. Clearly, China will import more commodities from the continent and help African countries win more.”

Additionally, many of the measures in the eight initiatives Xi outlined are designed to help young people in Africa, which will provide young Africans with more training and job opportunities and open up more space for their development.

“This is one of the highlights of Xi’s speech,” Zhang stresses. “Young people are important for both sides. China has become an aging society, while in Africa the situation is totally different. More than 50 percent of the continent’s population comprises youth under

the age of 18. If we look at future trends, in the next 15 to 20 years, the African population will increase by 50 percent to 1.8 billion from the current 1.2 billion. If we look further, to 2050, the population in Africa will reach 2.5 billion with even more young people. This growth will present both opportunities and challenges. Africa currently lacks various resources for education, employment and individual development of its young people, so we must help African countries endure the population boom and solve problems that come along with it before they can enjoy the dividends of the population. We firmly believe that the future is in the hands of the youth, and China-Africa cooperation, especially people-to-people exchange, needs to be based on exchange and mutual understanding between young people of both sides, which will pave the way for a bright future of cooperation.” 

For Common Economic Development

Cooperation between China and Central Asian Countries within the Belt and Road Initiative

Text by Hu Biliang

China and the Central Asian countries are seeking common development through win-win cooperation by complementing their respective resources and economic structures.

Recently, the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative has aroused some controversies. This article touches upon the intention and aim of the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries.

Promoting Economic Development

According to the World Bank, of its surveyed 185 countries China and the five Central Asian countries have a comparatively low GDP per capita at the current exchange rate. In 2017, the average GDP per capita in the world was US\$10,715, while Kazakhstan and China only reached US\$8,838 and US\$8,827, ranking 71th and 72th respectively and nearly equating to 82 percent of the world average. And Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan took

the 80th, 150th, 154th and 164th places with 7,356, 1,504, 1,220 and 801 U.S. dollars of GDP per capita, respectively. So, China and all the five Central Asian countries have not arrived at the world average level in terms of GDP per capita.

This means that China and the five countries in Central Asia are all developing countries, with Kazakhstan, China and Turkmenistan being middle-income countries and the other three being low-income economies. So, the primary task of these six nations is to promote economic development, increase public income and improve the livelihood of their people in a short time.

Historically, China had long been the country with the largest economic aggregate, while the five Central Asian countries also had a splendid past. So, both China and the five Central Asian nations long for national revival although their economic growth is restricted by





May 31, 2018: China-Kazakhstan Lianyungang International Logistics Cooperation Base. As the first physical project of international economic and trade cooperation within the Belt and Road Initiative, the base has been open for four years and has become an international platform for transportation, logistics and trade exchange between China and the five Central Asian countries. IC

current situations for the time being.

At present, the economic development of the Central Asian countries is primarily limited by transportation and communication infrastructure. In terms of high-road and railway, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan enjoy comparatively better conditions, while the other three countries lag far behind. With regard to internet usage, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have only 30 percent of internet citizens. Moreover, these countries do not have advanced manufacturing industries. Although Uzbekistan's joint ventures produce cars and buses and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan make some chemical and medical products, the economic development in Central Asia still relies on exporting primary commodities (accounting for 70 percent of their exports) and importing finished goods (over 70 percent of their imports).

As for China, it lacks the supply of important resources including crude oil, natural gas, iron ore and soybean. In 2017, China imported 420 million tons of crude oil,

accounting for 68.9 percent of its total demand, while importing 83.8 billion cubic meters of natural gas, occupying 35.3 percent of the year's total consumption. The net import of soybean hit 95.42 million tons, taking up 86.3 percent of its total consumption of 110.59 million tons.

Win-win Cooperation

If China and Central Asia strengthen cooperation, both sides can greatly relieve their development restrictions and even eradicate some of them.

Firstly, within the Belt and Road Initiative, China and Central Asian countries have completed some major transportation infrastructure projects such as the Vahdat-Ya-van Railway in Tajikistan, the first Chinese-built railway in Central Asia. After only 15 months of construction, the railway was put into service on August 24, 2016. The Papu Railway Tunnel (Kamchiq Tunnel) in Uzbekistan, the first Chinese-built railway tunnel in Central Asia, began operation in June 2016.



May 8, 2018: An employee operates an ink-jet printer at Pengsheng Industrial Park jointly built by China and Uzbekistan. by Zhou Liang/Xinhua



Secondly, to enhance the energy trade between China and Central Asian countries, China has built a pipeline network including natural gas and petroleum pipelines. Line A and Line B of the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline span a total of 10,000 kilometers, crossing the border between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and running through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and enter China via Xinjiang's Alataw Pass. Their annual gas transmission capacity reaches about 30 billion cubic meters, with Turkmenistan as the primary source of natural gas. Line C of the gas pipeline traverses the border of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and arrives in Xinjiang's Horgos Port, with a designed annual



November 11, 2015: Workers check a meter station in Khorgos along the Central Asian natural gas pipeline. It is the first transnational pipeline transmitting foreign natural gas into China. It starts in Turkmenistan and passes through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan before entering China via Xinjiang's Khorgos.
by Chen Yehua/Xinhua

transmission capacity of 25 billion cubic meters. These three lines have been put into service. Additionally, Line D is being constructed, with a designed yearly transmission capacity of 30 billion cubic meters. It also starts from the border between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and enters China via Xinjiang's Ulugqat County.

As for petroleum pipeline construction, the China-Kazakhstan oil pipeline runs from Atyrau in western Kazakhstan to Xinjiang's Alataw Pass of China, spanning 2,800 kilometers with a designed annual transmission capacity of 20 million tons. Currently, the oil pipeline operates well.

Thirdly, China has greatly beefed

up production capacity cooperation with Central Asia by setting up industrial parks and developing modern agriculture. For example, China set up a China-Kazakhstan Production Capacity Cooperation Fund with US\$2 billion to help China's quality industrial capacity settle in Kazakhstan. And China and Uzbekistan jointly established the Pengsheng Industrial Park, which has boosted local manufacturing, created more than 1,000 jobs and added 20 percent of tax revenue. A Chinese private company opened the Asian Star Agricultural Industrial Park in Kyrgyzstan, speeding up the development of modern agriculture in Central Asia.

Finally, by the end of 2016,

February 27, 2016: A ceremony celebrating the opening of the Papu Railway Tunnel (Kamchiq Tunnel) in Uzbekistan, the first Chinese-built railway tunnel in Central Asia. by Sha Dati/Xinhua





August 7, 2017: China's Zhongda Petroleum Company's facilities in Kyrgyzstan.
by Luo Man/Xinhua

China's stock of investment in Central Asia had hit US\$9.14 billion, of which US\$5.43 billion went to Kazakhstan. China has become the second largest foreign investor for Kazakhstan and the third largest foreign investor for Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

So, China and Central Asian countries are seeking common development through win-win cooperation by complementing their respective resources and economic structures. The cooperation allows the five Central Asian countries to get the commodities they need—of which four countries, except Turkmenistan, import the largest amount of commodities from China—and the investment which can help perfect local infrastructure and boost industrial development. Additionally, China is close to Central Asia and with improving transportation conditions, transport cost will be further lowered, which will greatly drive the economic growth of China and the Central Asian countries as well as advance the living standards of local people. 

The author is head of the Institute of Belt and Road Initiative at Beijing Normal University.



A bird's-eye view of Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, in northeastern China. VCG



Vitalizing Northeastern China

Liaoning's Business Savvy and Ambition

Text by Hu Zhoumeng

Liaoning Province, traditionally an important industrial base, is transforming its economy through high-quality development, with growing private businesses and expanded international cooperation.

In late August, Shenyang, capital city of Liaoning Province in northeastern China, welcomed more than 1,000 Chinese private entrepreneurs and representatives from Global 500 companies to the 2018 Summit of China Top 500 Private Enterprises. The meeting marked the second time the summit was held outside Beijing since it was launched by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) nine years ago.

The 2018 Summit of China Top 500 Private Enterprises was held in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, from August 29 to 31. by Guo Shasha





February 12, 2018: Workers from Dalian Special Steel Products Co., Ltd. pour molten steel into an AOD furnace. VCG

During the meeting, the ACFIC released its annual ranking of the 500 largest Chinese private companies, which is a barometer for China's private economy. Even the company ranking last on the list registered revenues of 15.7 billion yuan (US\$2.3 billion) in 2017. The figure released last year was 12.1 billion yuan (US\$1.8 billion). Smartphone maker Huawei topped the list with revenues of 603.6 billion yuan (US\$88 billion), while e-commerce retailer Suning took second place.

"China's private businesses maintained healthy development momentum in 2017," said ACFIC Vice Chairman Huang Rong, adding that the companies have steadily optimized their industrial structure with greater contributions to society. In the past year, the private sector contributed more than 60 percent of China's GDP, playing an



In the 1950s, workers with Anshan Iron and Steel Group Corporation built blast furnace gas pipelines.
by Cai Shangxiang

increasingly important role in the economy.

The three-day summit became an economic boon to the northeastern province by providing enormous business opportunities. Local governments and companies signed agreements for 76 projects with enterprises on the list during the meeting, the total value of which stands close to 300 billion yuan (US\$43.9 billion). This demonstrated growing confidence in the region's economic potential after Liaoning's GDP surpassed 1.1 trillion yuan (US\$160.8 billion) in the first half of 2018, up by 5.6 percent year-on-year.

Liaoning is traditionally a significant industrial base dating back to the 1950s.

During the period of China's First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957), the province welcomed 24 of the 156 national key projects and more than 30 percent of the country's total investment. Reputed to be "China's industrial cradle," Liaoning produced more than 200 "China's firsts" in manufacturing such as the first fighter aircraft and the first 10,000-ton ship.

However, Liaoning gradually lagged behind in the past decades as it shifted away from its traditional industrial model with a large proportion of state-owned enterprises. Economic growth was sluggish after 2010. But now Liaoning is transforming its economy through high-quality development with

The reclaimer manufactured by Dalian Huarui Heavy Industry Group Co., Ltd. has a capacity of 14,400 tons per hour. courtesy of the publicity department of Liaoning provincial Party committee



growing private businesses and expanded international cooperation.

“To meet the demand for a consumption upgrade, we will increase efforts to revolutionize our retail stores with cutting-edge technologies,” pledged Zhang Jindong, chairman of Suning. He highlighted the company’s plan to operate about 600 smart retail outlets by 2020 in Liaoning Province to support the government’s efforts to restructure the economy.

Zhang also remarked that private enterprises are major beneficiaries of China’s reform and opening-up policy as local governments work hard to create a pro-business environment. Liaoning officials are aware of this development. At the end of 2016, the province adopted a law to regulate and improve its business environment. In 2017, Liaoning established China’s first provincial-level supervisory bureau to improve the business environment.

Aiming to optimize services, increase efficiency and save time and money for businesses, the Liaoning government has remained dedicated to transforming policy design into practical measures. Since 2015, Liaoning has canceled or adjusted more than 1,000 administrative items. Thanks to these efforts, 32 certificates involved in the industrial and commercial registration have been integrated into one, 376 certificates are available immediately upon application, and 487 items can be completed “in a one-time visit.”

February 11, 2015: Thomas R. Armijo (left, front), then director of supplier management of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, and Zhu Zhenjun, deputy head of the department of civil aircraft of Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), sign cooperation agreements to establish an AVIC-Boeing Manufacturing Innovation Center satellite office in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. by Yao Jianfeng/Xinhua



“To pave the way for private investment, the government must deepen reforms to lower the threshold barring some enterprises from key sectors, facilitate tax and fee cuts, enhance the bridge connecting the real economy to financial services, alleviate financing difficulties facing small and medium-sized companies, and reduce operating costs,” said Wang Xinzhe, chief economist of China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, at the summit.

In 2017, Liaoning managed to reduce the tax burden on enterprises by 128.5 billion yuan (US\$18.8 billion). According to the administration for industry and commerce of the province, from January to July this year, newly registered market entities in Liaoning numbered 381,000, up by 9.1 percent year-on-year.

“The weak links of Liaoning’s economy are found in the private sector, but so is its potential,” said Chen Qiufa, secretary of the Liaoning provincial Party committee when addressing the meeting. Chen declared that the province would fully support the private economy to stabilize economic growth, push transformation and industrial upgrade and increase employment by creating new business opportunities.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China’s reform and opening up, and the country aims to mark the occasion by broadening market access, improving investment environment and expanding imports. “Global investors are looking to China for opportunities,” said B. V. Shreedhar, vice president of the Hong Kong branch of the State Bank of India.

Foster Arata, vice president of Boeing Capital Corporation, is a witness to the long-term cooperation of Boeing and local manufacturers in Liaoning. The Shenyang Commercial Aircraft Corporation has produced airplane components for Boeing since 1990, starting with cargo doors for the 757 and expanding to complex empennage manufacturing. Boeing also opened an AVIC-Boeing Manufacturing Innovation Center satellite office in Shenyang in 2015.

“Today, more than half of the commercial jetliners operating in China are Boeing



February 23, 2018: A car is on the assembly line of a Shenyang-based plant operated by BMW Brilliance Automobile Ltd., a joint venture between BMW and Brilliance Auto. IC



planes, and more than 9,000 Boeing aircraft fly throughout the world with parts and assemblies built in China,” Arata noted. “Boeing will continue to advance China’s aviation industry and partner with China for mutual benefits.”

Liaoning Province, like other regions in the country, is opening its arms to foreign investors and entrepreneurs. In the first seven months of 2018, the actual use of foreign investment in Liaoning reached US\$3.48 billion, up by 15.3 percent year-on-year.

“Thanks to Liaoning’s strong manufacturing power and sound business environment, our cooperation has been successful,” declared Jochen Goller, president of BMW Group Region China. The company established a joint venture with local car

maker Brilliance Auto in 2003 and plans to build its third factory in the province to expand production.

Liaoning’s latest effort towards further opening up has been highlighted by the China (Liaoning) Pilot Free Trade Zone launched in April 2017. The free trade zone targets international trade, modern manufacturing, financial services, modern logistics and scientific services and had drawn 414 foreign-invested companies from more than 40 countries and regions by July this year. With imports and exports reaching 71.77 billion yuan (US\$10.5 billion) in the first half of 2018, the zone is expected to expand trading partnerships with foreign enterprises and become the driving force in designing a new economic landscape in the province. 



Pudong's Reform Miracle

Text by Qiao Zhenqi

The miraculous development of Pudong New Area overwhelmingly validates China's reform and opening up under the leadership of the CPC.



Located in Pudong New Area, Lujiazui faces the Bund across the Huangpu River and has become one of the most important financial hubs of China. by Xu Wanglin



During his visit to Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Washington in 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping suggested local students visit Shanghai to witness the changes of China over the past century.

Indeed, the development of Shanghai over the past 100 years mirrors the tremendous changes of the nation in modern times, which had never before been seen across Chinese history.

In 1843, Shanghai, then a small coastal county, opened to foreign trade according to the *Treaty of Nanjing* and the *General Regulations*

for Trade at Five Treaty Ports after the Opium War, taking the first steps of a journey that would culminate in the city emerging as the most prosperous metropolis in the Far East.

In 1921, the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held in the French Concession in Shanghai, marking the birth of the CPC. From that point on, Chinese people under oppression kindled hope for liberation, and the Chinese revolution entered a new stage.

In 1937, the Battle of Shanghai broke out, and the city became a battlefield to fight Japanese invaders. The city hosted one of the largest and fiercest battles during the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. The tenacious resistance of the Chinese people upended the Japanese army's plan to "conquer China within three months."

In 1949, Shanghai witnessed the end of old China. Elderly Shanghai natives still remember troops of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) sleeping on the streets for three nights to avoid disturbing local residents as they liberated the city that year.

Shanghai continues to showcase China's development over the past century, and Pudong mirrors Shanghai's tremendous changes over the past four decades since the beginning of China's reform and opening up in the late 1970s.

In 1990, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council of China, seeking to promote overall reform and opening up of the country, made the important decision to open Shanghai's Pudong area. A saying goes that "Shenzhen led China's reform and opening up in the 1980s, and Pudong took the relay baton in the 1990s." In this context, Shanghai shifted from a "line of defense" of the nation's reform and opening up

to a "striker."

A New Window to the World

The Puxi area in Shanghai was already prosperous in the early 20th century, but Pudong remained a vast expanse of farmlands and reed marshes dotted with a handful of dilapidated factories and residences as recently as the late 20th century. As a saying prevalent in Shanghai during the 1980s goes, "A bed in Puxi is better than a house in Pudong."

Historically, after Shanghai opened to foreign trade, Western colonists continued expanding their settlements in the city, but none ventured to develop the Pudong area across the Huangpu River. Puxi enjoyed increasing development while Pudong was left far behind.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the CPC led the Chinese people in promoting the construction of New China. Before 1990, Shanghai, dubbed the "eldest son of China's economy," contributed one-sixth of all national revenues. After paying such massive sums to the national treasury, the remaining revenues of the local government of Shanghai could only afford minimal expenditures in urban construction. Consequently, Shanghai lacked funds for infrastructure, which resulted in problems such as insufficient housing, traffic congestion and environmental pollution. The city once known as "Paris of the East" suffered a decline.

In 1978, China implemented the reform and opening-up policy. Starting in 1980, the Chinese government decided to establish five special economic zones (SEZs) on the southeast coast of the country, such as Shenzhen SEZ, which led to remarkable achievements. As neighboring countries and regions consecutively embarked on missions of rapid development,



Photos depict the transformation of Shanghai's Lujiazui area from 1990 to 2016. The first three photos were shot by Yao Jianliang, and the last by Xu Wanglin.

Shanghai lost its past glory as a major metropolis in the Far East, and its role shifted from a star to a benchwarmer in China's economic development game.

By the end of the 1980s, the global political landscape had changed drastically. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the drastic changes in Eastern Europe dealt a blow to the development of socialism around the world, posing new challenges for China's reform and development. The West began to turn a skeptical eye to China's economic reform.

Sensing changes in the international situation, Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, urged the country to open its door wider to the world to boost domestic reform and opening up.

Early in 1990, Deng visited Shanghai. An enthusiastic bridge player, he dubbed Shanghai China's "trump card" and believed that the city's development could provide a "shortcut" for the whole country's development. "We must invest all our strength in the plan to develop Pudong until it succeeds," Deng stressed.

Deng sought to make Pudong a banner of China's further reform and opening up, which would demonstrate the nation's determination and confidence to consistently promote its reform and opening up.

Based on Deng's initiative, the Chinese government took prompt action to formulate a strategic plan for the development and opening up of Pudong. On April 18, 1990, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council of China announced a plan to develop and open Pudong. This announcement elevated the development and opening up of Pudong to a national key strategy. The municipal government of Shanghai then released a guideline



In the early 1990s, the area near Gate 5 of the Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone in Shanghai was a vast expanse of farmland. courtesy of Pudong New Area Information Office

to "develop Pudong, rejuvenate Shanghai, serve the nation, and open arms to the world."

This heralded the beginning of Pudong's development and opening up. Shanghai seized the historic opportunity in the last decade of the 20th century to again ride the tide of China's economic reform.

From 1990 to 2000, when it officially became an administrative district of Shanghai, Pudong New Area witnessed tremendous changes and created many "firsts" of the nation: the first finance and trade zone, the first export processing zone, the first bonded zone, the first foreign-funded bank and the first foreign-funded insurance company. Not only did its economic strength expand rapidly, but also it paved the path for China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

The development of Pudong injected impetus into the whole nation's reform and opening up, opening a new window to China for the world.

Pooling Global Wisdom through Dialogue

How should Pudong develop? At the time, there wasn't any logical precedent. But the Chinese people

solved the problem with transcendent vision. Shanghai formulated the guiding principle of "seeking development oriented to the Pacific and the future," and the planning of all relevant infrastructure projects followed the principle.

While developing the Pudong area, Shanghai has maintained a modest attitude and continued learning from the world. Lujiazui was one of the earliest examples of the city's efforts to pool global wisdom.

Now an international financial hub featuring countless skyscrapers, Lujiazui is home to an impressive concentration of financial institutions from around the world. Its bustling streets are not unlike Wall Street. As the central business district of Shanghai, Lujiazui rivals the Square Mile of London and Manhattan in New York City. It is also the first finance and trade zone in China.

Few can now imagine that the area was formerly a small road named Lannidu (literally, "Muddy Ferry"). World-renowned architects from China, Britain, France, Japan and Italy were invited to design the Lujiazui finance and trade zone. The design by Japanese architects, which resembles a printed circuit



Towering skyscrapers in the Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone testify to the remarkable achievements of Pudong's development and opening up over the past 28 years. by Xu Wanglin

board assembly, boasted a strong modernist sense. The design by architects from Italy, the cradle of the Renaissance, resembled an ancient oval-shaped castle. The design by romantic French architects featured an abstract, simple artistic touch, forming a sharp contrast with classical buildings on the Bund, a waterfront area in central Shanghai. The design by scrupulous British architects combined tradition and modernity. The design by Chinese architects emphasized the function and development potential of the

axis of the area.

After 17 rounds of discussions and modifications within two years, the final blueprint for the construction of Lujiazui was completed. It was the first time that China carried out specific international consultations and pooled global wisdom for the planning of a development zone.

In addition to Lujiazui, many landmark buildings in Pudong are fruits of global wisdom. Many architects from around the world were invited to design structures there. For instance, the Shanghai

Pudong International Airport that resembles a huge bird with outstretched wings and the Shanghai Oriental Art Center that appears like a blooming magnolia flower were both designed by renowned French architect Paul Andreu. The Shanghai New International Expo Center was designed by a German architect. And the 1.4-square-kilometer Century Park that fuses Chinese and Western cultures was designed by a British architect.

Pudong has not only introduced funds and technologies from



around the world, but also pooled global wisdom. Its active dialogue and transcultural exchange with the world are the internal drivers of Pudong's speedy development.

A slogan translated as "Think over the development of Pudong while standing beside a terrestrial globe" was hung in the dining hall of the "commanding headquarters" for the development and opening up of Pudong located at 141 Pudong Avenue. The slogan was attributed to Zhao Qizheng, then vice mayor of Shanghai and director

of the Administrative Committee of Pudong New Area. He explained that this slogan aimed to encourage all officials in Pudong to have global vision and an internationalized way of thinking and formulate and implement globalized strategies.

"Pudong is embracing the world with its development," remarked Zhao. "In terms of function, it aims to become an internationalized economic hub, so it needs market entities as well as investment, experiences and achievements from around the world. Thus, we should observe Pudong from a global perspective, rather than the perspective of Shanghai."

Facing the Pacific Ocean to the east, Pudong opens arms to the whole world and thinks over its development while standing beside a terrestrial globe, so that its development and opening up has gradually enabled Shanghai to be ranked among modern international metropolises together with New York City, London, Frankfurt, and Tokyo.

Pudong has opened a new window to the world.

Test Field for System Innovation

During his inspection tour to Pudong, Chinese President Xi Jinping surmised that the significance of Pudong's development and opening up is its demonstrative role as a window of China to the world, its enterprising and pioneering spirit and its function as a vanguard and test field.

The courage to conduct unprecedented experiments is the calling card of Pudong. Throughout the history of its development and opening up, Pudong is responsible for a number of Chinese "firsts."

In 1990, it established the country's first finance and trade zone (Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone), the country's first export processing zone (Jinqiao Export Processing

Zone), the country's first bonded zone (Waigaoqiao Bonded Logistics Park) and the country's first stock exchange (Shanghai Stock Exchange).

In 1995, China's first retail joint venture approved by the State Council, Shanghai No.1 Yohan Shopping Mall Co., Ltd., settled in Pudong.

In 2005, Pudong became the first to carry out pilot comprehensive reform in China.

In 2013, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, the first of its kind in the country, was established in Pudong.

In 2015, Pudong became the first to carry out the pilot reform of "separation of business licenses and government permits" in China.

In 2018, China Oil Futures, the country's first internationalized futures product, began trading on Shanghai International Energy Exchange, a subsidiary of Shanghai Futures Exchange, in Pudong.

On September 29, 2013, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone was officially inaugurated. Covering 28 square kilometers in Pudong, about 1/266 of Shanghai's total area, this free trade zone is expected to boost another round of Chinese reform.

Alongside the pilot comprehensive reform, the Chinese government established its first pilot free trade zone in Pudong because of its advantageous system foundation, opening up and strategic position. The government hopes Pudong can serve as a test field for upgraded reform of China's economy.

Li Qiang, secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, wrote in an article that based on the requirements laid out by the CPC Central Committee, the city is focused on system innovation and taking bold and active measures to explore the establishment of an institutional system to meet the

highest-level international standards and align with international investment and trade rules and coordinate promotion of innovation in investment management, trade facilitation, financial opening, and government regulation systems to explore new paths and accumulate new experiences to comprehensively deepen China's reform and opening up and create a new system of an open economy.

The most noticeable achievements China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone has made over the past five years since its establishment include more than 100 system innovations that can be replicated and disseminated, such as the "negative list" management mode. In addition, by deepening the reform of separation of business licenses and government permits, the position of enterprises as market and investment entities has been further consolidated. The free trade zone has established a trade regulation system that conforms

to high-standard trade facilitation rules, enabling all procedures concerning cargo and shipping declaration to be handled at the same counter. It has also opened more free trade accounts, carried out system innovation in fields like preventing risk in an open environment, exploring specific paths for clarifying the relationship between the government and the market and optimizing the business environment.

According to the plan to comprehensively deepen reform and opening up of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone issued by the State Council in March 2017, free trade port areas will be set up in special customs supervision areas such as Yangshan Bonded Port Area and Pudong Airport Comprehensive Bonded Area. This plan has been hailed as Version 3.0 of the reform of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

Later, the report to the 19th CPC National Congress called for

"granting more powers to pilot free trade zones to conduct reform and exploring the opening of free trade ports."

Through deeper reforms, Pudong is getting a whole new look.

Legend in the New Era

In the eyes of Weng Zuliang, Party secretary of Pudong New Area and member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, the key to building free trade ports is to meet the highest global standards for opening up and present Chinese solutions for the world.

This requires a change in the government's function. The government should play a "guiding" and "serving" role. On January 1, 2016, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone led the nation by kicking off a pilot program on the reform of separation of business licenses and government permits. Through the implementation of the pilot program, 116 former administrative licensing items have been canceled or replaced and a notification and commitment system has been implemented. Measures have also been taken to increase the transparency and predictability of administrative licensing and strengthen market access supervision.

This year, the State Council approved the nationwide implementation of the reform of separation of business licenses and government permits and assigned Shanghai and Pudong 47 new tasks across 10 realms. Pudong has promised to accomplish the missions with haste and maintain the "speed of the free trade zone."

In February 2016, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology approved Shanghai's plan to build a comprehensive national science center at Zhangjiang in

Pudong has attracted numerous talented professionals to take part in its rapid development. by Qiao Zhenqi





In September 2013, the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone officially opened. By establishing the country's first special customs supervision area meeting international standards, Shanghai announced to the world that China's door of opening up will never close and continue opening wider. courtesy of Pudong New Area Information Office


Pudong, a key measure and core task for the city to become a scientific and technological innovation center of global influence.

Zhangjiang now fosters scientific and technological innovations daily, many of which have stunned not only Shanghai and China but the world at large. Currently, Zhangjiang is home to four Big Science facilities including Phase I of Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility, National Center for Protein Science, Shanghai X-Ray Free-Electron Laser Test Facility and Phase I of Shanghai Supercomputer Center. These facilities are indispensable testing platforms for a variety of frontier science research.

Technological innovation has

injected the vitality to shift the local economy from high-speed growth to high-quality development. In 2017, the added value of Pudong New Area's secondary and tertiary industries accounted for 25.1 percent and 74.7 percent of its GDP, respectively. The growth rate of the secondary sector was higher than that of the tertiary sector, with strategic emerging industries contributing 40.9 percent of the total output of industrial enterprises above designated size. By the end of 2017, the number of high-tech enterprises in Pudong had reached 1,711, the number of patents owned by per 10,000 population hit 55, and authenticated incubators and maker-spaces amounted to 134.

A drop of water mirrors the brilliance of the sun, and similarly, the development of a place may reflect the development of a nation. As a witness of China's 40 years of reform and opening up, the miraculous development of Pudong New Area over the past 28 years fully demonstrates that establishing SEZs and new areas is the right solution for economic development, that promoting the reform and opening up under the leadership of the CPC is the right choice for the country, and that socialism with Chinese characteristics is the optimal road.

China's reform and opening up created the Pudong miracle, which will only continue into the future. 



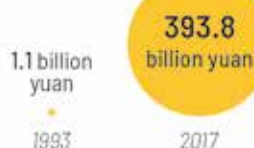
PUDONG'S DEVELOPMENT AND OPENING UP IN NUMBERS

ACHIEVEMENTS

Pudong's GDP



Pudong's fiscal revenue



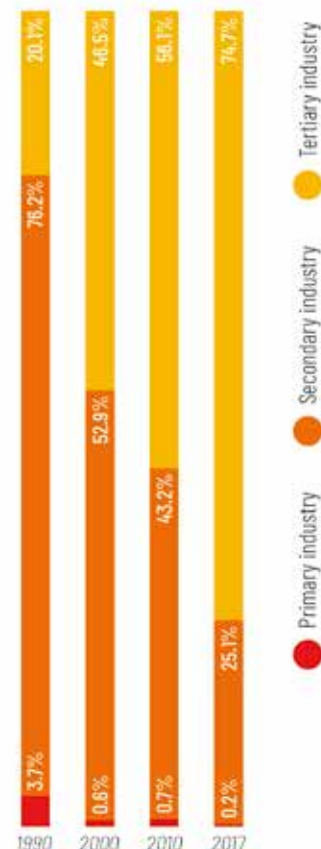
Pudong's per capita disposable income surpassed **60,000 yuan** in 2017.

Pudong's investment in fixed assets exceeds **2.3 trillion yuan.**

PIONEERING REFORMS

- 1990 First national development zone named with "finance and trade" in China: Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone
First national export processing zone in China: Shanghai Jinqiao Export Processing Zone
First national bonded area in China: Waigaoqiao Bonded Area
- 1993 First in China to implement a new land development method in which lack of finance was tackled through check endorsement by the government, banks and enterprises
- 1996 First foreign-funded financial institution operating Renminbi business in China
- 2000 First diamond exchange in China: Shanghai Diamond Exchange
- 2005 First pilot area for comprehensive reforms in China
- 2007 First financial judicial institution in China: Shanghai Court of Financial Arbitration
- 2013 First pilot free trade zone in China: China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone
- 2014 First independent intellectual property bureau in China integrating management of patents, trademarks and copyrights
- 2016 First comprehensive national science center in China
- 2017 State Council decides to popularize the practice of "separation of business licenses and government permits" from Pudong New Area nationwide

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING



BROADER OPENING UP

A total of 54 measures have been implemented to deepen opening up, including 37 in the service sector and 17 in sectors such as manufacturing. In total, more than 2,400 projects came into effect.

The negative list for foreign investment has been shortened year by year.	2013	190 items
	2014	139 items
	2015	122 items
	2017	95 items

As of February 2018, 56 financial institutions had connected to the free trade account inspection and management system in Pudong, setting up 70,000 free trade accounts and raising funds abroad in both Chinese and foreign currencies with total value of 1.1 trillion yuan.

Cargo imports and exports in Pudong New Area hit nearly 1.96 trillion yuan in 2017, up by 11.2% year-on-year, accounting for 60.7% of Shanghai's total. Services trade volume hit US\$85.3 billion in 2017, up by 8.7% year-on-year, accounting for 43.6% of Shanghai's total.



The Port of Shanghai has ranked first globally in terms of container throughput for 8 consecutive years, handling 40.18 million TEUs in 2017.

Pudong International Airport has ranked third globally for 10 straight years in terms of cargo and mail throughput, handling 3,824,300 tons in 2017.

MORE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICES



The time required to complete administrative procedures by foreign investors in Pudong was cut from 8 working days to 1 working day, with the number of required documents reduced from 10 to 3 and more than 90% of investment projects were established by registration, beyond the negative list for foreign investment.

All port cargo declaration and ship declaration are handled through the "single window," serving more than 240,000 companies. The items that need to be declared by enterprises are reduced by 65% in ship declaration and by 24% in cargo declaration, and the total cost saved for enterprises exceeds 2 billion yuan.

Pudong New Area built an online government service platform covering all 327 items related to enterprises.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

As of December 2017, Pudong New Area was home to:



1,711 high-tech enterprises



615 research institutions, of which 227 are owned by transnational companies and 13 operated by key universities or colleges



134 business incubators and makerspaces, 1/4 of Shanghai's total, where 4,367 companies and 30,000 employees work in a total area of 1 million square meters

IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS

A sounder social security system has been created in Pudong to ensure equal access to basic public services and support for the "four-in-one" grassroots governance system led by Party building, namely, self-governance, co-governance, rule of virtue and rule of law.

Pudong spends nearly 45% of its general public budget on improving people's livelihood. Its basic public services are more balanced, and its social security system is increasingly improving. In total, more than 30 million square meters of affordable housing have been built, benefiting 1 million people in 300,000 families.



BUILDING INTERNATIONAL APPEAL



160 of the more than 230 countries and regions worldwide have invested in Pudong.

In 2017, actual use of foreign capital in Pudong accounted for 46% of Shanghai's total.

As of 2017, foreign-invested projects in Pudong had amounted to 31,544, accounting for 1/3 of Shanghai's total.

2/3 of Global 500 companies have opened offices in Pudong and 281 transnational companies have set up regional headquarters there.

In 2017, 459 companies in Pudong paid taxes of more than 100 million yuan each, of which 283 were foreign-invested.

Foreign residents in Pudong number more than 150,000, forming 5 large international communities: Binjiang, Biyun, Liyang, Tangzhen and Zhangjiang.

Source: Exhibition of the Opening Up of Pudong; edited by Hu Zhoumeng, designed by Andrey Maleev

Pudong Targets Social Progress

Exclusive Interview with Shao Yudong, Former Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Committee of Pudong New Area

Text by Qiao Zhenqi

Pudong seeks to not only facilitate projects and foster economic development, but also promote comprehensive social development.

Video documentaries preserve images of Pudong as a vast expanse of countryside carpeted by farmlands and dilapidated rural houses prior to 1990. Over the subsequent 28 years, tremendous changes have taken place in the area.

In 1990, Shao Yudong became one of the first contributors to the development and opening up of Pudong. He once served as member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Committee of Pudong New Area, director of the Publicity Department and the United Front Work Department of Pudong's Party committee and vice chairman of the Pudong committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative

Conference (CPPCC). After his retirement in 2008, Shao shifted from being a builder of Pudong to a researcher. He is now a guest professor at several universities and works on researching the theories and practices of Pudong's development and opening up.

Shao likens Pudong's development and opening up over the past 28 years to a brilliant historic epic written by builders from both China and abroad with their sweat and tears, presenting a glorious painting of the times that depicts the great journey of realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

China Pictorial (CP): Why did the Chinese government choose Pudong as an important test

field for the country's reform and opening up after establishing several special economic zones and opening 14 coastal cities?

Shao: Pudong's development and opening up demonstrated a necessary and self-determined choice for history. In fact, it was an innate aspiration for generations. As early as 1919, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the pioneer of China's democratic revolution, presented the idea of building Pudong into a major harbor in the East in his book *The International Development of China*. Restricted by national conditions at the time, however, this dream was difficult to achieve.

From the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 to 1990, Shanghai, known as the



Since his retirement, Shao Yudong has been devoted to researching the theories and practice of Pudong's development and opening up.
by Qiao Zhenqi

“eldest son of China’s economy,” remained a major contributor to national revenues. After contributing massive sums to the national treasury, the city’s remaining revenues could barely cover necessary expenditures in urban construction. Consequently, the city lacked the funds for the development of Pudong, which is just across the Huangpu River from the Bund and Nanjing Road, the most bustling places in Shanghai. In the past, residents of downtown Shanghai called Pudong the “countryside,” and even locals of Pudong didn’t consider themselves Shanghainese and colloquially called crossing the river to downtown “going to Shanghai.” Back then, Shanghai faced a wide array of difficulties in urban

development: traffic congestion, inconvenient transportation blocked by the river, insufficient housing and environmental pollution. However, such challenges kindled locals’ aspirations for development and inspired them to strive to develop through reform and opening up. People in the city longed to revive the past glory of Shanghai.

Based on the initiative of Deng Xiaoping, chief architect of China’s reform and opening up, the Chinese government made the strategic decision to develop and open Shanghai’s Pudong area. On April 18, 1990, China officially announced a plan to build Pudong New Area. This announcement elevated the development and opening up of Pudong to a national key strategy

and heralded the dawn of Pudong’s development and opening up. Shanghai seized the historic opportunity arising from China’s reform and opening up and stunned the world with Pudong’s development.

CP: What are the factors that fueled the miraculous achievements of Pudong’s development and opening up?

Shao: Pudong’s development and opening up can be attributed to a combination of top-level design and down-to-earth struggle. Since the very beginning, Pudong received intense attention in development planning. Without a well-designed blueprint, a tailor will destroy a piece of fine fabric if he or she rushes to cut it. So, Shanghai organized several international seminars for the planning of Pudong’s construction. To plan the 1.7-square kilometer core area of Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone, Pudong organized two international seminars attracting more than 30 experts and architects from a dozen countries. Many architects presented distinctive designs. After 17 rounds of discussions and modifications over two years, the final blueprint for the construction of Lujiazui was approved. A model of the final blueprint is now housed at the National Museum of China. It was the first time China carried out specific international consultation and pooled global wisdom to plan a development zone.

In addition to Lujiazui, many landmark buildings of Pudong are fruits of global wisdom. Many architects from around the world were invited to design structures there including Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Shanghai Oriental Art Center, Shanghai New International Expo Center and Century Park.

Moreover, Pudong's development adopted a strategy combining "rich planning" and "affordable development." Rich planning refers to aiming high and looking to the future when formulating an overall development plan. Affordable development refers to implementing the development plan step-by-step and considering future development over the coming 30 to 50 years rather than pursuing quick success and unrealistic targets beyond capacity. Indeed, Pudong New Area was built incrementally based on its available manpower, funds and resources.

CP: What benefits have ordinary people enjoyed from Pudong's development and opening up?

Shao: Pudong has always aligned its development and opening up with the improvement of people's living standards. In the beginning of Pudong's development, we launched a "locomotive program" in which various functional zones took the initiative to stimulate the development of neighboring townships. A development zone was responsible for supporting the development of the place where it is located. It placed priority on training and hiring locals who could become qualified for relevant jobs while injecting vitality into local township enterprises by bringing in investment or technological instruction. Major developers played the role of "locomotives," and neighboring townships became "carriages"



In the early summer of 2017, the 5,000-square-meter blooming purpletop vervain formed a "sea of flowers" in the Montreal Garden of Century Park in Pudong, Shanghai, drawing tourists and local residents alike. VCG

for local farmers and residents as "passengers." Together they form a sort of "train" chugging forward together, with no one left behind.

In 2017, per capita disposable income in Pudong hit 60,715 yuan (US\$8,830), higher than Shanghai's average. The growth rate of residents' income was higher than that of GDP. Last year, Pudong's GDP grew by 8.7 percent year-on-year,

while the average income of its residents increased by 9.2 percent year-on-year. Each year, more than one-third of Pudong's fiscal expenditure goes to fields concerning people's livelihoods such as employment, medical care and education. Today, Pudong provides 614 schools for basic education and hosts 1,098 medical institutions including 10 third-grade public hospitals.



Moreover, it has built government-subsidized housing of over 30 million square meters, benefiting a million people in 300,000 households. Pudong also has large libraries, stadiums and 100-plus places of worship open to the public, and its per capita vegetation area has hit 25.44 square meters.

Nowadays, Pudong focuses as much on social development

and social progress as on building skyscrapers and growing the economy.

CP: What influence has Pudong's development and opening up exerted on the people's mindsets?

Shao: At the outset of Pudong's development, many were still focused on planned economy philosophies. Before performing a job, they always awaited instructions from superiors or searched relevant government documents for permission. We were doing something unprecedented that required the courage to innovate and break through old systems. It would never have worked if we had stuck to our former working methods. We emancipated our minds and pioneered many new practices in Pudong. One major breakthrough Pudong has made during its reform and opening up over the past 28 years is that we no longer ask "what we can do," but instead ask "what we cannot do." We need to take bold action to attempt new things, being bound only to existing laws and regulations.


In the early days of Pudong's development, large amounts of funds were needed to carry out infrastructure projects, but the initial capital ran short quickly. In 1992, we boldly adopted the practice of "conducting land transfer with idle public capital." In times of severe fund shortages, this practice effectively facilitated the government's demonstrative and leading role in investment. Of course, it also received pushback and criticism. Some argued that it didn't conform to any existing government documents or policies.

Today, it has become consensus in Pudong to take on more responsibilities, ask for fewer instructions, eliminate empty talk and seek greater innovation. Pudong encourages innovation and tolerates mistakes.

CP: How will Pudong New Area achieve greater development in the new era?

Shao: Local leaders have a clear vision of Pudong's future development. Right now, Pudong is going to great lengths to implement national strategies as it faces greater and greater difficulty in promoting industrial restructuring largely due to uncertainties in the global economy. Moreover, the development of its cultural industry cannot match the pace of its economic growth. Pudong may be rich in human resources and commercial atmosphere, but it is insufficient in cultural ambience. The administrative capacity of the local government doesn't meet the needs of modern urban development. One must stay vigilant when walking on thin ice and remember Xi Jinping's warning of the dangers of incapacity. The overall quality of citizens has been outpaced by demand for modern urban development.

So, we still have a long way to go to complete the development and opening up of Pudong. Construction of a modern city should target all-round development. Alongside growth in GDP, it should also enhance the moral quality of society, improve the cultural ambience of its people and strengthen the rule of law. Moreover, Pudong has yet to completely fulfill its responsibilities in terms of national development.

If we compare Pudong's development and opening up to a symphony orchestra performance, Deng Xiaoping was the composer, and the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core is the conductor. Every contributor to Pudong is a performer. Together, their performance is a song for the ages, the anthem of China's reform and opening up. The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation belongs not only to China, but also to the world. 

Recording the Reform and Opening Up of Pudong New Area

Exclusive Interview with Xie Guoping, Author of
A Chinese Miracle: The Development History of Pudong

Text by Qiao Zhenqi

“Over the past 28 years, Pudong has reached a high degree of industrialization and urbanization that took developed European countries two centuries to achieve.”

Senior media professional Xie Guoping has been working as a journalist and editor his entire career. He started with *Pudong New Area Weekly* (now *Pudong Times*) in 2002. Since then, he has continuously recorded and pondered over Pudong’s development. In the years that followed, he completed three books on Pudong, a symbol of China’s reform and opening up, namely *Pudong: A Story of Economic Prosperity*, *The Pudong Story* and *A Chinese Miracle: The Development History of Pudong*.

Zhao Qizheng, former minister of China’s State Council Information Office and first director of the Administrative Committee

of Pudong New Area, holds Xie Guoping in high regard. “Xie not only documents the news of the present, but also examines history of the past,” commented Zhao. “He grew up alongside Pudong and documented its original development history, providing reliable source materials for subsequent researchers to reflect on its history and its impact on the history of philosophy.”

China Pictorial (CP): What’s your general feeling about Pudong’s development and opening up over the past 28 years?

Xie: In terms of reform and opening up, the Chinese people made the right decision. Over the past 1,000 years, Pudong never

changed much. However, in just the past 28 years, the area has achieved a high degree of industrialization and urbanization that took developed European countries two centuries to reach. What were the drivers of this success? Westerners aren’t providing any solid answers, and sometimes even people like me who are immersed in Pudong’s development cannot explain it.

Before the development and opening up of Pudong in 1990, for most residents of Puxi—the historic center of Shanghai—Pudong was a backward place. Back then, Pudong suffered from poor urban construction, narrow roads, primitive living conditions, scarce cultural facilities and extremely

Xie Guoping researches and surveys Pudong from a historical perspective.
by Qiao Zhenqi

inconvenient land and water transportation. Since roads in Pudong were designed according to county-level standards, they were narrow, without any bridges or overpasses. Yanggao Road, which runs from east to west across northern Pudong, now offers eight fast lanes and two slow lanes. However, in the 1950s it was just a 3.5-meter-wide road paved with gravel and cinders, nicknamed “sheep bowel.” Public transportation was even poorer back then. By the end of 1990, Pudong was served by only 48 bus routes and 35 cabs. Crossing the Huangpu River to reach Pudong from Puxi or the other way round was even more difficult, given that there were no bridges, tunnels or subways at that time. The problem became even more serious from the 1980s. Enterprises located on either side of the river were plagued by bad cross-river transportation. Traffic jams during rush hours were already severe headaches and vehicles waiting to cross the river queued for hours every day. Sometimes, the wait time to cross the river was more than 10 hours. The situation became even worse on foggy days. Although Shanghai residents were experiencing a housing shortage back then, a popular saying went that “a single bed in Puxi is preferable to a room in Pudong.” Today, Pudong’s development and changes are apparent for the whole world to see.

I remember that when



the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) announced the launch and opening up of Pudong New Area in 1990, some Western media outlets and political forces called the move merely a political overture from China rather than real action. Milton Friedman (1912-2006), a renowned American economist and Nobel winner in economics, visited Shanghai around that time and described the development of Pudong New Area as “a Potemkin village.” The term “Potemkin village” was inspired by stories of a fake portable village built by Russian minister Grigory Potemkin solely to impress Empress Catherine II during her journey

to Crimea in the late 18th century. Later, “Potemkin village” became synonymous with fraud. Years later, however, Lanny Ebenstein, author of *Milton Friedman: A Biography*, opined that the economist was wrong at that time. If he was still alive today, he would reconsider his views, the biographer predicted.

Renowned British economist and Nobel laureate Ronald H. Coase (1910-2013) called China’s process of embracing the market economy an extraordinary story. No one would have believed it before it happened. But the miracle happened just the same.

CP: What is the significance of Pudong’s reform and

development to Shanghai, to China, and to the world at large? What are the differences between Pudong and Shenzhen in terms of reform and development?

Xie: For Shanghai, the development and opening up of Pudong solved many problems related to backward urban infrastructure and a lack of structural diversity while promoting Shanghai's transformation as a whole. Before the development of Pudong, Shanghai was an industrial city with a simple structure. A sixth of China's light industrial products were made in Shanghai. Now, Shanghai is an international economic, financial, trade and shipping hub, as well as a science and innovation center. It is fair to say that the development of Pudong has driven the overall transformation of Shanghai. It transformed Shanghai into a multi-functional central city on par economically with New York and Tokyo. In the 1980s, Shanghai served as the rear guard of China's reform and opening up. However, after Pudong's development and opening up, Shanghai became a striker and ushered in a golden age of economic development.

In the early 1990s, China's economy faced multiple difficulties and the country's reform was already at a crossroads. At this critical period, the development of Pudong was launched, which resulted in a strong demonstration effect. A saying goes: "Economic focus was on Shenzhen in the 1980s and on Pudong New Area in the 1990s." The development and opening up of Pudong sent a signal to the international community that China's reform and opening up would only go deeper and broader. Deng Xiaoping, considered the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, called Pudong China's "trump card." "If Shanghai achieves fast development, it will provide a

shortcut for our overall reform and opening up," Deng once asserted.

Poised at the forefront of China's reform and opening up, Shenzhen blazed a new trail and fought its way out of obscurity in the 1980s. If Shenzhen ran the first leg of China's reform and opening up, Pudong took up the baton for the second leg. If the reform in Shenzhen broke the ice, the development of Pudong was a crucial battle. If Shenzhen served as a window of China to the world, Pudong opened a door. Over the 40 years since China's historic reform and opening up, the Chinese government has been performing experiments with policies and institutions in various designated areas step by step, with a pragmatic attitude of "crossing the river by

feeling the stones." What a wonderful experiment! Looking back at a process that started with special economic zones before expanding to new areas and comprehensive reform pilot areas and finally to pilot free trade zones, the main thread has always been evident: the great experiment of China's reform and opening up.

CP: In your opinion, what influences has Pudong's reform exerted on modern sensibilities? And how have changes in minds powered Pudong's development?

Xie: It is interesting that Pudong was labeled an "experiment" all along during its development. For example, it became China's first comprehensive reform pilot area in 2005. China (Shanghai)

Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong, an international school located in Pudong. To provide a better living environment for foreign executives, the Biyun international community in Pudong constructed several international schools for expat kids. courtesy of Pudong New Area Information Office



Pilot Free Trade Zone, which was launched in 2013, is also located in Pudong. The word “pilot” was used in the English translation of the free trade zone’s name because it carries the meaning of both “serving experimentally” and “leading the way through unknown places” in English. Deng Xiaoping once asked Shanghai to “further emancipate minds, be bolder and go faster in conducting reform and opening up.” Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, emphasized that Shanghai should find the courage to carry out experiments, drive reform to a deeper level and make reform on its own. Thus, the builders of Pudong have been bestowed a pioneering, determined and ambitious spirit. They opened passages through mountains and




The Lingang passenger vehicle base under SAIC Motors. Automobile manufacturing is a pillar industry of Shanghai. by Wu Huiquan

built bridges over rivers. Today, Pudong has become the very pioneer and forerunner of China’s reform, opening up and innovation-oriented development. For example, considering China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Pudong is currently “making over” its local government to kindle bigger changes in governmental functions. This move calls for determination and the willingness to take on major responsibilities. It demands that Pudong be courageous enough to carry out experiments and drive reform to a deeper level.

CP: Against the backdrop of the anti-globalization trend, what is the significance of Pudong’s continuously expanding reform and opening up?

Xie: The development of Pudong is a successful example for China’s reform and opening up. Today, Pudong has proved the significance of China’s reform and opening up and that China has taken the right historic path to merge with the world economy. Back then, Deng Xiaoping required Shanghai to carry the torch to an even more

open China. Thanks to its opening up, Pudong’s GDP soared from six billion yuan in 1990 to an expected figure of one trillion yuan in 2018, an increase of around 160-fold. It is fair to say opening up is embedded in Pudong’s DNA. These days, the anti-globalization trend is popular globally. I believe that as a role model, Pudong provides significant references for other countries and regions, especially for the economic and social development of countries and regions along the Belt and Road.

Pudong also gives China confidence because it makes clear that the nation has taken the right path since the beginning of its reform and opening up in the late 1970s. Today, when foreigners say that the Belt and Road Initiative won’t be realized, I point to Pudong and its high-degree industrialization and urbanization that took developed European countries two centuries to achieve. Just as Chinese President Xi Jinping put it, the CPC and the Chinese people now have the confidence to provide Chinese solutions for human exploration of better social systems. 



Editor's Notes

Preparation work on developing and opening up Pudong started in the 1980s. The author took part in the preliminary exploration study with focus on legislative work and determining the degree of opening of the new area. He personally experienced considerable hardships during the decades-long construction of Pudong New Area.

My Pudong Story

Text by Zhou Hanmin

At the critical time of national development, only reform can boost momentum. And reform must fit the global trend.

Positioning: Set in Shanghai, Face the World

In July 1987, Professor Tung-Yen Lin, a Chinese-American structural engineer based in San Francisco, wrote a long letter to Jiang Zemin, then member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Shanghai municipal Party secretary, proposing to develop and open up Pudong and elaborating on the benefits of such openness in Shanghai to face the world. Jiang carefully examined his proposal and designated a special group to conduct research on Pudong's development and opening up. This group comprised experts from relevant fields. At that time, I had just earned my master's degree from the International Economic Law Department at Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (today's Shanghai University of International Business and Economics) and was staying on there as a teacher. Thanks to my English-language skills and

experience working in an American law firm, I was lucky enough to be recruited into the team.

The primary task of this group was to study the positioning of the Pudong area. For example, we had to decide whether to select just one corner of Pudong as a pilot or use the entire area as the test field. We researched whether it would be better to open up a few sectors first or every industry at once. Everything started from scratch for us—all of the members of the group were part-time and worked in a temporary office thrown together in one of the corrugated iron sheds next to the Shanghai municipal government building. But we had a strong sense of historic mission and responsibility, which inspired us to stay fully and passionately engaged. At that time, we did not have much domestic experience to draw from, so the international experience from Professor Tung-Yen Lin and some of his friends was particularly valuable.

The group believed that the



One of China's most influential financial centers, Shanghai's Lujiazui houses headquarters of many multinational banks' Chinese and East Asian branches. It is also an icon of China's modernization, reform and opening up.
by Xu Wanglin

development and opening up of Pudong should be anchored in Shanghai but embrace the world with an eye on modernization, IT application, rule of law and market-orientation. The team proposed that the new area feature "small government (concise and efficient



Thanks to the area's cultural and creative resources, the bookstore in Zhangjiang Science City has become a cultural landmark of Shanghai's Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park. by Qiao Zhenqi

administration), big society (society and market play major roles) and many enterprises (both domestic and foreign business standouts)” and that the development and opening up of Pudong start from one sector before gradually spreading through the whole area. My duty back then was to investigate exactly how open the new area should be and how to legislate it. At the time, China already had four special economic zones featuring many measures of reform and opening up. Although Hainan Province was not yet a special economic zone, it had already released at least 30 policies related to opening up. So we also went to Hainan to learn. In general, domestically, we studied special economic zones, while internationally we sought to restore Shanghai's former reputation as “Paris of the Far East.”

Legislation: To Protect and Improve

Rule of law was always the foundation of Pudong's

development and opening up. In early July 1990, China's central government dispatched a delegation of Chinese mayors headed by a ministerial-level official to the United States, accompanied by five local Shanghai scholars. Again, I was fortunate to be among them and tasked with studying legislation and the extent of Pudong's openness.

On April 18, 1990, then Chinese Premier Li Peng formally announced the establishment of Pudong New Area. Our delegation set off on July 7 and arrived in New York City first, where we held a symposium. At the event, an American reporter doubted whether Pudong's 10 preferential policies that only fit in a corner newspaper column could promote its openness. And foreign enterprises would dare not venture there without legal guarantees. Zhu Rongji, then mayor of Shanghai (later Chinese Premier) responded with a resolute and decisive answer: “We will definitely pass laws to protect the progress of

Pudong's opening up as well as the interests of foreign investors.” As soon as he returned to Shanghai in late July, Zhu began to accelerate Pudong's legislative work. To enable overseas investors to grasp the essence of laws from the outset, the laws that were passed were required to be published in Chinese, English and Japanese.

I was chosen as a member of the legislation team and later, the finalizer of the English version of the law. That summer, we slogged long days at work in the rooms of Chunshenjiang Hotel. When I was knee-deep in legislative work, I always kept two words in my mind: protection and promotion, which I felt represented the main function of the law.

Reform: Fitting World Trends

With Pudong's development and opening up on the right track, our group was dismissed when other organs had a handle on promoting the new area's development with

substantial measures. By 2000 after the completion of several trials, it was clear that system, mechanism and rule of law should be advanced side by side in Pudong. And we knew that running the development zone with an administrative committee might work well for a time, but would not last long. So Pudong needed to set up a governing body.

In August 2000, the government of Pudong New Area was established. While I was vice president of Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, I was recruited to serve as deputy chief of Pudong New Area. I was surprised and worried because even though I was doing well at my position and had achieved some academic accolades, I didn't think I was qualified to serve as deputy chief of Pudong New Area. Such a post seemed way too challenging.

Still I agreed to step up and accept the challenge. At that time, I was the only official without party affiliation (I later joined the China National Democratic Construction Association) in the government of Pudong New Area. But my colleagues gave me great support and trust all the same. I was in charge of three sectors: Lujiazui, which is now an icon of China's modernization, reform and opening up; Waigaoqiao bonded area, which is currently an important part of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone; and the social development bureau, which covered sectors including education, public health, civil affairs and sports. My secretary managed 27 filing cabinets for each of my duties.

I summarized Pudong's main work back then in four words: legislation, planning, high-caliber professionals and capital. Since 1992, Shanghai presented a plan to become the economic, financial


The fourth phase of Shanghai's Yangshan Deep-Water Port is the world's largest unmanned container terminal, with the highest degree of automation. by Qiao Zhenqi





and trade center of the country. In 1998, a shipping center was added to the wish list, and Shanghai is now poised to reach this goal by 2020. The CPC Central Committee demanded that Shanghai become a pioneer of the market economy, sustainable development and rule of law. In the new era, President Xi Jinping also hopes that Shanghai continues carrying the torch of China's reform and opening up and serving as a bellwether of sustainable development. I think these are very important for the positioning of Shanghai.

At this critical stage of national development, only reform can further boost momentum. And the reform has to fit the global trend. The effects of Pudong's development and opening up were, in short, relieving the pressure imposed by Western countries headed by the United States at the time, building up the confidence of the Chinese people, setting a model for China's reform and opening up and making preparation for China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). We need reform, and our reform is ongoing and unending. Reform refers not only to streamlining administrative organs but also seizing the opportunities that our predecessors missed.

Pudong's experience shows us no great achievements are easy and reform requires concerted efforts, courage, passion and determination. With the love for our country and people, we can make anything possible. 

The author is a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, vice chairman of the CPPCC Shanghai Committee and vice chairman of the Central Committee of China National Democratic Construction Association.

Promoting Sustainable Development in Pudong

Text by Zhou Hongchun

Pudong now faces the problem of fostering growth momentum and promoting sustainable social and economic development at a higher starting point.

In 1990, China launched the development and opening up of Pudong New Area in Shanghai. Deng Xiaoping, considered the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, once elaborated on the importance of Pudong's opening up and development: "Shenzhen faces Hong Kong, Zhuhai faces Macao and Xiamen faces Taiwan, but Pudong faces the Pacific Ocean—just across the pond from the United States and Europe, and even the whole world." This statement undoubtedly elevated the position of Pudong's development and opening up.

After 28 years of rapid development, Pudong has been transformed from a "barren marsh" into the "bellwether" of Chinese development, emerging as an international economic, financial, trade and shipping hub. Pudong is also as proud of its social progress as much as its economic development. It has become the representative of China's reform and opening up and the epitome of Shanghai's modernization.

Achievements and Experience

Shanghai has consistently set records on the heights of buildings over the past 28 years. At present, the metropolis is home to five skyscrapers above 300 meters and 1,000-plus high-rises above 100 meters. These skyscrapers serve as a testament to Shanghai's urban and economic development. In September 2016, China Cultural Relics Academy and the Architectural Society of China jointly released the first list of Chinese architectural heritage of the 20th century. Both the Oriental Pearl Radio & TV Tower (1995) and Shanghai Jinmao Tower (1999) in Pudong made the list.

Over the past 28 years, Pudong's economic aggregate soared from six billion yuan in 1990 to more than 965 billion yuan in 2017. During the same period, its total fiscal revenue rose from 1.1 billion yuan to nearly 394 billion yuan. Today, 30,000 foreign-funded enterprises, 281 regional headquarters of multinational corporations, and the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone all call Pudong home.

On July 22, 1990, the construction

of Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone, Jinqiao Export Processing Zone and Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone was launched in Shanghai. Now, the three zones all offer distinctive advantages. Lujiazui is home to nearly 40,000 enterprises from home and abroad which form an industrial system with finance, shipping and trade as its core. Jinqiao has upgraded to intelligent manufacturing and built an ecosystem involving biological medicine, big data and the Internet of Things. In 2017, the total import and export volume of Waigaoqiao reached nearly 796 billion yuan, with the industries of international trade, modern logistics and export processing as the three pillars. Waigaoqiao has become an important international trade center in Shanghai and even in China.

Pudong's developmental experience has fostered certainty on four major pieces of advice: First, always stick to the reform and opening up. Second, promote basic development, morphological development and functional development in a coordinated manner. Third, adhere to service-oriented functions. Pudong's development and opening up should



Established in Pudong in July 1992, Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park aims to be a “science city” suitable for residential living. by Liu Sihong

not only serve the development of Shanghai and the Yangtze River Delta, but also aim to enhance the development of the whole country and the world at large. Fourth, the construction of both material and spiritual civilizations should be carried out simultaneously.

Road to Sustainable Development

Pudong now faces the problem of fostering growth momentum and promoting sustainable social and economic development from a higher starting point. I believe that efforts should be made in the following ways:

Economic prosperity remains the prerequisite for Pudong’s sustainable development. Pudong should accelerate its industrial restructuring and maintain its strong industrial base. With the mission to build a national manufacturing model zone as an opportunity, Pudong should focus on strategic emerging industries including the new-generation information technology, intelligent manufacturing equipment, biomedical and high-end medical equipment, and

the aerospace industry. It should target the mid-to-high end of the global value chain.

Innovation serves as the impetus for Pudong’s sustainable development. Pudong should enhance application depth, integration and innovation of new technologies, including the internet, big data, artificial intelligence and blockchain, to build a model national smart city. Transformation and upgrading of the consumption structure should be promoted, and new consumption modes facilitated by cutting-edge “Internet Plus” technologies should be encouraged. Development of the manufacturing-related service industry should be accelerated. Support should be given to private enterprises to promote their development, and innovation should serve as the fuel for the area’s sustainable development.


Professionals act as the foundation for Pudong’s sustainable development. Pudong should improve its human resource policy and create a sound environment for innovation, which will attract more professionals in strategic science and technology as well as more leading scientific and technological talent, young scientific and technological professionals and high-caliber innovation teams. The intelligent manufacturing industry should be driven to develop further, which will provide key human resource support for Pudong’s transformation and upgrading.

Higher-level integration between urban and rural areas needs to be promoted. Urban development bottom lines on land resources, population, ecological protection and security guarantees should be maintained. Inefficient and backward production capacities should be adjusted or eliminated. A circular economy such as recycling renewable resources with the help of “Internet

Plus” technologies should be promoted. A safe and efficient public utility network should be constructed, and a convenient and smooth transit network should be built.

Efforts to protect and improve the ecological environment should continue. Promotion of the concerted development of production, livelihood and the ecology should happen in a coordinated way. The focal point of work remains getting PM2.5 and ozone concentration under control. A new clean air campaign should be launched, and social and economic sustainable development should be supported by a high-quality ecological environment.

Construction of the eco-space should be reinforced. Public space functionality of the east bank of the Huangpu River should be improved, and a new countryside landscape featuring “a region of lakes, rivers, and pastoral scenery” should be created. An assessment system for ecological civilization construction should be established. Greater financial support should be diverted to bolster sustainable development. Green transportation, consumption and residences should be encouraged, and the general public should be encouraged to participate in the construction of the ecological civilization.

Comprehensive treatment of the water environment should be strengthened. The layout for the river system should be designed reasonably. The pilot construction of the Shanghai Sponge City program, launched in 2016, should be accelerated in Pudong. The river chief scheme should be put into standard practice and the long-term mechanism for water treatment should be improved. 

The author is a researcher with the Development Research Center of China’s State Council.



February 20, 2011: Shan Tianfang is interviewed in Beijing. Shan made his stage debut at the age of 24 and excelled at describing abstract plots with concrete and detailed descriptions. VCG

Shan Tianfang

A Storytelling Life

Text by Ru Yuan

By portraying various characters, storytelling artists like Shan Tianfang try to make their performances not only entertaining, but also educational and thought-provoking.

Shan Tianfang, one of the most celebrated Chinese storytelling masters, died at the age of 84 in Beijing on September 11, 2018 after a long battle with illness. The death of Shan, whose works influenced generations in China, triggered a wave of nostalgia.

The traditional Chinese art form of storytelling, also known as *pingshu*, boasts a time-honored history. It is believed that as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907), an art form similar to modern-day storytelling had already emerged. By the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the art had become popular with audiences, especially in northern China.

Like his storytelling peers, Shan usually performed an entire story by himself, standing behind a table with only a few props such as a fan and a block of wood called *xingmu* to remind the audience to be quiet or attract their attention. With witty, humorous commentary and expressive body language, Shan won the hearts of spectators with his vivid descriptions. The renowned storytelling artist produced so many works that it would take more than 30 years to air all of them at a rate of one episode per day. His stories covered a wide range of

topics from Chinese mythology to current social affairs.

Early Life

According to Chinese media reports, the number of those who have watched or listened to a Shan performance reached nearly 200 million, accounting for one seventh of China's population. *Romance of the Sui (581-618) and Tang Dynasties*, *White-Eyebrow Hero*, *Heroes in a Troubled Time* and *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* are some of his best-known storytelling works.

Shan was born in the chilly winter of 1934 in Yingkou City, Liaoning Province in northeastern China to a family of folk artists. His father played *sanxian*, a three-stringed plucked instrument, and his mother performed *xihe dagu*, a drumming sing-along tongue-twister popular in some parts of northern China.

When he was young, Shan transcribed stories for his parents to be used in performances, and by the age of 12, the boy had already memorized numerous novels. "But destiny played a major role in my decision to become a storyteller," Shan once asserted.

After graduating from high school, Shan was admitted by Northeastern University. "I

dreamed of becoming an engineer or a doctor." However, he soon dropped out of the school due to a serious illness and later, in 1953, formally launched his storytelling career. He made his stage debut at the age of 24 and quickly rose to fame by performing classic storytelling works.

Across the decade from 1954 to 1964, Shan performed at teahouses and small theaters. "You meet people involved in a wide variety of trades at these places, and you perform the same story differently for different audiences," said Shan. "By touring like this, I grew up quickly." During this period, Shan performed a wide range of works including some adapted from Soviet novels and even Sherlock Holmes stories, which laid a solid foundation for his future development.

His down-to-earth work attitude eventually paid off. Shan soon formed a distinctive style. He especially excelled at adjusting his own voice to turn abstract plot elements such as visuals, colors, and emotions into concrete and detailed descriptions.

Old Art in a New Time

In the late 1970s, Shan returned to public life after the end of the

“cultural revolution” (1966-1976). Against the backdrop of China’s implementation of its reform and opening-up policy, the Chinese people were eager to embrace art, which had been restricted during the previous decade of turmoil. Traditional storytelling works, many of which originated in ancient Chinese history, managed to hang on to a large fan base. Moreover, after a few years of rapid economic development, greater numbers of Chinese people were able to afford radios by the early 1980s, through which storytelling programs could be transmitted to every household.

Actually, before the 1980s as well as in the subsequent decade, radio had been the dominant mass medium in China. By broadcasting his works, Shan quickly became one of the most popular storytellers in the country. His voice managed to produce a magical and mesmerizing quality that drew listeners’ attention and fueled their imaginations.

During this period, Shan’s skills were further honed and matured. He especially excelled at using nuanced diction to narrate stories and modulated his voice to perfection. For example, while presenting a fighting scene, Shan injected nervousness into his voice which made listeners feel as if they were on-site and witnessing the fighting with their own eyes.

Shan once commented that in some sense, mass media changed the communication mode of storytelling. Later, when TV found its way into the homes of more Chinese people, Shan made further adjustments to make his storytelling

more suitable for the medium by using more gestures and expressions to signify a situation. “It was definitely a reform for the art,” he commented. “When you perform in theaters, you can keep an eye on the audience’s reaction the whole time while working,” explained Shan. “But when you do storytelling on TV or radio, you’re only looking at cameras and crew. Actually, I had to conjure some imagination at first, and hypnotized myself to believe I was ‘acting’ in front of a crowd, which helped my performances be more natural.”

Leaving a Valuable Cultural Legacy

In 2007, Shan announced his retirement. In 2012, he won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 7th Peony Awards for China *Quyí* (folk art forms including ballad singing, storytelling and cross-talk). Like almost all traditional Chinese art forms, storytelling requires years of training, usually through a long apprenticeship with a master. Along with memorizing passages that can be hundreds of thousands of words long, storytellers also have to incorporate certain customs and



2010: Shan performs in Tianjin. Shan became a household name in the 1980s with the growing popularity of radio. Later, he began to perform on television. VCG



2011: Shan signs books for buyers in Qingdao, Shandong Province. Shan announced his retirement in 2007 and won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 7th Peony Awards for *Quyí* (a general term for traditional Chinese folk art forms) in 2012. VCG



2014: Shan receives flowers from young fans after performing in Anshan City, Liaoning Province. His witty, humorous and expressive performing style is appealing to spectators of all ages. VCG

understand the backgrounds of each character, related history, geography, and other enchanting aspects of the stories they tell.

Shan believed that alongside thousands of hours of practice, a storytelling artist must be willing to devote all of his or her time, effort and talent to the work. The artist needs to understand the core of the stories first, translate them into his or her own words and then comment on them. “As a storytelling performer, you need to help the audience feel trust, love, hatred, fear and hope in the story only using your voice,” Shan once said.

While some expressed concern that storytelling faced new challenges posed by modern entertainment, Shan considered the modern era a combination of “the best of times and the worst of times.”

“Computers, tablets and modern technology enable professionals to record their stories online and share their work with more people,” he opined. “It depends on how you use them.”

Shan did voice worries about the future of storytelling on quite a few occasions, but he was even firmer on the point that storytelling

was irreplaceable due to its tendency to deliver a sense of positivity. By portraying various characters, artists try to make their performances not only entertaining, but also educational and thought-provoking.

Storytelling shares the beauty of oral stories and highlights the values of Chinese culture. Many time-honored stories remain closely connected to people today. “Storytelling is not only my job but also my life,” Shan once said. By dedicating his entire life to the art of telling stories, Shan left a valuable cultural legacy to be embraced by generations. ㊟



The Bulk House

Zeroing in on Zero Waste

Text by Lilia

"Human beings are the producers of waste and also the victims of it."



The Bulk House is the first zero-waste shop in the Chinese mainland. All of its goods are reusable and degradable. courtesy of Yu Yuan



In the three months after Yu and her boyfriend Joe Harvey began practicing the zero-waste lifestyle, the couple managed to limit their waste to only two small glass jars. The two jars are displayed in the Bulk House to inspire more people to join them. courtesy of Yu Yuan

and embrace the idea.”

Achieving Zero Waste

In early 2016, a hurried residential move made Yu realize the importance of reducing her purchasing. She began to “do subtraction” in her daily life and pondered over the kind of life she really wanted. Six months later, she chanced upon some TED talk videos featuring Bea Johnson, founder of Zero Waste Home, and was greatly impressed by, as well as attracted to, the lifestyle.

“Her family of four produces just one glass jar of rubbish in an entire year!” Yu exclaims. “A brand-new lifestyle, zero waste saves time and money and makes the participants happier.”

Bea Johnson’s story inspired Yu to completely abandon her former lifestyle of heavy consumerism. Soon, Yu and her British boyfriend Joe Harvey began to try the zero-waste lifestyle and classify their garbage. Over the next three months, the couple managed to produce only two small glass jars of household waste.

“Only when you realize the

ining both sides of Gulou Avenue in Beijing are various boutique shops attracting tourists and local passersby alike. Among them, one small shop stands out, with a big green sign reading: “The Bulk House: Zero Waste, Package Free, Reusable, Natural.”

“What do you sell?” “Are all your products made of recycled materials?” “What does ‘zero waste’

mean?” These are among the questions that the shopkeepers hear most often. The owner and founder of Bulk House, Yu Yuan, a millennial from Wuhan in central China, is always happy to answer them as part of a mini “environmental protection campaign.”

“Zero waste is still a new and niche concept in the Chinese mainland,” Yu admits. “I hope my efforts will help more people get to know



A shopper in the Bulk House. The shop sells various goods for daily use that are made of materials such as stainless steel, wood and organic cotton.
by Lilia

contents of your household waste will you reduce the production of garbage from the source,” says Yu.

On December 21, 2017, at an invitation from Yu, Bea Johnson hosted her very first sharing workshop in the Chinese mainland. “At first, I was afraid no one would come, but the tickets ended up selling out quickly, and we fit 140 in a venue that seated only 100,” recalls Yu. Conjuring up the scene remains exciting for her. “I was greatly encouraged. I decided that if so many people care about environmental protection, I have to keep going. I knew I wanted to open a

zero-waste shop to pass the idea on to more people.”

Every Effort Counts

Though her storefront remains small, Bulk House attracts a large volume of customers. Some have become regulars, including foreigners, and others travel from other cities just to visit the shop.

The store’s shelves are filled with toothbrushes made of horse-hair bristles and bamboo, straws and other tableware made of stainless steel, handmade soaps and essential oil made of plants, preservative film made of beeswax, cloth bags and net



Except for the IKEA shelves, all the furniture in the shop was purchased from second-hand flea markets or donated by friends. The concept of zero waste can be seen in every detail. courtesy of Yu Yuan

bags made of pure cotton, creative products made of recycled items and more. All of these goods are reusable and pollution-free. Bulk House also sells unpacked shampoo and washing powders made from Chinese honeylocust, which are sold by weight. Customers are encouraged to bring their own containers or bags.

Hanging next to the walls are unique and freshly renovated clothes, and an area is designated for CD and DVD exchange. At the entrance is a recycling station where people can drop off unneeded items or take whatever they need for free. Empty bottles and jars can also be sent to the shop for transport to recycling companies.

The only food or beverage served is Jane Goodall's fair trade coffee. Fair trade means that workers are paid fair wages without exploitation or oppression. Other handmade goods in the shop are also certified fair trade. Yu hopes to help more people while contributing to a better environment.

In a corner of the shop stands a glass cylinder filled with plastic tape collected from packaging materials. "They have no recycling value and don't biodegrade so we keep them in the cylinder," Yu explains. "That is the real garbage." To avoid contributing more to the collection, Yu uses biodegradable paper tape made from corn syrup that becomes sticky when wet.

In the shop, the concept of zero waste can be seen in every detail.

"The pace of life is becoming faster and faster nowadays, and we need a pause to ponder over the importance of the environment," Yu says. "Emerging problems such as smog caused by gas emissions and plastic pollution all make the situation worse. We have to change."

"We are not just consumers," she adds. "We should contribute to society. Every penny we spend should favor the social and ecological environment rather than worsen the current situation. I hope more people rethink the relationship

between humans, society and nature. Human beings are both the producers of waste and its victims."


More Motivation

Alongside running the store, Yu and Harvey regularly host second-hand flea markets and meetings to share their experience in environmental protection. Lacking abundant financial resources, they perform all the work by themselves and consider it "worth it no matter what it takes" because they are doing what they truly want.

Following their lead, more people are trying to use less plastic and embrace the zero-waste lifestyle.

"I hope to inspire a wide range of options and foster greater convenience for customers," Yu declares. She remains positive about the future and plans to provide more food products and build a one-stop shopping platform. "We want to open more shops in other cities to help people understand the zero-waste lifestyle and provide easy access for advocates of environmental protection to try zero-waste products."

Although other countries already have a handful of zero-waste shops, Yu wants to take her Bulk House abroad.

"Public awareness is crucial," she concludes. "It arouses concern from people from all walks of life. I do what I can and hope everyone does what he or she can and mobilizes people around them. Many hands make light work. When we work together, we can make the world a better place." 



Drones over Beidahuang

Text by Li Zhuoxi

The usage of drones in crop protection is growing rapidly in China and may attract more young people to further explore intelligent agriculture.



August 2, 2018: A drone hovers over a paddy field in Heilongjiang Province. Farming in the province has been transforming because of mechanization and electrification. VCG

Beidahuang (literally, “Great Northern Wilderness”) is a vast region of mostly farmland in China’s north-eastern Heilongjiang Province. Back in the 1950s, tens of thousands of retired soldiers, educated youths and revolutionaries worked hard there to introduce agriculture to the wild land. Today, Beidahuang has become China’s most modern and productive grain production base. But like other rural areas in the country, Beidahuang faces a shortage of labor.

In recent years, however, a new profession involving drone-driven crop protection has emerged, which has greatly relieved the situation and cultivated a new generation of Chinese farmers.

Drone-aided Harvest

Thanks to China’s reform and opening up, the country urbanized fast, which resulted in a loss of demographic dividends in rural areas. Standard wages to hire farm help have more than doubled in recent years. Even so, rural areas still lack enough hands during harvest season. Three years ago, crop protection drones carrying automatic spraying machines began to fly over the fields of Beidahuang.

Zhao Liqing was born into a farmer’s family in Baoqing County, Heilongjiang Province. When he was young, he was hired by a company in town. Later, a series of preferential policies issued by the Chinese government inspired him to leave his job to become a professional farmer. Currently, he manages 400 *mu* (26.67 hectares) of rice fields.

Just two years ago, spraying pesticides required considerable manpower. To serve all of his rice fields, Zhao had to hire seven or eight agricultural workers for about a week. And he had to pay 100 yuan

for each employee per day. Moreover, it was hard to recruit people to do the job. If the optimal date was missed, his yield and harvest quality would be tremendously impacted. Fortunately, crop protection drones can now help him out. “I called a company and placed an order,” says Zhao. “And then two drones did all the work. The whole process took just half a day. And each *mu* (0.07 hectares) costed just six yuan. I could never have imagined this.”

“Sowing seeds and harvesting rice have also been mechanized,” Zhao adds. “Without such machines, I could never farm such a large area.” Agricultural technologies help him earn a net income of 800,000 yuan per year.

Cool Agriculture

Under the scorching sun, 26-year-old Zhang Bo sat leisurely on a ridge with a remote control, setting flight parameters. After a while, a drone rose up over the field to spray pesticides along a default route.

Zhang does this every day as a professional drone operator. Before 2017 when he lived in Tianjin City, he became a Weibo (China’s version of Twitter) celebrity by live streaming content about video games. His family was selling agricultural machinery and farm implements in Suibin County, Heilongjiang Province. In 2017, his father started exploring the idea of purchasing a drone to use for farming, so Zhang agreed to return home to learn crop protection technology using drones. The operation of crop protection drones is not complicated, so it came easy for the video game player.

“Actually, my former job earned more money and was more comfortable than farming,” admits Zhang. “But this is more fun.” After realizing how easy the formerly toilsome task of planting has become, he believes that new technology is

going to change the game further and that agriculture will soon become a promising and “cool” industry.

Not far from Zhang in Tongjiang County, Li Dan is another drone operator. She used to manage a hotel in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province. People in her family

introduced her to the new occupation. She also believes the realm has a bright future, so she learned the technology and bought some equipment. During peak season, Li works from 3 a.m. to 9 p.m., spraying pesticides for 700 *mu* (46.67 hectares) of farmland every day on average. Despite exhausting and

intense working conditions, the job is fulfilling as well as economically rewarding. Her family now manages 300 *mu* (20 hectares) of farmland, and Li intends to lease more fields next year.

“I plan to go back to school to learn more agricultural technologies,” Li adds. “I want to be a ‘new’



June 11, 2018: A drone operator changes battery and pesticide tank in Hami City of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. During harvest peak time, drone operators from Heilongjiang Province are often hired to work in other provinces and regions. VCG

farmer different from my father's generation."

Key to Intelligent Agriculture

A saying in Beidahuang goes: "Those born in the 1970s don't want to farm, those from the 1980s cannot farm and those of the 1990s are reluctant to even talk about



July 23, 2018: A drone operator works in a paddy field in Shuangyashan City, Heilongjiang Province. VCG

farming." Similar phenomena have occurred in China's other rural areas. Most farmers do not want their children to be farmers. If current trends continue, the country will have insufficient farming labor in 10 years. But the application of drone technology could possibly provide a solution to the issue.

Growing up in an era of information technology, people born after the 1980s have a natural inclination to more tightly embrace modern technology like drones. Additionally, with strong sensitivity about intelligent agriculture and big data, some young drone operators are setting up comprehensive service platforms for farmers featuring cutting-edge technologies, which earn them impressive incomes while remaining attractive to young people in particular.

Born in 1993, Wang Feng returned to his hometown in Heilongjiang Province after graduating from college to take over his father's business of selling agricultural supplies. Due to his passion for drones, Wang set up a flight team to provide crop protection services. Based on big data, his team provides one-package service including

plowing, seeding, managing, harvesting and storing. Most of his 40 employees hail from local villages and are in their twenties or thirties.

"The pesticides we use are eco-friendly and pollution-free," declares Wang. "Drones can spray pesticides with precision, which prevents pesticide overuse and cuts usage in half while saving over 90 percent of water. This can greatly cut the cost of agricultural production. We hope we can provide better service to our fellow farmers, relieve their burden and better protect the black soil with advanced technology."

In 2016, more than 6,000 drones were used for crop protection in China and by 2017, the number exceeded 10,000. The same year, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Aviation Administration of China jointly declared that they would provide subsidies for crop protection drone operation in six pilot provinces and municipalities. It is expected that in the near future, the usage of drones in crop protection will grow rapidly. And what's more important is that the application of drones may attract more young people to further explore intelligent agriculture. 





With the once-ubiquitous slow green trains as the theme, the documentary *The Slow Train Home* is full of poetic and warm stories.

Taking the Slow Train Home

Text by Gong Haiying

Uncredited photos courtesy of the production team of *The Slow Train Home*

The classic slow green trains carry not only old memories and distant dreams, but also the hopes and livelihoods of the local people.



In a still from the second episode of the documentary, young Uyghur poet Niyazi Ali (second left) talks to other passengers on a train.

All six 25-minute episodes of the Chinese documentary *The Slow Train Home* are scheduled to be aired on the Documentary Channel of China Central Television (CCTV) from October 22 to 27, 2018.

Choosing the once-ubiquitous slow green trains as the theme, the documentary explores traditional customs of old Chinese villages, vanishing traditional skills and the historic changes that have upended centuries-old lifestyles. At the same time, such images inspire a strong sense of nostalgia in people across China.

Nostalgia is at the core of this documentary. “When taking the slow trains, people could see mountains and rivers along the routes, which left them with more vivid memories and accompanying nostalgia,” said Ren Chongrong, producer and project supervisor of

the documentary.

Mass migration is a normal phenomenon in human development history and has frequently been a powerful driving force for social progress and prosperity. China’s current urbanization process has been dubbed the largest population migration in human history. Countless people have left their ancestral homes to establish new residences in cities. Meanwhile, nostalgia has exploded as a popular emotion among the public.

The slow train, the most common and representative vehicle for long trips in China from the 1950s to the 1980s, carries the nostalgia in the production. The trains are painted green with yellow stripes and lack centralized power and air conditioning. They are designed to reach a maximum speed of only 120 kilometers per hour.

With the rapid development

of the Chinese railway sector and the constant upgrades in speed and technology of passenger trains, most of the slow trains in the country have been gradually replaced by newer bullet trains with air conditioning, electricity and higher speeds.

The documentary production team discovered during pre-production investigation that only about 20 lines and 40 total slow trains still operate in China today.

The still-familiar slow trains are fueled with coal, lack air conditioning and feature famously hard seats. However, these “stars” of the documentary still maintain two important advantages over their faster competitors: Tickets are cheap and many stops are made, so for some, the trains remain an indispensable method of transport.

Since the beginning of 2018,

the production team had ventured to many places in China including Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Hunan and Shanxi provinces and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to gather footage.

Backdrops include the snow-capped Daliang Mountains in China's southwestern Sichuan Province, the forested Hinggan Mountains in China's northernmost Heilongjiang Province, the magnificent Tianshan Mountains and Taklimakan Desert in China's northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region as well as small towns along the border of Sichuan and Hunan provinces.

From *The Palace Museum* (2005) to *The Forbidden City 100* (2012), *China* (2013), *Custom-made for Life* (2016) and finally *The Slow Train Home* (2018), Ren's documentaries have gradually shifted from grand themes of history and culture to intimate portraits of ordinary people. She believes that stories of ordinary people in the context of a great era can be some of the most touching and attractive such as kids going to school by train, orange vendors, and a bride from the Yi ethnic group, featured in *The Slow Train Home*.

Ren added a poetic and warm touch to her latest work. "Today, thanks to the popularization of high-speed rails in China and so many young people moving to the cities, slower lifestyles and traditions associated with the few remaining slow-speed green trains have become a kind of humanistic concern we hoped to kindle through nostalgia," she explained.

Moving Museums

—Exclusive interview with Ren Chongrong, producer and project supervisor of the documentary *The Slow Train Home*



Ren Chongrong, producer and project supervisor of the documentary *The Slow Train Home*. by Chen Jian

CP: What were the most impressive stories you encountered while shooting the documentary?

Ren Chongrong: The documentary is built around a series of travel stories, so many interesting things happened during shooting.

In the first episode, the Shanghai-based online writer Qi Dong tracked down a DF1 (Dongfeng1), the earliest diesel locomotive in China, still running along the foot of the Daliang Mountains. It has been cruising between Chengdu and Kunming for more than 30 years, long after most of its peers have retired.

When the train reached 60 kilometers per hour, it seemed to whisk back in time. I was very impressed by this scene.

There is a hilarious scene at the beginning of the first episode in which Qi Dong helps locals load cattle, sheep and dogs on a train so that farmers can sell them in town.

For the people who ride them most frequently, the green trains are not about nostalgia—they are the most convenient and cheapest method of transportation. These trains meet their needs at an affordable price. This dynamic was very touching to me.



In the first episode of the documentary, Shanghai-based online writer Qi Dong (left) helps locals load cattle, sheep and dogs onto a train so that farmers can sell them in town.

CP: How does one go about shooting a good documentary?

Ren: In my opinion, the key to shooting a good documentary is not to focus on skills and techniques, but to seek to touch hearts.

The things that most frequently touch people's hearts are found in everyday life. Many Chinese documentary makers have focused their lens on stories of ordinary individuals, which collectively weave the most vivid image of Chinese society.

In recent years, my focus has shifted from grand themes related to grand history and culture as seen in *The Palace Museum* and *China* to the rich and interesting details from the lives of ordinary people. *Custom-made for Life*, a five-episode documentary that I helmed in 2016, focused on young Chinese people who pursue distinct lifestyles and fashion.

We are also concerned about the lives of ordinary people and their memories and feelings about traditional culture in such a fast-developing era. Stories of ordinary people in the context of a great era are the most touching and attractive. Three


of my favorites in this documentary are kids taking the train to school, orange vendors and a bride from the Yi ethnic group taking the train home.

CP: What is the significance of documentaries to China?

Ren: In 2000, *The True Story*, a spin-off of *Oriental Horizon*, a popular program of CCTV where I worked, adopted the slogan "recording the changing images of China," which I would cite to answer the question.

The slow-speed green trains are now like moving museums. We captured images of the train traveling tirelessly through the deserts of southern Xinjiang as well as the snow-carpeted plains of northeastern China.

The words of a local woman in the fifth episode are quite true and touching: "Thanks to the train, I can sell oranges in town so I don't have to work away from home and leave my children behind."

The slow green trains carry not only old memories and distant dreams, but also the hopes and livelihoods of the local people. That is the real China we see in the documentary. 



Deconstructing Chinese Antique Porcelain

By Fan Dongqing, published by Shanghai People's Publishing House, July 2018

Porcelain is a profound invention of ancient Chinese people and also a major contribution to human civilization from the Chinese nation.

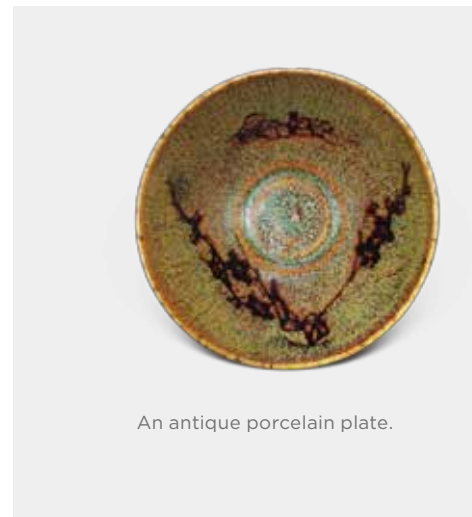
Porcelain emerged in China as early as the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.), making it the world's earliest porcelain-producing country by far. Porcelain is not only a profound invention of ancient Chinese people, but also a powerful contribution to human civilization from the Chinese nation.

Since the 17th century, Chinese porcelain has been transported around the world by sea, and China gained a reputation as "the country of porcelain," so much so that the material is called "china" in many

English-speaking countries.

The Song Dynasty (960-1279) fostered a boom in the ancient Chinese porcelain industry, during which time porcelain kilns were constructed across the country. With contrasting strong local flavors, the Guan, Ru, Ge, Ding and Jun kilns were dubbed the "Five Famous Kilns" of China at that time.

Compiled from the manuscripts written by Ms. Fan Dongqing, one of the earliest discoverers of the Ru Kiln, the book *Deconstructing Chinese Antique Porcelain*



An antique porcelain plate.

describes the styles, features and identification tips of 13 representative ancient ceramic kilns in the Tang (618-907) and Song dynasties including the “Five Famous Kilns.” The publication also includes pictures from various aspects of discovered pieces, historical documents, archaeological materials and excavation work.

It should be noted that the porcelain incense burner with a lid in the shape of a deer holding a Lingzhi mushroom (*Ganoderma lucidum*) featured on the cover of this book is owned by a private collector in Beijing and had never



A painted powder box with plant patterns.

before been displayed to the public. The piece has only been partially catalogued as part of the collection of the Palace Museum in Beijing.

The publisher of the book has also created a 720-degree 3D interactive panoramic image to enable readers to enjoy the exquisite ware in detail by scanning a QR code on the cover.

Lu Chenglong, a research librarian, deputy chief of the Antique Utensil Department of the Palace Museum and director of the Chinese Society for Ancient Ceramics, penned the preface of the book, in which he called it an authoritative and credible source on ancient Chinese porcelain.

He also noted that Ms. Fan has been studying porcelain for most of her life and produced a massive volume of notes and manuscripts through hard work. Therefore, the book is not only informative but also easy to understand, making it well worth reading and studying.


Fan Dongqing was formerly



A jar with carved designs from the Cizhou Kiln, dating back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), 20.5cm in height.

director of the Ceramic Research Department and research librarian at the Shanghai Museum and remains a member of the Shanghai Cultural Relics Identification Committee. She now serves as a consultant with the Shanghai Office of China Guardian Auctions Co., Ltd. and an invited expert with an art auction program of the China Business Network under the Shanghai Media Group.

While living in the United States in the 1990s, she worked as a consultant for the Chinese Art Department at Sotheby's, chief appraiser of the Orientalist Art Department at Christie's in New York and special researcher at the Brooklyn Museum, the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington and the University of Maryland Art Gallery.

“This book ends at the Song Dynasty, but there are so many more stories related to ancient Chinese porcelain that I must continue to share them,” Fan said. 



A brown-glazed antique porcelain ware from the Shanxi Kiln.



A painted vase with crabapple flower and bird patterns.

China on Film

Text by Yi Mei



August 18, 2002: More than 100 residents from Beijing's Xiaofangjia *hutong* pose for a picture holding cards with their names, birth dates and identities. Two and a half months later, the *hutong*, boasting a history of more than 500 years and housing over 200 families, was demolished along with its neighboring ones. by Xu Yong

The exhibition “China: 40 Years through the Lens” opened at the National Museum of China on August 30, 2018. Its 216 photographs document the great changes in economy, culture, society, ecology and people’s livelihoods in China.



This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. Despite China's long, rich history, the last 40 years have no doubt been one of the most splendid chapters, which every Chinese person has witnessed as well as contributed to. Across the four decades, Chinese photographers have also seized every chance to freeze timeless images of the people and their lives.

The exhibition "China: 40 Years through the Lens" opened at the National Museum of China on August 30, 2018, presenting the great changes that have taken place in economy, culture, society,

ecology and people's livelihoods in the country. The 216 photographs on display were selected from more than 30,000 submissions.

It is easy to pinpoint the common threads running through the exhibition. One tells the story of the development of the country through depicting the lives of ordinary Chinese people. The other highlights the role Chinese photographers have played over the past 40 years of the country's reform and opening up.

Chen Xiaobo, vice president of the China Photographers Association, served as the executive curator of the exhibition. Choosing pictures



1983: At the Nagqu Horse Racing Festival in Nagqu Prefecture of Tibet Autonomous Region, herders place recorders on the edge of the stage to record a song by folk artists in performance. Portable recorders became popular in the early 1980s. by Tashi Tseten



1990: A lane off Shanghai's Guizhou Road is home to 72 households. by Gong Jianhua
 The term "72 households" has become synonymous with cramped housing in Shanghai. The classic comedy *72 Households* set in Shanghai once caused a sensation. Over the past century, most Shanghai natives have suffered housing problems, so they still cite the term and the drama. In 2012, the photographer visited the alley again. It was still there but he could hardly recognize the people living there. He did meet the woman who is carrying a baby in the picture, who had matured into an old woman.



1982: Beijing's Subway Line 1. by Ru Suichu

On September 20, 1969, Beijing's Subway Line 1 running from Beijing Railway Station to Pingguoyuan of Shijingshan District formally opened. On January 1, 1982, Line 2 began service. By the end of 2017, Beijing had 22 subway lines across 608 kilometers of track.



1982: Locals play badminton as morning exercise in Jieyang City, Guangdong Province. by An Ge

Fu Haifeng, born in 1983 in the city, won gold medals in men's doubles at the Rio and London Olympics. Badminton is so popular in China that players could number as many as 200 million, according to incomplete statistics.

October 1996: At a small station called Qiangzilu on the railway route from Beijing to Qinhuangdao City, villagers sell local specialties to passengers. The train stopped for only five minutes and the station lacked a platform, so villagers invented a new method to sell their goods. by Zhou Chaorong
In the mid-1990s, China was shifting from a planned economy to a market economy. Commerce prospered across the country, as evidenced by the axiom "900 million out of a billion Chinese people are businesspeople."

that most acutely focused on the past 40 years from such a large volume of submissions presented a great challenge for her.

"I tended to choose the most modest and unadorned works which capture details and tell a story," says Chen. "And I passed on simple and coarse images with even strong visual impact as well as obscure and unprofessional works. I also ruled out pictures featuring only good images but having no connection to the times."

The photographs freeze moments in time from the lives of the Chinese people, preserving historical traces and passion as well as poetic features. At the same time, they build a timeline of China's reform and opening up.


After selecting pictures, writing captions was another crucial step. The curating team agreed that captions were important to the photos and that a wealth of information could enhance the "strength" of a photo. So they deliberated on each caption carefully to ensure it optimally narrated a story. The 200-plus pictures were originally accompanied by captions totaling some 50,000 Chinese characters, and the final version kept 30,000. So each caption averages about 200 words.

For example, photographer An Ge shot a picture in 1981



of citizens playing badminton on a playground in Jieyang City, Guangdong Province. Its caption mentioned that Fu Haifeng, born in 1983 in the city, later won gold medals in men's doubles at the Rio and London Olympics and that badminton is so popular in China

that players could number as many as 200 million according to incomplete statistics.

The curating team hopes the audience likens the experience to reading a book or watching a play rather than just having a look at a bunch of photos. 

Re-recognition of Games: CAFA Game Art Exhibition

September 8 – October 7, 2018
CAFA Art Museum, Beijing



Poster for Re-recognition of Games: CAFA Game Art Exhibition.

Based on the theme of “Re-recognition of Games,” this series of events includes exhibitions, discussions and exchange related to large-scale functional games that merge cultural, artistic and technological elements. This exhibition explores the roles that games play in other fields, aiming to explore the functional value and cultural significance of games as well as the development direction of digital entertainment education in China.



New Directions: Musquiqui Chihying

August 25 – October 28, 2018
Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing

This exhibition features a recent series of work by Taiwanese artist Musquiqui Chihying, “I’ll Be Back,” comprised of *The Cultural Center*, *The Guestbook*, *The Mask* and *The Sculpture*. These works have their roots in the artist’s sustained engagement with the history of Sino-African interactions from Ming-Dynasty (1368-1644) explorer Zheng He’s voyage to what is now Kenya to late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai’s diplomatic visits to 10 African states that had just been decolonized. Through these cases, the artist seeks to look at reality through history.

Musquiqui Chihying was born in 1985 in Taiwan, China and lives and works in Taipei and Berlin, after graduating from the Berlin University of the Arts. He has held many solo exhibitions and has participated in many group exhibitions in China and Germany.

Poster for the exhibition “New Directions: Musquiqui Chihying.”

The Rise of Modernity: First-Gen Chinese Architects from UPenn

August 18 – October 14, 2018
Power Station of Art, Shanghai

The emergence of industrialization and urbanization happened in Shanghai in the early 20th century, triggering citizens' dual needs for practical and aesthetically pleasing architecture. The era was also a historical turning point for China's "first-generation architects" (roughly 20 prominent trailblazers including Zhu Bin, Fan Wenzhao and Liang Sicheng) who studied at the University of Pennsylvania and then returned to China to become the backbone of modern architectural design and urban construction in the country.

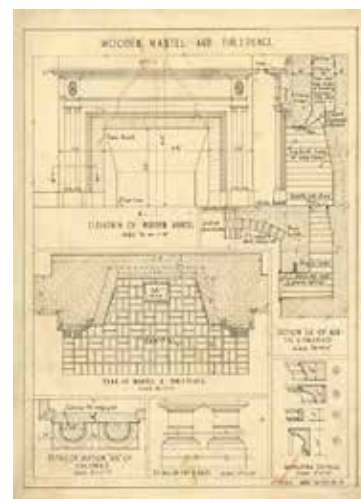
The exhibition features two parts. The first section focuses on contributions in architectural practice including educational systems, academic journals and urban planning of the "first-generation architects." The second part analyzes local public and residential projects: Shanghai Theater, Majestic Theater and more. Through each single case, the study illuminates the intricate interactions between individual, city and the times.



A drawing of the Majestic Theatre by Fan Wenzhao, 1941.



Evolution of the General Appearance of Timber-framed Halls by Liang Sicheng in the 1930s.



A design sketch of wooden mantels and fireplaces by Tong Jun, 1925.



Poster for the exhibition "Ran Qiquan: Ashes."

Ran Qiquan: Ashes

September 15 – October 9, 2018
Shanghai Himalayas Museum, Shanghai

This exhibition features 19 paper composite pieces including Ran Qiquan's latest work, completed this year. He uses paper materials to tell visual stories with intense colors and scorched remains.

Ran Qiquan graduated from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 1989 and now lives and works in Beijing and Chengdu.



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