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## G20 at its Summit

The Revered Lexicographer  
Olympic Farewells

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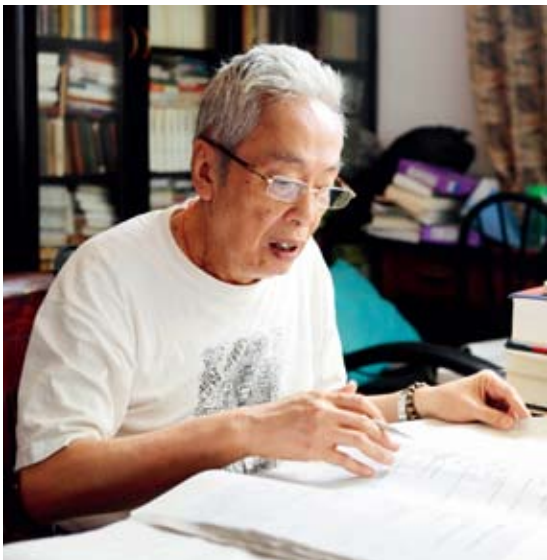
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by Rao Aimin/Xinhua

### Promoting China-Myanmar Partnership

August 19, Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) meets with Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. At the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Aung San Suu Kyi paid an official visit to China from August 17 to 21. During her five-day visit, Aung San Suu Kyi met with Chinese leaders and they exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. China believes this visit will increase the strategic communication and practical cooperation between China and Myanmar as well as friendly relations among their peoples.

Aung San Suu Kyi is the first Myanmar leader to visit China since the Southeast Asian nation's new government was formed in late March. She visited China in June 2015 as chair of the National League for Democracy.



Xinhua

### Ambitious Mars Mission

August 23: An image of China's planned Mars probe is released by the lunar probe and space project center of Chinese State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense. Recently, China released images of a Mars probe and rover that the country plans to send to the "Red Planet" within five years.

The country plans to send a spacecraft to orbit Mars, make a landing, and deploy a rover in July or August 2020. And the 2020 mission will be launched on a Long March-5 carrier rocket from the Wenchang space launch center in Hainan Province. The spacecraft will carry 13 payloads including a remote sensing camera and ground penetrating radar that can be used to study the soil, environment and atmosphere of Mars, as well as the planet's physical features, distribution of water and ice, and its interior.





IC

### Double Seventh Festival

August 9, Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province: A Han-Dynasty-style group wedding is held for 22 couples. The Double Seventh Festival, on the seventh day of the seventh month on the Chinese lunar calendar, fell on August 9 this year. The festival originated from a romantic legend of a fairy weaver and cow herder, a myth that dates back at least 2,600 years. In 2006, the festival was inscribed on the first list of national intangible cultural heritage by China's State Council.

According to traditional customs, girls offer sewing kits as well as fruit and flowers to the Altair and Vega stars, known as Cow Herding Star and Weaving Maid Star, respectively, in China. They hope to be blessed with intelligence and skill in needlework as well as marital happiness. Today, with the trend of returning to tradition, the festival is celebrated across China and is especially popular with young people, as it is known as Chinese Valentine's Day.



IC

### World's Longest Glass Bridge

August 20, Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province: A glass bridge over the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon begins trial operation, enabling brave tourists to enjoy the breathtaking views of the deep canyon. The glass-bottomed skywalk, the world's longest and highest all-glass suspension bridge, spans 430 meters, measures just six meters wide, and hangs 300 meters above the canyon.

A maximum of 8,000 visitors are allowed to cross the skywalk each day, and reservations must be made a day in advance. The bridge has undergone a series of checks to assure the public of its safety. It's now open for walks across and by June 2017 visitors will also be able to hang from the overpass on three massive swings, or if they're really brave, bungee jump off the side.



# THAAD: Northeast Asia in Danger

Text by Zhang Jingwei

The United States and South Korea have decided to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD), triggering a domino effect across Northeast Asia.

Both China and Russia have expressed their strong opposition even though the U.S. and South Korea claim that the system is meant to abate the nuclear threat from North Korea rather than a third party. THAAD's super-sensitive "detection range," however, is wide enough to threaten Beijing and its surrounding area, as well as strategic eastern regions of China. It will also threaten far eastern Russia. More importantly, China and Russia are concerned about the nature and emergence of "Asian NATO" considering the coupling of THAAD with the missile defense system deployed by Japan.

The DPRK military announced that it considers THAAD an act of war and vowed to forcefully remove it the moment the location and site are confirmed.

At present, the international community has reached some consensus that the DPRK nuclear crisis is a regional menace, a view shared by every other stakeholder in Northeast Asia. DPRK has been slapped with another round of unified sanctions. The risk and danger of the DPRK nuclear crisis can be kept under control through powerful sanctions from the international community. It is not beneficial or logical to deploy THAAD in response to the threat from North Korea.

Both China and Russia have made a reasonable judgment: THAAD has broken the strategic balance in Southeast Asia and brought uncertain danger to the situation in that region.

Considering the geopolitical games between the United States and China in the Asian-Pacific region and between Russia and the United States in Europe, THAAD is clearly directional in the reorganization

of American strategy: It has become a key piece of the American global strategy to restrain both Russia and China, using the danger from North Korea as an excuse.

The situation may seem simple from the South Korean perspective, as they try to protect their soil, but the move is extremely calculated by the acting party, the United States, which chuckled to itself when South Korea couldn't understand why China and Russia opposed so strongly. South Korea should analyze not only whether the introduction of THAAD is likely to provoke more frequent hostility from North Korea, but also how it will influence its relations with close neighbors China and Russia.

THAAD has yet to be deployed, but today North Korea has become more volatile and the relationship between South Korea and China and Russia has been strained, evidencing that Seoul has not thoroughly considered the repercussions of introducing THAAD.

Russia is responding by deploying its own missile defense system in the Far East. Changes will happen in the international community's sanction system against North Korea. The exceptionally friendly relationship between China and South Korea during Park Geun-hye's term could be flipped upside down. As for the U.S.-South Korea relationship, it's not going to improve because of the deployment of THAAD.


South Korea will continue to pay a steep price for more than weapons and security after THAAD is deployed on its territory. The international reaction has been heavily critical of the bilateral agreement between Seoul and Washington that hurts so many others to benefit a few. President Park made an irrational move: Her decision hardly makes a difference to the reclusive leader of North Korea, but heavily disturbs everywhere else in the region and puts its neighboring great powers in dangerous

disputes.

Seoul should consider that the dissenting voices on the deployment of THAAD come not only from next door but also inside. As reported in *Korea JoongAng Daily*, Shim Jaegwon, chairman of the Minjoodang Committee, declared the organization's "opposition to the deployment of THAAD." Some representatives of the opposition party stated outright that the deployment of the system is meant "not to safeguard South Korea, but to attack China," and that "China will take its revenge in trade." Woo Sangho, a representative of the Minjoodang, pointed out that the plan to deploy THAAD was a secret decision hidden from the public and the National Assembly. The appropriate procedures were never followed.

South Korea's politics has always been a power struggle between progressive and conservative, globally known for fights within the National Assembly as well as movements in the streets. The greatest threat the South Korean government faces may be civil strife, which could spin out of control if the will of the people is continuously ignored as the leadership kneels to Washington in destabilizing the region.

The Asian-Pacific region is experiencing upheaval from the East China Sea to the South China Sea because the United States is looking after its own interests in the region. South Korea is neither Japan nor the Philippines. Its core national interest lies in growing its economy and trade, as well as maintaining security and sound relationships with China and the United States. Any shift in the situation will result in drastic change in the relationships between all three countries and cause an imbalance in the fragile strategic patterns of Northeast Asia.

Not only does the deployment of THAAD invalidate the risk coping-mechanism against the DPRK nuclear crisis, but it will trigger regional arms races. 

The author works as fellow researcher at the Charhar Institute.

## 基因编辑 Gene Editing

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

The world's first clinical test of CRISPR (acronym for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, a gene editing technology) will be conducted in China.

Gene editing refers to the technology of inserting or deleting a segment to "edit" certain genes. CRISPR is the most attractive "gene editing" technology because it facilitates the synthesis of the compound of crRNA/tracrRNA. This compound can lead nucleases to find a certain part of DNA and replace it with parts of its own. As a widely influential technology, it can change the color of mice's fur, design pest-resistant crops and mosquitos that don't transmit malaria, and modify genes that cause hereditary diseases such as drepanocytemia.

China has long been on the


cutting edge of the study of CRISPR. In 2014, researchers from Nanjing University announced that they had successfully accomplished gene editing in monkeys by directed mutation, the first recorded successful application of this technology on non-human primates.

The clinical test, performed by a team of scientists from West China Hospital of Sichuan University in Chengdu, capital of southwestern China's Sichuan Province, has received ethics approval from a review committee of the hospital. Professor Lu You, head of the project, said that the first test would be conducted to treat lung cancer, a growing disease with a high mortality rate in China. The team plans to recruit some patients with advanced lung cancer whose symptoms weren't relieved by conventional treatment, extract



The research conducted by West China Hospital of Sichuan University will bring the first clinical test of CRISPR in the world. However, Professor Lu says that this project will only assess whether the practice is safe, and that many unknown elements still need to be tackled.

immunocytes from their blood and insert a new gene segment which will cause the immune system to evacuate a tumor. After CRISPR, the edited cells are injected into patients' blood.

Incidentally, the gene editing technology used in the clinical test by West China Hospital doesn't work on reproductive genes, so any results won't be passed to offspring. 

## 二维码支付 QR Payment

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

QR codes can streamline the payment process by eliminating the most cumbersome steps, such as entering your account, swiping your card and sign, and getting change. Using a QR code to process payment makes many users feel more comfortable. Recently, the Payment & Clearing Association of China has issued *Bar Code Payment Norms* (exposure draft), which specifies standards for safe bar code payment service.

In March 2014, the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, banned QR code payment service due to the absence of common standards in terms of technology, verification, and certification. However, third-party payment service providers and some traditional finance institutions didn't stop attempts to explore QR code payment. Alipay and WeChat, both third-party payment platforms,

launched the safer "be scanned" mode that enables cashiers to scan a QR code provided by the customers. The regulators have accepted this mode since it emerged.

The exposure draft is the first official support of QR code payment, which means that China's traditional financial institutions will officially endorse QR code payment. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China launched its own QR code payment product as soon as the policy was released, making it the first domestic commercial bank to offer such a product. China Union-Pay announced that it had begun to build its own QR code payment system according to the Norms. From now on, traditional banks and state-backed payment platforms will adapt to the trends of "Internet Plus" and become major forces in QR code payment.


QR code payment is the most



October 24, 2015: A customer buys food by scanning the QR code with a smartphone in Qingdao, eastern China's Shandong Province. The government encourages participation in QR code payment. Analysts predict that China's QR code payment age is on the horizon.

convenient and popular mode of payment so far. Once safety risks are eliminated, QR code payments look very promising.

According to the *Overview of Payment Systems in First Quarter of 2016* released by the People's Bank of China, banking and financial institutions handled e-payments of 793.97 trillion yuan in the first

quarter of this year, of which 5.615 billion transactions were made through mobile payments for a total sum of 52.13 trillion yuan, still miniscule compared to the total. Mobile payments will definitely gain greater momentum once constraints on QR code payments are relieved through sound regulation and risk control measures. 





# Eternal Springs of Jinan

Text and photographs by Cecile Zehnacker

I was invited to Jinan, the capital of Shandong Province, to participate in a photo event associated with the restoration of Baihuazhou area, an ancient block that has recently been renovated into a scenic spot showcasing intangible culture heritage and traditional cultural activities. Baihuazhou, which literally means “Hundred Flower Pond,” refers to the artificial pond south of Daming Lake in the Lixia District of Jinan Old City that stands right next to this block. It is part of the same water flow as the Daming Lake. Qushuiting Street, situated along Baihuazhou and following the course of Qushui stream, stretches to Daming Lake, passing the Fuxue Confucius Temple and Baihuazhou Pond.

The Baihuazhou area is a great place to visit. The stunning renovated block that

stands behind the pond hearkens to ancient life in China. The block is composed of several small and big courtyards with small ponds surrounded by beautiful buildings. Some buildings exhibit items that were collected over the years and preserve the history of the city. Others demonstrate ancient traditional activities like paper making. In the past, the ponds served as the main water supply for local residents.

The area around Baihuazhou is also full of places just waiting to be discovered. Its blood pumps through quiet little alleys where local life happens. At some point we stumbled upon a surprise: a natural swimming pool surrounded by buildings. Jinan is so famous for springs, and it is known as the “City of Springs.” The springs of Jinan have made the city popular year-round

since ancient times. The water temperature never drops below 18 degrees Celsius. The “palace pool,” as it’s known, is a destination for both swimming and exercise. The stunningly blue water is crystal clear, making the temptation to take a quick dip hard to resist. Its Chinese name “Zhouying” meaning “washing out the tassel” comes from a poem written by Mencius, the second most famous Chinese philosopher after Confucius. Like Confucius, Mencius was also born in Shandong Province, considered the cradle of Confucianism.

The springs that made the city famous nationwide can be found throughout Jinan. They are divided into four groups. The first, the Baotu Springs group, stands out due to its abundance. To access it we took a traditional boat ride through the water-

ways of the city and arrived directly in the charming park of Baotu Springs, which features several temples and pavilions. According to legend, Emperor Qianglong of Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) took some water from Beijing’s Jade Spring on his way to the southern Yangtze River, and drank from Baotu Spring during a stopover in Jinan. He highly favored the latter and dubbed it “number one spring under heaven.” Although we weren’t lucky enough to witness it, at times, the water bubbles, delighting visitors. The entire park is beloved by the locals for its beauty and serenity.

Black Tiger Springs group, located in southeastern Jinan Old City, has the second heaviest water flow after Baotu. The sound of the water resembles a tiger’s roar, and three of its ponds are shaped like tigers.

Pearl Springs group is located in the center of Jinan Old City and is the primary water source of Daming Lake. Finally, Five Dragon Pool Springs group has a very deep

pool, and in years past when a drought struck, residents would pray for water and rain would come.

Daming Lake, one of the most beautiful places in Jinan, has one entrance facing Baihuazhou. It is reminiscent of West Lake in Hangzhou. Luckily enough, our trip happened to coincide with lotus season, and magnificent lotuses were blossoming on the surface of the lake. Its water is supplied by the city’s springs and empties into the Yellow River. The 58-hectare lake covers half of the park and makes a great place to stroll or take a boat ride. A unique feature of Daming Lake, also called “The Lake of Great Light,” is that its level remains constant year-round, and flooding and droughts never affect it.

Daming Lake is considered one of the three must see places in Jinan along with Baotu Springs and Thousand-Buddha Mountain. Thousand-Buddha Mountain lies in the southern outskirts of the city,

amidst the mountains that surround Jinan. Its history can be traced as far back as the Sui Dynasty (581-618), when Buddha images carvings began appearing on Mount Li, which became Thousand-Buddha Mountain. The carvings were followed by the construction of a temple named after the mountain. It has been famous for ages, and 130 Buddha statues dating back to the Sui Dynasty remain there today.

With so many interesting and beautiful places to visit, Jinan is definitely worth discovering, even though it usually misses lists of places to visit in China. And it’s only a 1.5-hour train trip from Beijing, making it a good starting point to continue exploring the region, especially places like Qufu City (south of Jinan, about 35 minutes by train), the hometown of Confucius, Taishan Mountain (south of Jinan, about 20 minutes by train to Tai’an), one of the five sacred mountains of Taoism, and Weifang (northeast of Jinan, two hours by train), the city of kites.



Traditional activities in Baihuazhou old block.



Baotu Springs pool.



A father and son look for fish in Daming Lake.



# Farewell, Rio!

Text by Zhang Xue

As the curtain closed on the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, accompanied by a South American samba, the Chinese delegation lifted off on their long plane trips home with considerably more weight: 26 gold medals, 18 silver, and 26 bronze, ranking third in the total medal tally.

Even after the Rio games ended, Olympic excitement remained high in China. Compared to past events Chinese people paid less attention to the medal count and instead enjoyed more of the process and joy of competition. Undoubtedly, people were elated for the gold medals taken and at the same time bettering

their understanding of the Olympic motto: *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Latin for Faster, Higher, Stronger). The Olympic Games have inspired more Chinese people to engage in exercise to keep fit.

The Olympics have always been a global gathering that fosters communication and understanding between different cultures. The clear highlight of the Rio Games 2016 was a delegation of refugees, the first ever in history, featuring some who narrowly escaped the flames of wars and others who drifted far from home in boats. Not only did these participants embody the true spirit of sport, but inspire people around the globe from all walks of life.

Most concerns about the Games before they started – late completion of venues, robbery – weren't problems at all.

The unique opening and closing ceremonies sparked passion for both the Olympics and brilliant South American culture. The theme of being frugally green made this edition of the Olympics breezy. Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee, declared, "These were marvelous Olympic Games in the marvelous city."

The Chinese delegation, with an average age of 24, performed brilliantly and left legendary marks on history. Let's take another look at a few highlights of the Games.



August 22, 2016: The Olympic flame in Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro is slowly extinguished, putting an end to the 17-day Olympic Games. Brazil bestowed the Olympics joy and happiness. Xinhua



Xinhua

## ◀ First Gold

China's first gold medal arrived just as several veterans were coming up short. On the second day of competition, Zhang Mengxue, a fresh face in women's 10-meter air pistol, took the first gold for the Chinese delegation and broke the Olympic record.

## ▼ Excitement

At midnight on August 20, the Chinese women's volleyball team gave everything they had to win its final match, which sent shockwaves back to China. Many recalled the moment 32 years ago when the "Iron Hammer" Lang Ping led her team to make volleyball history. The Chinese women's volleyball players inspired a generation, and that spirit has been preserved for the next.



CFP





### ▲ Meme

Without winning a gold, Chinese swimmer Fu Yuanhui emerged as a focal point of the Rio Games. Her dead-pan straightforwardness during a post-competition interview broke the internet that night: "I'm very satisfied" and "I used prehistoric powers" became instant catchphrases across China. As various memes involving the athlete spread across the internet, her bright, refreshing personality delighted in the attention from netizens.



### ▲ Breakthrough

Women's golf returned to the Olympics after 116 years, and Feng Shanshan of China claimed the bronze medal with a total score of 274 (-10), the first Olympic medal for a Chinese golfer. Lin Xiyu, another Chinese golfer, made history by becoming the first woman to make a hole in one at the Olympics.



### ▲ Race

The Chinese team placed fourth in the men's 4x100m relay at 37'9", the country's best finish in Olympics history. The breakthrough was deeply appreciated at home.

### ▼ Respect

Badminton ace Lin Dan bid farewell to the Olympics after embracing Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei. The two huge rivals and friends exchanged shirts on the court after their 37th match-ups.



### ▲ Veterans

Chinese diver Chen Ruolin secured her third successive Olympic gold medal, and Wu Minxia became a legend after her fifth gold medal.



### ▲ New Avenue

China claimed its first cycling Olympic gold after Gong Jinjie and Zhong Tianshi won the women's team sprint in the Rio Olympic Velodrome.



### ▲ Emergence

Alex Hua Tian, the only equestrian competitor representing China, won countless hearts before the games thanks to his handsome appearance. He placed eighth in the Olympic equestrian event with Don Geniro, his horse, China's best-ever finish in this event.

### ▼ New Face

Ren Qian, born in 2001, won the 10-meter platform diving gold for China, making the 20th Century more profoundly slip into the past.





# G20 and Global Economics

Text by Pang Zhongying and Liu Jingwen

Ever since the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit designated the Group of 20 (G20) as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, the institution has made tremendous achievements in global economic governance. Still, it faces challenges in terms of governance scope, legitimacy and effective response to global crises due to factors such as interference from the Group of Seven (G7). As the presiding country of the 2016 G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China will play an active role in promoting the transformation of the G20.

The G20 was first established in Germany in 1999, with the purpose of tackling international financial crises, especially preventing

regional financial crises from infecting and spreading wider. Unfortunately, concerns about a global financial crisis proved prescient in 2008 when an unprecedented financial crisis broke out in the United States and Europe and then swept around the world. Upon the occurrence of the global financial crisis, governments of the U.S. and European countries, as well as some multilateral organizations including the European Central Bank and the G7, reached a consensus in Pittsburgh that the G20 was probably the only platform for international cooperation capable of responding to the global financial crisis. Based on that decision, the G20 began to hold an annual leaders' summit, which is called the G20 Summit.



Hangzhou International Expo Center, the primary venue for the 2016 G20 Summit. After reconstruction, the venue features 20 functional zones and floor area of 170,000 square meters, able to accommodate 6,000 people. As the presiding country of this year's G20 Summit, China is expected to actively promote the transformation of the G20. by Xu Xun



## Premier Forum for Economic Cooperation

A textual analysis of the communiqués and statements the G20 has released since 2008 is crucial. Studies not only pinpoint what the G20 has advocated and done, but also showcase the shifts in major topics at G20 summits over the past decade.

In the “post-financial crisis” era, the G20 members have found progress difficult on the essential issue of global economic governance – in-depth collaboration on macroeconomic policy – and begun to focus on topics on which consensus is comparatively easy to reach such as recovery and growth of the world economy. Although some economies have achieved considerable growth since 2008, global economic growth still lacks momentum as many other economies remain stagnant and face difficulties in structural transformation.

The G20 is now considered the “premier forum for international economic cooperation.” It’s more than just another international forum: The G20 serves as a mix of international economic forums and a “global steering committee.” The G20’s stature above other international economic cooperation forums is measurable.

The ultimate goal of the G20 is to realize effective global economic governance. However, the most emphasized issue in G20 communiqués and statements is “international economic cooperation,” rather than “global economic governance.” This implies that in the current world order, global governance is still being materialized through international cooperation (including international rules, norms and regulations) to mitigate, control and address common challenges, crises and threats worldwide.

In fact, the G20 Summit seeks not only international economic cooperation, but also cooperation in many other fields.

First, the G20’s greatest contribution was its decision to reform and modernize the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which had been decaying since their establishment in 1945, so emerging economies could play a greater role and have a stronger voice in these international financial organizations.

Second, the G20 helped accomplish breakthroughs in global sustainable development when South Korea and Mexico assumed its rotating presidency. The G20 is becoming increasingly important for developing countries because it places greater emphasis on the sustainable development of lagging regions such as Africa, which has since enhanced its global standing. The efforts have left a major impact by successfully upgrading the UN Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

Third, the G20 has been urging its members to collaborate on

climate change policies, which has accelerated UN climate change talks and facilitated signing of the Paris Agreement.

Finally, the G20 has reinforced its position as a leading collective for global governance by focusing on issues such as anti-corruption and taxation.

## G20 Problems

While applauding the major contributions that the G20 has made in global governance since 2008, we must acknowledge the problems it faces.

First, the form of the G20 is new, but at least half of its operating procedures are old. To some extent, it is an expanded version of the G7. Like the G7, the idea of forming the G20 was proposed by Canada and European countries. Emerging economies in the G20 such as China, Russia, India, Brazil, and Turkey have always advocated the G20 should avoid becoming another platform in which major Western countries dominate global economic governance

like the G7. In reality, the influence of the G7 in world affairs has been reinforced with the emergence of the G20. As the global financial crisis entered “risk management” period (2008-2010), developed Western countries pledged to make the G20 a “premier forum for international economic cooperation” in a bid to motivate emerging economies to tackle the global financial crisis. That promise proved empty when Europe, Japan, and the U.S. refused to dissolve the G7; attempts have even been made to dominate the G20 via the G7.

Second, as a cooperative platform comprised of big countries, the G20’s global legitimacy has been controversial since its inception, given by definition it excludes small, weak economies. The G20 Summit is open to representatives from some non-member countries and regional organizations such as the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which have sent delegates to each year’s summit. However, such efforts remain far from substantial to enhance the G20’s global legitimacy.

Letting big developing countries such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa play bigger roles in the G20 can help it improve its global standing. To completely solve the problem, however, the G20 needs to reform its system design and policy implementation, to bring in more countries as members.

Third, the G20 was designed to address crises arising from globalization, which could present impossible missions. One challenge that humans face is that globalization has largely passed over low and middle classes, with some lacking even basic living necessities. Even in the most globalized countries, which are largely developed European and American countries, the elite class benefits most from globalization, while ordinary people are more vocally objecting to it. Obviously, the G20 can do little to solve this controversy over globalization. Humans are the core propellers of globalization. They can refine globalization, and reverse it as well. The G20 has yet to produce a miracle to solve fundamental problems of the global imbalance.



June 16, 2016: The Organizing Committee of the B20 Summit holds its first press conference in Beijing. This year’s B20 Summit will mirror topics of the G20 Summit, including six major issues concerning financial growth, trade and investment, infrastructure, development of small and medium-sized businesses, employment, and anti-corruption. by Li Xin/Xinhua



July 29, 2016: The Youth 20 China, themed “Youth Innovation for Our Shared Vision,” closes in Shanghai. IC





December 6, 2015: An international G20 volunteer team comprised of more than 50 overseas students and teachers from countries like the United States, Italy and South Korea is officially established. The G20 Hangzhou Summit launched volunteer recruitment in December 2015. To date, it has attracted more than a million volunteers. CFP

Global economic governance requires concerted efforts from all classes of society. Local and national governments should work together with global and regional organizations. The current situation shows that international organizations such as the European Union, the IMF, the G20, and the Financial Stability Board cannot effectively govern the world economy themselves.

### Reforming G20 with Chinese Wisdom

China has been playing a significant role as a G20 member. Hosting the 2016 G20 Summit is a major opportunity for the country to play a lead role in international affairs and exert a heavy influence on the transformation of global economic governance.

First, China could help build the G20 into a true “premier forum for international economic cooperation,” helping it act as a “steering committee” for global economic governance. To reach this ambitious goal, the country needs to enhance its international leadership capacity and begin playing the role of global leader. It must provide physical public goods worldwide, like it is doing with the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. More importantly, it should provide conceptual public goods, such as the plans to reform global institutions and rules and regulations for future global governance.

Second, China must improve the effectiveness of global economic governance. Prior to the Hangzhou Summit, the Third G20 Sherpa Meeting reached an agreement to promote “more efficient global economic and financial governance.” China has made “efficient, orderly global governance” an important goal of its foreign

policy. Whether the G20 can effectively implement global governance depends on many factors, of which the most significant is its scope of representation.

Third, China must accelerate the modernization of existing global governance institutions. As an advocate of global governance reform, China has called for modernization-oriented reform. International financial institutions such as the IMF have played a vital role in global economic governance. With history of more than 70 years, the IMF and its cousins cannot hone the modernization process of today’s world – they have only managed to adjust to adapt to the changing situation. The 2009 Pittsburgh Summit

stated that the G20 should “reflect the current situation of the world economy through modernization of global institutions.” The move included modernizing international financial institutions and global developmental framework. As the presiding country of this year’s G20 Summit, China should urge the IMF and the World Bank to substantially implement reform plans passed and approved by governments of G20 countries, and formulate and enact plans to further reform international financial institutions.

Fourth, China can promote global governance from the ground up. One of the aims of establishing the G20 was to mitigate social recession and expanded inequality arising from globalization, with

hopes of helping globalization benefit as many ordinary people as possible. To this end, there is much China can do. It can realize social justice domestically, and at the same time urge the G20 to pay more attention to global social governance.

Finally, China can build the G20 into the 21st Century Concert of Powers. The concert of big powers in the G20 framework should involve not only financial and macroeconomic policies, but also global security policies. Through properly performing their respective duties, the G20 and the UN Security Council can play a pivotal role in global security governance. 47

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West Lake. As the presiding country of the 2016 G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China will play an active role in promoting the transformation of the G20. by Xu Xun



Founded in 1999, G20 had only held Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings before the onset of the financial crisis in 2008, thereby exerting limited influence.

## G20=7+5+8

- 7: G7** (the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada)
- 5: BRICS Countries** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)
- 8: Seven major economies** (Australia, Mexico, South Korea, Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Argentina) and the **European Union**

### What is G20?

Launched in 1999 upon recommendation of finance ministers of G8 in Washington, the Group of 20 is an international economic forum that first focused on preventing the Asian Financial Crisis from reoccurring. On December 16, 1999, G20 was born in Berlin, Germany.

### Aim

The G20 is meant to study, review, and promote high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. It seeks to address issues beyond the responsibility of any one organization and integrate the strengths of developed countries with newly emerging economies.

### Operation

The G20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff. The group's chair rotates annually among members. Its finance ministers and central bank governors meeting is held annually. The incumbent chair establishes a temporary secretariat for the duration of its term, which coordinates the group's work and organizes its meetings. The G20 mechanism includes the summit, coordinator meeting, ministers meeting and working group meeting.

#### Tenth G20 Summit, November 2015

Antalya, Turkey

**Highlight: anti-terrorism, climate change and refugee crisis**

The summit focused on the world economic situation and inclusive growth as well as the international monetary system. Other pressing world issues such as terrorism, climate change and the refugee crisis in Europe were placed high on the agenda.

#### Ninth G20 Summit, November 2014

Brisbane, Australia

**Highlight: focus on three subjects**

Lifting economic growth, increasing employment and fighting crisis topped this summit's agenda. G20 leaders set a goal to lift the G20's GDP by at least 2 percent by 2018. It decided that China would host the G20 Summit in 2016.

#### Eighth G20 Summit, September 2013

St. Petersburg, Russia

**Highlight: long declaration**

A 27-page joint declaration by G20 leaders was issued, covering new global economic governance issues like international cooperation against corruption and global financial supervision.

#### Seventh G20 Summit, June 2012

Los Cabos, Mexico

**Highlight: enormous capital injection for IMF**

G20 pledged to take action to promote world economic growth and reject trade protectionism in all forms. Thirty-seven countries promised to inject US\$456 billion into the IMF, with US\$43 billion coming from China.

#### Sixth G20 Summit, November 2011

Cannes, France

**Highlight: set a schedule to reform IMF's special drawing rights (SDR)**

State leaders pledged to revive the global economy and solve increasing unemployment.

#### Fifth G20 Summit, November 2010

Seoul, South Korea

**Highlight: focus on developing countries**

This meeting marked the first time the G20 Summit was held in Asia and an emerging market. The meeting focused on "development" and passed the *G20 Seoul Summit Declaration*.

#### First G20 Summit, November 2008

Washington, D.C., the United States

**Highlight: address the financial crisis**

The financial crisis increased the importance of G20. For the first time, state leaders of the G20 members gathered to discuss the cause of the crisis and measures to boost global economic growth, and agreed to strengthen global financial supervision and accelerate reform of the global financial system.

#### Third G20 Summit, September 2009

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the United States

**Highlight: stronger voices for developing countries**

This year marked the institutionalization of the G20 Summit, which became an important platform for discussing world economic affairs. The restructuring of financial institutions gave way to stronger voices from developing countries.

#### Second G20 Summit, April 2009

London, United Kingdom

**Highlight: strengthen the financial market**

The summit reached several agreements including injecting funds into IMF and strengthening financial supervision. A total of US\$1.1 trillion was pledged for multilateral financial organizations including IMF and the World Bank.

#### Fourth G20 Summit, June 2010

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Highlight: financial institution reform**

Participants set up a timetable to shrink developed countries' financial deficit, reform global financial institutions and fight trade protectionism. The summit also emphasized that the priority of the G20 was to ensure and strengthen the economic recovery.



## G20 Countries and the World

GDP of 2015 (millions of US dollars)



Source: The World Bank



# China Welcomes the World at the G20 Hangzhou Summit

Text by Zheng Yongnian

Against the current global economic situation, hosting the upcoming G20 Hangzhou Summit presents an important opportunity for China to showcase its role as a major power to the world. However, China must overcome some big challenges to ensure a successful summit.

The overall international economic situation today is closely related to the drastic change in connotation of the phrase “free trade.” Once the core of soft power of the West, especially the U.S., it has now become a dirty word. The latest round of globalization, which was launched in the 1980s first by countries like Britain and the U.S., promoted world economic development through trade and investment liberalization. At that time, China also began its reform and opening up. Thus it has not only participated in the globalization, but been a major driver of it. Without the active participation of China and its 1.3 billion people, globalization is hardly global. Of course, China itself has reaped tremendous economic benefits from this round of globalization.

However, having profoundly changed the world economic structure, globalization has brought many problems affecting the world economy and various individual nations. At an international level, policy coordination among countries fell far behind the pace of globalization, which resulted in two crises, the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and the 2008 global financial crisis. And it was in response to these two major crises that the G20 was born and developed.

Globalization and technological advances have led to a widening income gap and growing social inequality in many countries around the world. The very small group of rich becomes richer, while the middle class shrinks. Today, financial and internet economies are on the rise in many countries. The integration of finance and the internet has given even more power to capital. In the history of humanity, never has the concept of capital been as important as today.

## Western Turn Against Free Trade

For a long time since 1980s, many countries had advocated free trade, which had been the most appealing soft power of the West. However, just mentioning the concept today can attract blame. A number of problems, seemingly caused by globalization, have actually resulted from the failure of various countries in having their domestic reforms and internal mechanisms keep pace with the changing external environment. However, such problems now have become the root of these countries’ political problems and advocacy of trade protectionism. The world today is undergoing major geopolitical changes. From the delicate situation in the Middle East to the European refugee crisis, North Korean nuclear crisis and the South China Sea issue, unstable geopolitical situations are on the rise and bring many uncertainties.

In these circumstances, what stances and policies should China take as the host of the upcoming G20 Summit? Actually, China itself is confronting dire challenges in the international economic situation. First, China is facing a less-than-appealing external environment. EU refused to grant China market economy status. Rather than looking at China, many real problems within the EU should be attributed to the fact that many European countries are more inclined to adopt trade protectionism. Second, China is also facing a severe geopolitical environment. Some countries have been piling pressure on China from surrounding areas, by using the issues such as North Korean nuclear weapons, East China Sea and South China Sea.

First and foremost, China must escape geopolitical traps. The return of complicated geopolitics has caused the greatest uncertainty for the development of world economy. Geopolitics and security have become top concerns for the international community. As the second largest economy in the world, China is responsible for optimally utilizing the upcoming G20 Summit to eliminate the negative impacts of geopolitics on world economic development



July 21, 2016: Aerial view of Qianjiang New Town Area in Hangzhou City. Despite many challenges, the upcoming G20 Hangzhou Summit presents an important opportunity for China to showcase its role as a major power in the world. IC

and inspiring a shift of focus from geopolitics to trade cooperation and development.

## Further Globalization

Developed countries, big and small, are generally all open. China should further carry out reform and opening up to solve problems brought by globalization. More open approaches should be adopted to address issues while avoiding conflict and even war. China should vigorously support the globalization process. China has been and will continue to be the most important impetus for globalization. Up to this point, the West has played the most central role in promoting globalization. But when the West’s economy encountered major difficulties, it turned to trade protectionism. China has already become the world’s largest trader. As China is becoming increasingly open, globalization aligns with its national interests.

China maintains and improves the world’s current free trade system. Through internal reform and integration with international free trade mechanisms, China now plays an important role in the existing system. Free trade can also serve China’s soft power.

In turn, China needs to understand and accept new rules. Although the U.S. has been trying to enact trade rules such as in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which don’t necessarily work in favor of but against China, China should keep an understanding and open

attitude. In a sense, trade rules are universal. Though such trade rules don’t help but may hurt China’s current interests, they could actually enhance China’s future interests in the long term. The driving force for reform can happen because of necessary transformation comply with new rules, like China experienced when joining the WTO.

Most importantly, China has a lot of work to do. In the near future, China’s economic aggregate will surpass that of the U.S. As the country constructs a consumer society, the Chinese market will become increasingly important for the West and the international community at large. Also, China is able to devise new rules or change the old ones based on the existing international trade system. To China, the enlarged economic aggregate not only provides opportunities for it to contribute new rules, but also helps enhance China’s ability to enforce them.

As an important international economic cooperation forum, the G20’s mission is not only coordination of financial and economic policies between members, but also the promotion of sustainable international economic development and the realization of fair development. Today, G20 faces unprecedented challenges in all of these fields. If the Hangzhou Summit can bring consensus on promoting international free trade and globalization, which would benefit both China and the world, it will go down in history as a significant landmark event. 47

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# G20 to Upgrade Trade

Text by Yang Fanxin and Jiang Ke

Hangzhou in China's Zhejiang Province will host the 2016 G20 Summit in September. Since December 1, 2015, when China assumed the rotating presidency of the group, the country has set the agenda to bring the G20 back to economics. In his speech on China's hosting of the G20 Leaders Summit, President Xi Jinping listed "invigorating world economy by strengthening international trade and investment" as one of the primary themes of the Summit.

Today, the lingering global financial crisis continues to cause considerable uncertainty. The economic downturn remains, global trade has been stagnant for 18 months, and the trend of trade protectionism is further hampering the global economy.

Member states of the G20 contribute 85 percent of the world's GDP, 80 percent of trade value, and account for two thirds of the planet's population. As both key participants and rule makers of the global economic and financial mechanisms, they shoulder the responsibility of managing mechanism of trade and investment and coordinating macroeconomic policies, particularly in turning trade and investment into driving forces of economic growth by minimizing threats from trade protectionism.

Global consensus remains that trade and investment are an important impetus for economic growth. On July 10, 2016, the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting released G20's first *Trade Ministers Statement* at its closing ceremony, which revealed a goal of cutting global trade costs by 15 percent.

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting announced on July 24 that members of the group would work to revitalize global trade and promote investment.

Moreover, on August 10, G20's Business 20 Summit (B20) submitted its *Policy Recommendations* to the G20 Summit Hangzhou, which suggest measures be taken to "strengthen the multi-lateral trading system and eliminating new protectionist measures while rolling back existing measures to enable trade growth; ratify the *Trade Facilitation Agreement* by the end of 2016 and commit to rapid implementation; endorse the concept of the Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP) to aid e-trade; ease the inclusion of SMEs into global value chains; and enhance the global investment policy environment." All these show that it has become global consensus that trade and investment should serve as an important impetus for the economic growth.

As chair of the G20 Summit in 2016, China has made great efforts and accomplished remarkable achievements. Thanks to its inspiration and coordination, G20 member states have made breakthroughs in revitalizing trade and investment, devising strategies for global trade growth, and formulating guiding principles to shape policies concerning global investment.

China has been actively participating in global governance and remains committed to promote globalization and global governance through continuously increased trade and investment. The country has accepted the development trend of globalization, respected current global system, and followed the existing global rules on trade and investment. China has taken an open and inclusive stance for the emergence of new systems such as Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with an aim to accelerate the development of globalization and global governance.

Over the past few years, China has provided important public products to optimize trade and investment mechanisms. As the G20's rotating president and the world's second largest economy, China's position and role in the G20 have attracted much attention. Every one of the topics China proposed for discussion met a positive response from attending representatives.

The G20 Trade Ministers Meeting closed on July 10 after making remarkable achievements. Three documents adopted include the *G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking*, the first of its kind in G20 history, and the *G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth*. Two important consensuses were reached on enhancing multilateral trade mechanisms and on taking comprehensive measures to help developing countries and SMEs integrate into global value chains.

The G20 Trade Ministers Meeting realized its institutionalization and issued the first ever *G20 Trade Ministers Statement*. The achievements also included the *World Trade Outlook Indicator*, released by the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the first time at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, and a strategic paper, reached for the first time, for global trade growth.

Additionally, the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting endorsed the establishment of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group and approved the *Terms of Reference* of the working group, suggested and drafted by China, which define the working group's scope of discussions and participants, and requires the group to report its work to the G20 Sherpa Meetings, Trade Ministers Meetings and the G20 Leaders Summits. This will offer a stable institutional guarantee for the G20 to give fuller play to its role in

global economic governance and acceleration of global trade and investment growth. All of these provide important public products to improve trade and investment mechanisms.

Statistics released by the WTO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development show that in the first quarter of 2016, the global trade volume dropped by 1.1 percent on a quarterly basis and 1 percent year on year. In terms of exports over the same period, North America, Europe, and most Asian countries all suffered a decrease, while Central and South America saw an increase of 3.7 percent, and Africa and the Middle East registered an increase of 4.2 percent. As for imports, Asia and North, Central and South America all witnessed a decline to varying degrees, but Europe had a growth of 0.6 percent thanks to the consumption demands in the Eurozone.

In the first quarter of 2016, China's total imports and exports slightly exceeded 5.21 trillion yuan, a year-on-year drop of 5.9 percent. Of these, exports decreased 4.2 percent to stand at 3.01 trillion yuan, while imports, at 2.20 trillion yuan, decreased 8.2 percent, with trade surplus of 8.12 billion yuan registering an increase of 8.5 percent. Despite the fact that it suffered from a hit in the first half of 2016 against the backdrop of sluggish global trade, China performed the best among major economies in the world, contributing a firm support to global trade growth.

China has become a major world power in overseas investment when international capital does not flow smoothly. According to data from American Enterprise Institute-Heritage Foundation's China Global Investment Tracker, China's overseas direct investment approached US\$90 billion in the first half of 2016, surpassing its annual total in the years prior to 2013, with a year-on-year increase of 39 percent. This sharp increase has been mainly contributed by private enterprises. The biggest receiving country of such investment is the United States. In the first six months of 2016, China's direct investment in the United States totaled US\$35 billion, almost doubling the figure in the same period of last year.

The G20 Summit in Hangzhou will continue to upgrade trade and investment mechanism. China will do everything it can to bring up persisting topics from the Doha Round while working on new topics under the framework of the WTO. The aim is to create a fair, inclusive and sustainable trade and investment environment for the sake of a long-term, stable growth of the global economy. CFP

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July 9, 2016, Shanghai: Gao Hucheng, China's Minister of Commerce and chairman of the 2016 G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, presides over and addresses the opening ceremony. CFP



# G20 Hangzhou: Huddling for Warmth

Text by Li Xia

A popular Chinese expression advises to “huddle together to keep warm” to better utilize body heat to warm each other during a chilly winter, but more widely implying that human beings should unite to confront common challenges. This is the heart of the founding of the Group of 20 (G20).

The 1997 Asian financial crisis stunned the world just as the globalization trend was hitting full stride. The Group of Eight (G8), comprised of major developed economies, found itself powerless in the face of such a devastating crisis. In this context, on September 5, 1999, the G20 was formally established at the G8 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Berlin, Germany, in a bid to provide a platform aimed at international coordination of economic and financial policies, to prevent financial crises like the one that struck Asia with stable international financial and monetary system.

Along with the G8 members, the G20 incorporated 12 other major economies in the world, including both developed and developing countries. Collectively, the G20 economies account for two thirds of the world population, 85 percent of global GDP, and 80 percent of global trade. Thanks to its considerable coverage and representation, the G20 provides a new path and hope for promoting dialogue and cooperation between developed and emerging countries and bolstering international financial stability and sustainable economic growth.

Since the First G20 Leaders’ Summit was held following the 2008 global financial crisis, the world has endured a series of difficulties including the U.S. subprime mortgage crisis, the Eurozone debt crisis, and the recession of emerging economies while China shifts from rapid to steady growth. In the process, the key topics of the G20 summits changed accordingly, from collaborating to tackle the 2008 financial crisis at the 2008 Washington Summit and the 2009 London and Pittsburgh summits to responding the European sovereign debt crisis at the 2010 Toronto Summit. Later, the G20 gradually transformed from a platform for crisis response to a mechanism of long-term governance, and its focus expanded from finance and macroeconomics to broader areas including trade, investment, development, and structural reform. The G20 is meant to usher the endangered world economy into a safety zone and prevent it from continuous waning. However, the situation

remains concerning given the lingering aftermath of the global financial crisis, the rise of trade protectionism, surging uneasiness about globalization, and dilemmas surrounding global economic governance.

The 2016 G20 Summit is arriving in Hangzhou amidst all of these issues. Despite the severe challenges that China has faced since the 2008 global financial crisis, the fundamentals of its economy remain sound, and the tremendous economic achievements the country has made since its reform and opening up began in 1978 are not to be forgotten. More importantly, the Chinese government, with firm determination and unique wisdom, is pushing its economy towards healthy, steady development through supply-side structural reform. In 2015, China contributed more than 25 percent of global economic growth. As Chinese President Xi Jinping ever said, China’s “annual incremental GDP is equivalent to the total GDP of a medium-sized developed country.”

China’s economic performance has given the world some confidence. Through hosting the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China is like a giant gathering every individual country that emits different amounts of heat, who huddle together to keep warm in the chilly economic winter. Members of the G20 include developed and developing countries, as well as emerging economies. China is urging G20 members to focus on Africa’s concerns and support its industrialization process. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently announced that China will alert developed countries at the G20 Summit of the urgent needs of African people. Themed “Towards an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy,” this year’s G20 Summit will have four priorities: “trailblazing a new path for growth,” “more effective and efficient global economic and financial governance,” “robust international trade and investment” and “inclusive and interconnected development.” Moreover, China will unveil a constructive plan to urge all parties involved to reach a consensus on issues such as promoting sustainable development of the world economy. The Hangzhou Summit is expected to achieve at least two major breakthroughs: Raising development to the top of the global macroeconomic policy agenda for the first time and reserving more seats for developing countries than all previous summits.



This year, a G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, the third and also the last in relation to the Hangzhou Summit, was held in Chengdu, southwestern China’s Sichuan Province, from July 23 to 24. The meeting released a communiqué to preview agendas of the Hangzhou Summit. CFP

Accordingly, the international community has high expectations for the upcoming G20 Summit in Hangzhou. Paul Edgar Philippe Martin, former Canadian Prime Minister who is considered “father of the G20,” believes that the G20 Summit’s arrival in China will mark the rebirth not only of the G20 itself, but also the global cooperation. Dennis J. Snower, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, points out that the theme proposed by China this year will ignite discussion of a wide range of topics including not only traditional economic issues, but also issues of society, the environment and inclusive development, which are all essential to solve the problems the world faces with today.

An article published on the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations website notes that as the host country of this year’s G20 Summit, China is expected to play three roles: bridge builder to merge the divergent interests of developed and developing economies, facili-

tator to advance implementation of past policy commitments, and catalyst for innovation-based global economic growth.

Former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo hopes that China will help promote international cooperation in the three key realms: formulating integrated macroeconomic policies, accelerating multi-lateral trade negotiations, and controlling greenhouse gas emissions. Gustavo Girado, coordinator of the Asia Pacific Observatory at Argentina’s National University of Matanza, expects that China will serve as a protector of emerging economies’ interests. Evidently, all parties hope China will serve as a torchbearer, leading the world out of the lengthy winter of global economic recession.

“Huddling for warmth” means that cooperation benefits all involved. China will spare no efforts to inspire all parties to collaborate in an open, inclusive manner, to kindle enough warmth to dispel the chills of the global economic winter. 47

The author is Executive Editor-in-Chief of *China Pictorial*.



# Hangzhou: A Tradition of Innovation

Text by Nancy Gong



West Lake was listed as a World Heritage Site in 2011. Hangzhou is famous around the world for its beautiful landscapes of lakes and mountains and numerous historical attractions. by Xu Xun

On November 16, 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared at the G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey, that China's Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province would accept the relay baton for the 2016 Summit. On December 1 the same year, China began preparations to host the G20 Summit of 2016.

Despite being a founding member state of the G20, this is the first time that China has ever presided over G20 since the establishment of the G20 Leader Summit dialogue mechanism in 2008. Composing one of the most powerful economic platforms in the world, the G20 member states contribute 85 percent of the world GNP and 80 percent of global trade value.

As the host city of the important event, some may wonder what to expect from Hangzhou and why it has been tasked with such a crucial mission in the wintry global economic climate.

Hangzhou is worth more than just a look.

## More Than a Destination

Hangzhou, Zhejiang's provincial seat, has been widely famous in both historical and cultural realms for a long time. At 5,300 years old, Liangzhu Cultural Ruins in today's Yuhang District, Hangzhou, provides some of the oldest evidence of ancient Chinese civilization. In 2018, the municipal government will apply to make it permanent World Cultural Heritage. One of the seven ancient capitals of China, it served as the seat of the State of Wuyue (907-978) during the Five Dynasties period (907-960) as well as that of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

Hangzhou features a beautiful natural landscape. A still-popular Chinese saying from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) goes, "Heaven has Paradise, Earth has Hangzhou and Suzhou," and the longevity of the expression attests to the persisting charm of the city. West Lake in southwestern Hangzhou included on the 2011 World Heritage List has been enchanting for visitors from around the world for centuries with its beautiful landscapes and numerous places of historical interest. The Qiantang River that runs through the city draws streams of spectators with fantastic tides, one of the three mighty bores in the world, on or around the 18th day of the eighth month on the lunar calendar. Tide watching first became popular during the Tang and Song dynasties.



Hangzhou takes pride in its artifacts, both historically and culturally. The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, for instance, stretching from Hangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north, was built in 1631. At 1,797 kilometers long, it is the biggest ancient man-made watercourse ever. On June 22, 2014, the Canal was listed as a World Heritage Site.

But those heavyweights are actually just the tip of the iceberg. At 1,700 years old, Lingyin (Soul's Retreat) Temple, mausoleums of the emperors during the Tang and Five Dynasties, and the temple to Yue Fei, a heroic general of the Southern Song Dynasty, are three more standouts among many others.

Throughout history, Hangzhou has enjoyed considerable fame.

During the 13th Century, Italian adventurer Marco Polo called the city the “most beautiful, luxurious city in the world.” In 2011, Hangzhou was cited by *The New York Times* as one of the world's 41 must-visit places and cited as an “International Garden City” by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Hangzhou has played an important role in China's diplomatic history. In 1972, the *Sino-U.S. Joint Communiqué* was preliminarily signed in the city's Octagon House, which laid a cornerstone for the establishment of the China-U.S. diplomatic relations. In 2014, the city hosted the Fifth China-U.S. Workshop on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism as part of the Sino-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue.

In January 2015, China National Tourism Administration formally announced the idea of “tourism diplomacy.” In July of that year, the municipal government of Hangzhou appointed Zhou Zhen, a taxi driver, and his family, as “public diplomatic friendly messengers” alongside an American musician and his family from California. As a famous tourist city, Hangzhou took the lead in the campaign of “tourism diplomacy.”

### E-Commerce Capital

Today, the ancient city of Hangzhou is a big thriving metropolis known for vigorous innovation and modern, international flair.

In 2015, Hangzhou set a new record in its GDP – over 1 tril-


lion yuan, a rise of 10.2 percent, ranking it among China's top 10 cities in terms of GDP. The same year, it ranked fifth among *Forbes'* Best Chinese Mainland Commercial Cities. Moreover, it has been cited many times by the World Bank as a city with an optimal general investment environment.

Hangzhou lives up to its reputation as China's “e-commerce capital.” Alibaba Group, the world's largest e-commerce company, chose Hangzhou for its world headquarters. With Alibaba as the backbone, the city's internet economy has not only driven Hangzhou's economic development but also pushed future trends of world economic development. *China's E-commerce Industry Development and Hangzhou Index White Paper* issued by the Nielsen Company shows that Hangzhou's e-commerce is still widely-influential globally. At present, the city serves as the epicenter of China's e-commerce, as home to a third of the country's e-commerce websites. Statistics on online consumption from the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province show that the incremental value of Hangzhou's e-commerce in 2015 topped 82.654 billion yuan.

Over the last few years, Alibaba has fostered the establishment of myriad emerging internet players. Many new startup industrial parks have mushroomed in the city, such as Taobao online business park, Tencent startup base, and the Dream Village, which was established in 2014 with a goal of incubating startups with over 300 billion yuan in total financial assets within three years. By June 2016, 99 makerspaces had been registered in Hangzhou, working with a total of 7.2 billion yuan in capital.

Of China's top 500 private enterprises of 2015 as ranked by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, 55 were based in Hangzhou, leading China and Zhejiang Province for the 13th straight year.

Hangzhou owes its thriving private enterprises to the great force of “independent innovation.” Over 6,500 patents have been awarded to Hangzhou's Geely Automobile China of 13,000 applications, making the brand one of China's Top 10 in Independent Innovation for Enterprises with Intellectual Property. Wahaha Group, a Chinese beverage giant, has also introduced state-of-the-art technologies to improve its offerings.

E-commerce and the private real economy cannot continue growing without policy support from the municipal government. Today in Hangzhou, approximately 100 startup districts and relevant facilitating agencies are working at full steam, including Xixi Fudi Startup Park and Binjiang Hi-tech Industrial District, which have become incubator bases for new enterprises. 



Lingyin (Soul's Retreat) Temple, built some 1,700 years ago, is the oldest Buddhist temple in Hangzhou. IC



Shikumen building complex at Sixinfang, one of the seven old streets in the city, is a cultural landmark of modern Hangzhou. IC



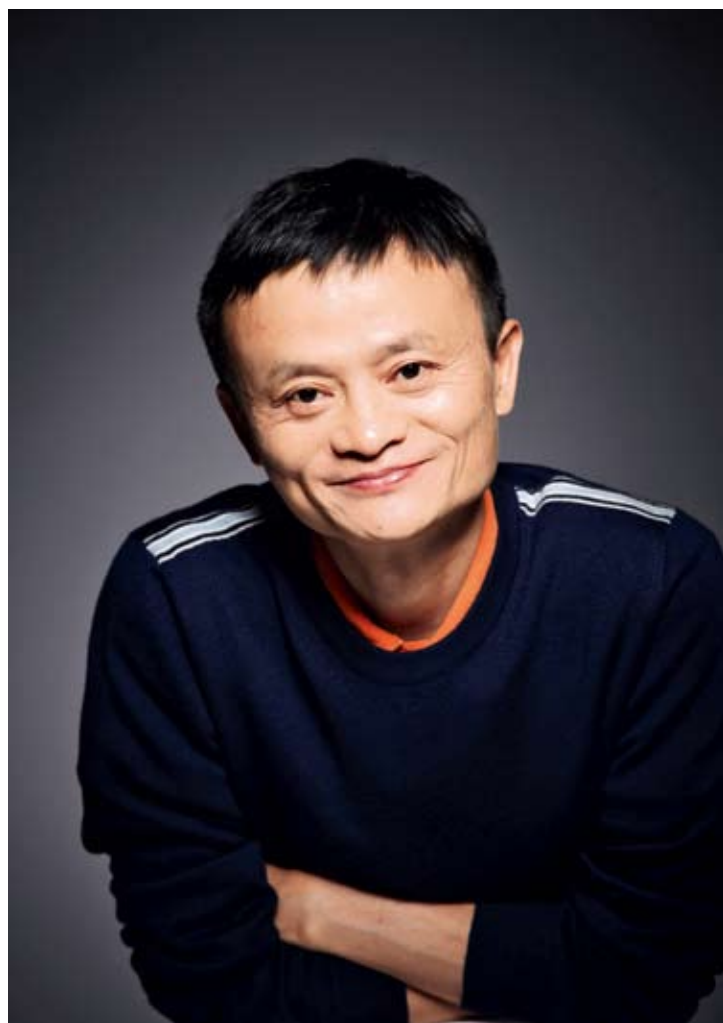
Hangzhou at night. An ancient city with the appeal of a big international metropolis fueled by vigorous innovation. CFP



**Editor's Note:** As one of the Chinese cities with the most dynamic economic development, historic Hangzhou has become a major innovation hub in recent years. The traditional yet trailblazing city has fostered a wealth of talent. In this issue, *China Pictorial* trains its lenses on eight representative Hangzhou residents. Their lives are closely tied to Hangzhou, and their stories reflect the ancient city's fusion of tradition and modernity as well as its cultural charm.

# Jack Ma: From Hangzhou to the World

Edited by Zhao Yue



The first entrepreneur from the Chinese mainland to appear on the cover of *Forbes*, Jack Ma has been a cutting-edge entrepreneur. IC

Hangzhou native Jack Ma is undoubtedly one of the biggest stars and successful entrepreneurs of China's internet. The founder and chairman of Alibaba Group, 52-year-old Ma established the company in Hangzhou in 1999 along with 17 partners. The company has become the largest internet company in the world, with operations in e-commerce, financial services, studio entertainment, and cloud computing. Competition in global internet and e-commerce is fierce, and innovation clearly plays a major role.

Since the founding of Alibaba, Ma's innovation in many realms has been eye-catching. Instead of big companies, Ma made small and medium-sized businesses his target from the very beginning. "If you look at enterprises as rich versus poor, the internet is home of the poor," he says. "Big companies have their own information channels and spend huge on advertisements, while small enterprises have nothing, which makes them most reliant on the internet."

Alibaba has successfully implemented innovation new business models thanks to Ma. In July 2003, Alibaba launched taobao.com. Earlier, China's first consumer-to-consumer company, EachNet, had already been around for more than four years. EachNet was acquired by American e-commerce giant eBay, strengthening its influence. However, the company EachNet gave greater priority to its overseas strategy while neglecting the Chinese market, resulting in a massive loss of customers. At the same time, taobao.com became more attractive to buyers and sellers alike, thanks to its bold innovations in many aspects, including eliminating fees for opening shops, facilitating direct communication between buyers and sellers, strengthening membership services, and launching online payment tools. Soon, it dwarfed EachNet.



August 3, 2016: Jack Ma with rural teachers and headmasters at Xiaohewan Primary School, Xiayun Township, Anshun City. In recent years, Ma placed greater focus on other realms. CFP

After taobao.com's initial success, Ma continued innovating elsewhere. In 1999, his company entered into the financial sector, providing loans and credit guarantees to small and micro businesses. In 2014, Ant Financial, a spin-off of Alibaba's former financial arm, was officially launched. Aiming to create a new and open financial ecosystem, it primarily serves small and micro-sized enterprises and individual consumers. The move marked Alibaba's full immersion into the financial sector. In April 2016, Ali Health, Alibaba's healthcare subsidiary, announced it would co-establish

the Ali Health Insurance Company with enterprises such as China Taiping Insurance Group and Taiping Life Insurance Company, marking its reach to the sector of health insurance.

Ma believes that investor confidence in his company and his leadership should be attributed to large part to optimism for China's future high-speed economic growth. Alibaba is closely bound to China's real economy. For China, amidst foreign trade structural transformation and retail industry revolution, every innovation could be a growth point. 47



## Yu Hua: Writing for His Life

Edited by Zhao Yue

Born in 1960 in Hangzhou, Yu Hua is easily one of the most influential contemporary Chinese writers. Domestically, his works have received not only consistent acclaim from readers and critics alike, but also great sales. Internationally, his works have been translated into many languages and published in many countries including the U.S., France, Germany, and South Korea. Yu has received many global awards such as Italy's Grinzane Cavour Prize and France's Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters award.

After graduating from high school in 1977, Yu worked for a few years before becoming a full-time writer in 1983. In the early



Yu believes that writing allowed him to be more creative and flexible. CFP

stages of his career, Yu was a representative of Chinese avant-garde literature. His works were heavily experimental, with absurd and satirical descriptions – sometimes of violence, blood, and death.

In the 1990s, Yu began to innovate and change his style. The move, in the simplest terms, was a subtraction. He switched to a more realistic approach and employed simpler language and techniques. Yu began to adopt an economic and careful style, and set his stories in environments close to the lives of ordinary people. In this new style, Yu published his most acclaimed and well-known novels over the following years. In 1993, *To Live* was hit bookshelves. Five years later, *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* was published, followed by two-volume *Brothers* in 2005 and 2006. Thanks to these novels, Yu became known to more readers both at home and abroad.

Compared to his early works, Yu's innovations with these novels are rooted in his profound portrayal of Chinese social reality and the endings inspiring hope. *To Live* follows protagonist Fu Gui's lifelong struggles and his endurance of considerably pain and hardship. *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* is about Xu Sanguan, who sells his blood for years in hopes of improving the lives of his family. *Brothers* is an ambitious tapestry of two eras of Chinese literature. Yu describes the first era as China's "cultural revolution" (1966-1976), and the second as contemporary China. The title characters are only step-brothers without a blood relationship, and their fates parallel the drastic changes of the country over the same period. All of the novels focus on ordinary Chinese people who struggle with life against a backdrop of the times. Renowned Chinese critic Hong Zhigang said that Yu's novels are "close to reality and very sensitive to Chinese people's lives. They are really moving."

Yu believes that his innovation in writing stems from writing itself. "I hit a roadblock when I began to work on *To Live*," he reveals. "So I changed things a bit, and started writing from a first-person perspective. From that point on, the writing went smoothly. Fu Gui is a farmer with hardly any education, so he couldn't use grand or sophisticated language. He just says what he thinks. The writing style changed automatically." He asserts that innovation is the courage to explore, even if you fail. "Real innovation would be writing to save your own life." 47

## Wang Shu: Chinese Should Inhabit Their Own Cultural Spaces

Edited by Zhao Yue

Born in Urumqi, northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in 1963, Wang Shu often jokes that he is merely an "amateur architect" with only meager knowledge in the field. However, in 2012 this "amateur architect" became the first Chinese to win the Pritzker Prize, the world's top prize in architecture.

After receiving his master's degree from the School of Architecture at Nanjing Institute of Technology (now Southeast University) in 1988, Wang began to work for the Hangzhou-based Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts (now China Academy of Art). By the time, the reform and opening-up policy had been implemented in China for about 10 years. In terms of architecture, the high-speed economic and social development manifested itself in the form of fancy styles with heavy decoration, not to mention the common real estate practice of mass demolition and construction. While most domestic architects were catering to the demands of such a market, Wang was reflecting on the traditions and reality of China's architecture and blazing a new trail featuring architectural innovation and strong Chinese characteristics. His work creatively preserves and passes on traditional Chinese culture while exhibiting regional characteristics. Aiming to convey the idea that "Chinese should inhabit their own cultural spaces," Wang's work strives to exhibit the roots of simple and natural life.

When he began working in Hangzhou, Wang's creative powers exploded. His work starkly contrasted most structures rising in China every day. When he mentions the term "amateur architect," he is referring to a philosophy that architects should keep a relaxed rather than an overly-serious attitude towards their work. The term "amateur architect" also reinforced criticism of mainstream "professionally-built" structures at that time. For example, during a meeting to form a renovation plan for the Imperial Street of Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) of the Hangzhou municipal government in 2007, some suggested the old street be bulldozed and rebuilt. "This seemingly run-down street is actually the soul of Hangzhou," gasped Wang at the meeting. "We are not just protecting an old street, but kindling the revitalization of the city." Before taking on the renovation project, Wang laid out a few simple rules



Wang creates modern buildings utilizing traditional materials and techniques, and he believes that "only people who understand the nature of the material can make art using it." by Wang Qi

for the Hangzhou municipal government, such as insistence that they avoid fake antiques and forcing residents to leave. He spent three years on the street, which the emperor of the Southern Song Dynasty once walked, according to legend, into a timeless avenue of typical southern Chinese style.

Wang's innovation and philosophy about architecture are reflected in many of his buildings. He transformed an abandoned shipping structure in Ningbo into the Ningbo Museum of Art, possibly the only museum in the world at which boats can be anchored. He built Five Scattered Houses in Ningbo, experimental structures of differing architectural types and building technologies, as an exploration of construction of modern structures with Chinese souls. In his only commercial residential project, Qianjiang Times, Wang left plenty of public areas in the vertical building, leaving each residence a front and back yard. In this way, Wang hoped the inhabitants could recover long-lost living patterns and reestablish relationships with neighbors. For the Xiangshan Campus of China Academy of Art, Wang built a structure that blends with the natural environment using abundant Chinese elements. "Sometimes, you can't tell the structure from the landscape."

Lord Palumbo, current chair of the Pritzker Prize jury, believes that connection between present and past in Wang's work is particularly timely. "The recent process of urbanization in China invites debate as to whether architecture should be anchored in tradition or should look only towards the future," he declared. "As with any great architecture, Wang Shu's work is able to transcend that debate, producing an architecture that is timeless, deeply rooted in its context and yet universal." 47



# Feng Gensheng: The Merchant Master

Text by Li Zhuoxi

Despite his devotion to tradition, Feng Gensheng is an icon of the decades since China's reform and opening up. His titles include the last inheritor of Hu Qing Yu Tang drugstore, sole inheritor of the national intangible cultural heritage of the traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) sector, and longest-serving head of a Chinese state-owned enterprise. And he continues operating the company at the age of 82.

Founded by Hu Xueyan, a notable businessman in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Hu Qing Yu Tang drugstore opened for business 142 years ago. Feng Gensheng began working at Hu Qing Yu Tang at the age of 14. By 2016, he has spent 68 years with the company.

Over the past nearly one and half centuries, the company has developed its profound culture of TCM – uncompromising quality – Feng and his colleague pharmacists have been taught and followed from day one they started working for this drugstore. Unlike Western drugs, Chinese herbal medicines require boiling, frying, baking and many other complex production procedures. “As an apprentice, I spent 10 hours a day in the factory year-round,” Feng recalls. “I learned to endure hardship. Later I was transferred to the extraction department, where I worked 16 hours a day for two years straight. Over 100,000 prescriptions went through me during that period.”

After so many years, Feng Gensheng has memorized the quality, potency and efficacy of over 2,000 types of medicinal materials and shown effortless mastery of medicine making.

When it was first established in 1874, Hu Qing Yu Tang drugstore featured a workshop with a shop in front and a factory at the back. After becoming a public-private partnership in 1956, the company changed its name to Hu Qing Yu Tang Chinese Medicine Store. In 1972, the original factory was split into two subdivisions. The original factory was renamed Hangzhou No.1 Traditional Chinese Medicine Factory. The other, in the outer suburbs west of Hangzhou, was upgraded and became Hangzhou's second Chinese medicine factory, with Feng Gensheng as its director.

After assuming office, Feng carried out major technological transformation in the factory, improving production lines, and introducing automatic extraction and mechanized packaging. He ushered the making of Chinese medicine into the era of large-scale industrial production. Along the way, the factory was expanded

and its buildings improved. In June 1982, journalist William Sexton of the Associated Press reported the drugstore is like any other advanced biochemistry research center in Boston or New York, but for TCM.

Ultimately, the century-old Hangzhou No.1 Traditional Chinese Medicine Factory had been encountering more and more difficulties in the tide of market economy, and teetered on the verge of bankruptcy in 1996 due to inefficient management.

Buying it back was full of risks, but Feng Gensheng did not hesitate to take the chance. Afterwards, he changed the traditional business models and proposed promoting the brand with its reputation, famous physicians and high-quality drugs. Incorporating modern ways of commercial operation in his traditional drug business, Feng opened “Clinics of Famous Physicians,” established Hu Qing Yu Tang Pharmacy, and launched the Hu Qing Yu Tang Museum of Traditional Chinese Medicines. With Feng Gensheng at the helm, Hu Qing Yu Tang's business scale, brand value and cultural reputation continued to improve.

From a small traditional workshop 140 years ago, Hu Qing Yu Tang has evolved into a large modern Chinese medicine company. Some media reports have called Feng Gensheng “bold.” In his mind, the most important task is maintaining this spirit. “If I lost my bold spirit, I would not be the Feng Gensheng I've come to know.”



Feng Gensheng is the longest-serving head of a Chinese state-owned enterprise and he continues operating the company at the age of 82.

# Tang Wei: Actress Straightforward

Text by Yin Rong

Some have said that she is not especially pretty, but has a certain glamour. “A girl like Tang Wei would not be popular in the mainland of China,” Director Ang Lee once said. “She applied for Acting Department of Central Academy of Drama three times but was rejected because she was not typically good-looking. Finally, she was admitted to Directing Department. She looks just like a history teacher from long ago. This disposition is hardly found in Chinese young people. Even the expressions when she talks are like a history teacher from the past.”

Tang's special charm could be rooted in her hometown and family. In 1979, Tang was born in Hangzhou, a city spoiled by nature and nurtured by culture. Her father is a painter and calligrapher. Her mother was an actress. From young age, Tang studied painting and graduated from an art school in 1997. Because she was not a typical beauty in many people's eyes, few people thought she could become an actress.

However, Tang became an actress and even an excellent one. Her work in Ang Lee's *Lust, Caution* won her global fame and the Best New Artist Award at Taiwan's Golden Horse Film Festival. The media in Hong Kong praised her performance with the word “stunning.” “If Ang Lee scores a 99.9, Tang, as a newcomer, gets full marks,” said Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-Fat.

Tang played Wang Jiazhi in *Lust, Caution*, a college girl during the Republic of China (1912-1949) period, and the subject of *The Golden Era*, a biographical film about Xiao Hong, a famous female writer of the same era, two roles for which she seemed a natural fit. In *Wu Xia*, she played a ragged rural woman, and as a money-worshipping expectant mother in *Finding Mr. Right*, she changed many fans' view on her: Tang can do more than just literary figures. Tang has not worked much, only appearing in one or two movies a year, but she still wins awards one after another. “If I am modest and honest, my career as an actress can last longer,” she says.

*Lust, Caution's* story is mostly set in Hong Kong in 1938 and in Shanghai in 1942, when the latter was occupied by the Japanese army and ruled by a puppet government. It depicts a group of Chinese university students who plot to assassinate a high-ranking official (played by Tony Leung) of the puppet government using an attractive young woman to lure him into a trap. After the film



Tang Wei in a still from *Finding Mr. Right 2*. CFP

was released, its graphic and violent sex scenes caused Tang to be blacklisted. Disappearing from public sight, Tang headed to London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art to study, where her English became even more fluent. In *Late Autumn*, a Korean arthouse film directed by Tae-yong Kim, almost all of Tang's lines were in English, even a part she improvised. In entertainment circles, Tang still keeps a low-profile: She never opened social media accounts, isn't seen in public with dates, doesn't retain a publicist and rarely receives interviews. She spends most of her free time reading and attending the theater.

Her natural and straightforward attitude has drawn many fans and won the media's favor. Media outlets in Hong Kong and Taiwan like her because she is not aggressive with them. Reporters of the Chinese mainland like her because her perfect balance of traditional disposition and demeanor shaped by her overseas studies, a blend hardly found in contemporary Chinese actresses. Korean director Tae-yong Kim was also enamored, and they married in July 2014.

Tang gradually reached some special status: She neither tries to please anyone nor showboats. She is perpetually natural and aloof.

Su Shi, a renowned poet of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), compared West Lake to Xi Shi, one of the most beautiful women in China's history, and exclaimed: “No matter heavy makeup or light, she is elegant.” The same could be said of Tang Wei.



# Zhu Jinxiu: Turning the Page

Text by Li Zhuoxi    Photographs by Duan Wei

In Hangzhou and even the entire cultural community of Zhejiang Province, Zhu Jinxiu and her book store are legends. After she was diagnosed with terminal cancer, she decided to start a book club and named it “The Age of Innocence.” Today it has evolved from her final wish into a cultural landmark of Hangzhou. Over the following decade and a half, Zhu not only survived to spend 16 years with her book club, but the club injected hope into the sluggish paper book industry.

In 1999, 44-year-old Zhu was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Facing a short time left in her life, she didn’t want much. After a year of treatment, she left the hospital weak but alive, with symptoms that could flare up at any time. “I survived, so I decided it was time to do something meaningful,” she said.

With the help of her husband, Sheng Zichao, then president of Zhejiang Academy of Literature, Zhu’s book store finally opened

to the public on September 28, 2000. However, because lack of business experience, Zhu and her husband had a hard time running the business in the first couple of years. Luckily, their rent was reasonable, so they could usually break even. In 2008 when rental prices began soaring and sales of brick-and-mortar book stores plummeting, the club began recording losses every month. The Age of Innocence, like many other small traditional book stores, absorbed a severe blow in the internet era. To save the store, Zhu decided to switch focus to cultural management.

Famous Chinese writer Wang Meng has noted that the convenience of online book stores made a huge impact on their brick-and-mortar competitors, but that the latter could continue to attract customers as municipal cultural landmarks and salons by providing diversified environments and rich services, and Zhu agreed.

Thanks to her husband’s authority as a famous writer and literary critic, many writers flock to their shop to give lectures

and hold book signing events. With this business model, even without managing to turn profitable yet, the strong cultural ambience became alluring to many bibliophiles and intellectuals from Hangzhou and beyond. After years of hard work, The Age of Innocence not only introduced many excellent books to readers, but also gradually became a popular communication platform to share book reviews and travel experiences as well as to study.

“We want to organize more attractive book reading activities so more and more people will learn to enjoy reading and sample the poetry of life,” insisted Zhu. Since its founding, The Age of Innocence has facilitated a variety of activities one after the other, such as book releases, readings, lectures, and film salons. The large flow of people brought increased demand for catering and conference reception, which in turn supported the operation of the book club.

“If we stick to the traditional operating methods like other

brick-and-mortar book stores, we probably wouldn’t be around today,” admits Zhu. “By combining recreation, reading and other activities, we built a nice business step-by-step. Many dream of opening a book store, but stay with it.” Now the major focus of the book store is to present reading events to inspire greater numbers of people to read books.

Since founding the book store, Zhu’s health has improved remarkably and she is now cancer free. Seeing her calm and smiling face, no one would ever guess she was once given only months to live.

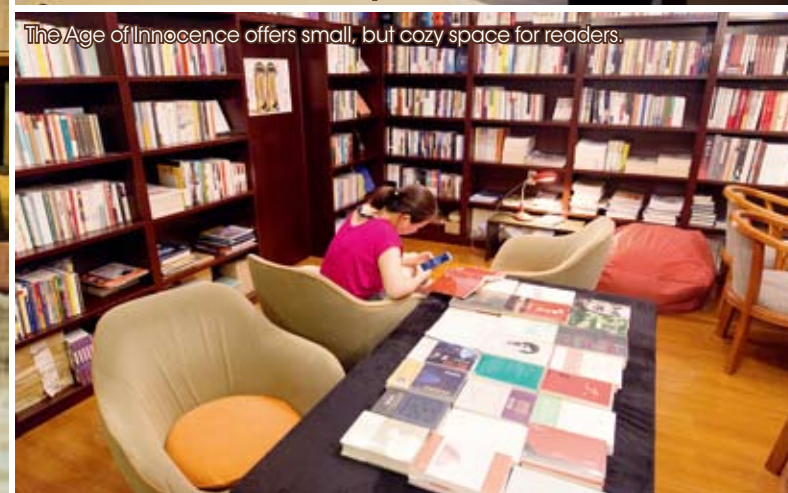
Times are changing, as are people’s reading habits. But Zhu still holds firmly to her original dream, “to hang a lamp at the dusk of the brick-and-mortar book store industry,” as she has once described her book store. Thanks to the encouraging story of The Age of Innocence, she hopes to provide a new method for struggling traditional book stores to survive in the bleak book store industry. 47



Zhu Jinxiu, manager of the Age of Innocence.



Nobel Laureate Mo Yan wrote a couplet for Zhu Jinxiu and her husband.



The Age of Innocence offers small, but cozy space for readers.



One corner of the second floor of The Age of Innocence.



# Hangzhou: Let's Go!

Edited by Nancy Gong

**T**ime in the countdown to the 2016 G20 Summit is running thin. Is Hangzhou, the host, ready? How are preparations coming along?

*China Pictorial* decided to take a look.

## Environment

On August 4, 2016, Zhao Yide, Secretary of the CPC Hangzhou Municipal Committee, declared at the local government's month-long countdown campaign that the city had completed 605 refurbishing projects in six categories to improve the environment, including 33 projects to upgrade the city entrances, 264 to beautify streets, removal of 10 million square meters of illegal buildings, and the reconstruction of over 9 million square meters of old housing and factory buildings in urban areas.

To guarantee good air quality during the G20 Summit, the municipal government of Hangzhou has invested heavily in atmospheric environmental control measures including strict supervision and control of coal burning, industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust and construction dust. To hopes of inspiring greater discussion of green transportation at the G20, the local government also introduced 22,000 new-energy automobiles and 500 purely electric buses.



The expressway to Xiaoshan Airport runs through downtown. During the G20 Summit, the airport will prepare for many charter flights. by Huang Zongzhi/Xinhua

Measuring 10 meters high and 25 meters long, the themed "mosaiculture" for the G20 Summit features major elements of the landscape and culture of Hangzhou. CFP

## Venue

At an August 15 press conference for the Hangzhou G20 Summit held by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zhao Yide announced that the main venue for the 11th Summit of the G20 Leaders Summit would be Hangzhou International Expo Center, and that the Business 20 Summit (B20) would be held at the International Conference Center.

According to Zhao, all venues for the Summit were refurbished, upgraded, and improved based on the original structure, featuring both local and more broadly Chinese characteristics. Spanning 170,000 square meters, Hangzhou International Expo Center is made up of 20 function areas including primary meeting rooms, banquet halls, reception halls, media space, and press release center. Together, they can accommodate 6,000 people.

Hangzhou International Conference Center consists of the main meeting hall, VIP rooms, and the rooms for bilateral meetings.

Separate venues for the Fourth G20 Sherpa Meeting and the G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting are also made ready. Accommodations for state leaders, delegates, and media outlets have been arranged as well. By August 15, the majority of delegations had made reservations with hotels.







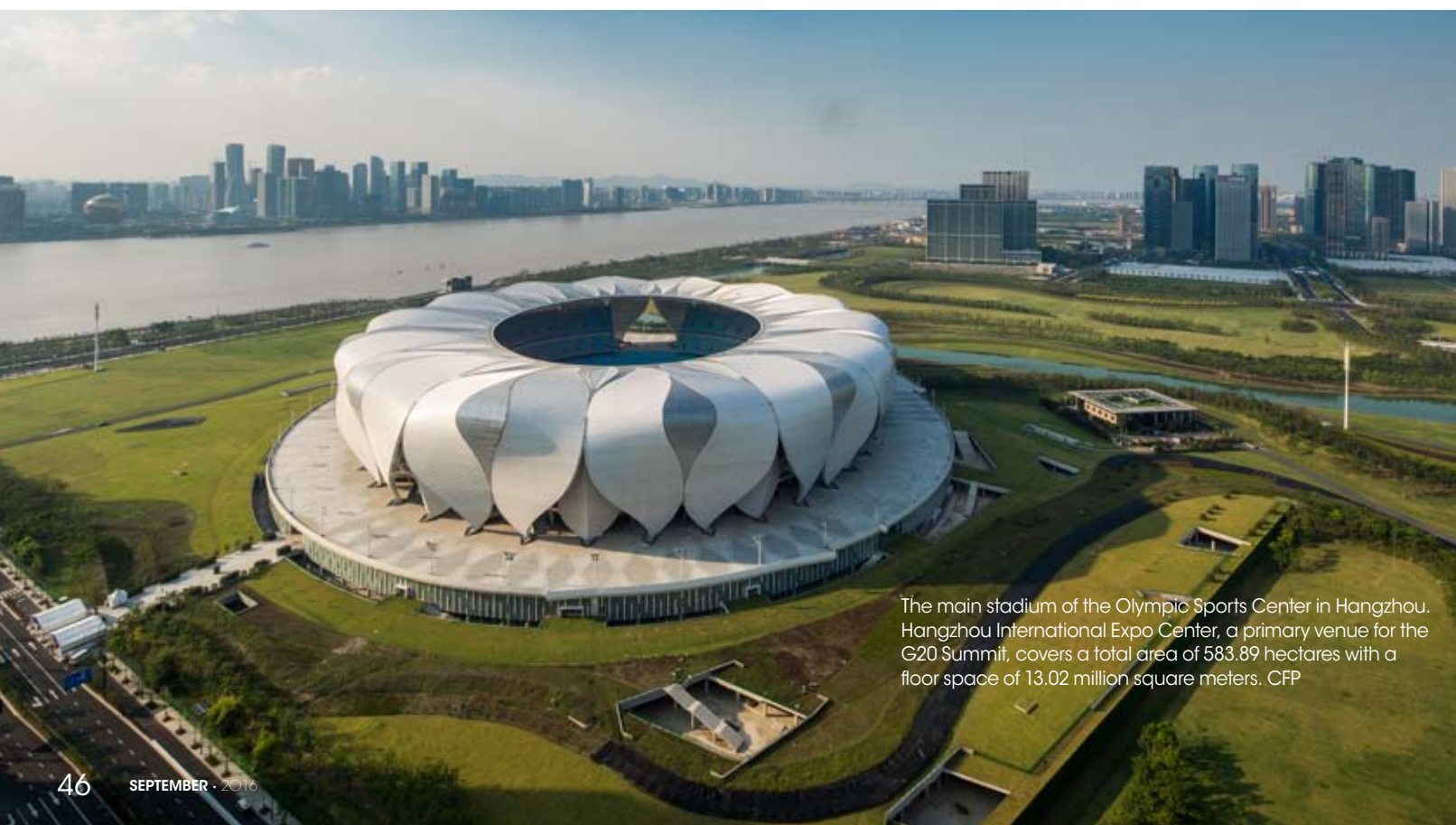
Ready for Service. To provide transportation aligning with international practices, a special semi-rental program will be deployed. Xinhua



August 10, 2016, saw the operation of a multi-lingual correspondence platform especially for foreign guests during the G20 Summit, which provides 24/7 consultation and interpretation services in 14 languages. Xinhua



Morning on July 27, 2016: The largest water transportation supervision and control exercise ever on the Qiantang River. The municipal government arranged frequent drills to ensure water transportation safety during the G20 Summit. Xinhua



The main stadium of the Olympic Sports Center in Hangzhou. Hangzhou International Expo Center, a primary venue for the G20 Summit, covers a total area of 583.89 hectares with a floor space of 13.02 million square meters. CFP

## Conference Logistics

Zhao revealed that the municipal government has recruited and trained more than 1,000 interpreters, correspondents and other staffers to provide on-site services for the Summit. Since December 2015 when volunteer recruitment was first launched, 26,266 people have signed up, 4,000 of whom have been chosen after several rounds of selection. Additionally, a multi-lingual correspondence platform has been arranged especially for foreign guests.

To provide sufficient safe food, a special food storehouse with a floor space of 7,450 square meters has been built for 900 tons of food, which will remain under strict inspection until it reaches plates. Most of the food for the Summit will feature Hangzhou flavors, with hopes of sharing local as well as national culture with guests.

To provide transportation aligning with international practices, a special semi-rental program will be deployed. A total of 900 special cars will be made available for state leaders and delegations.

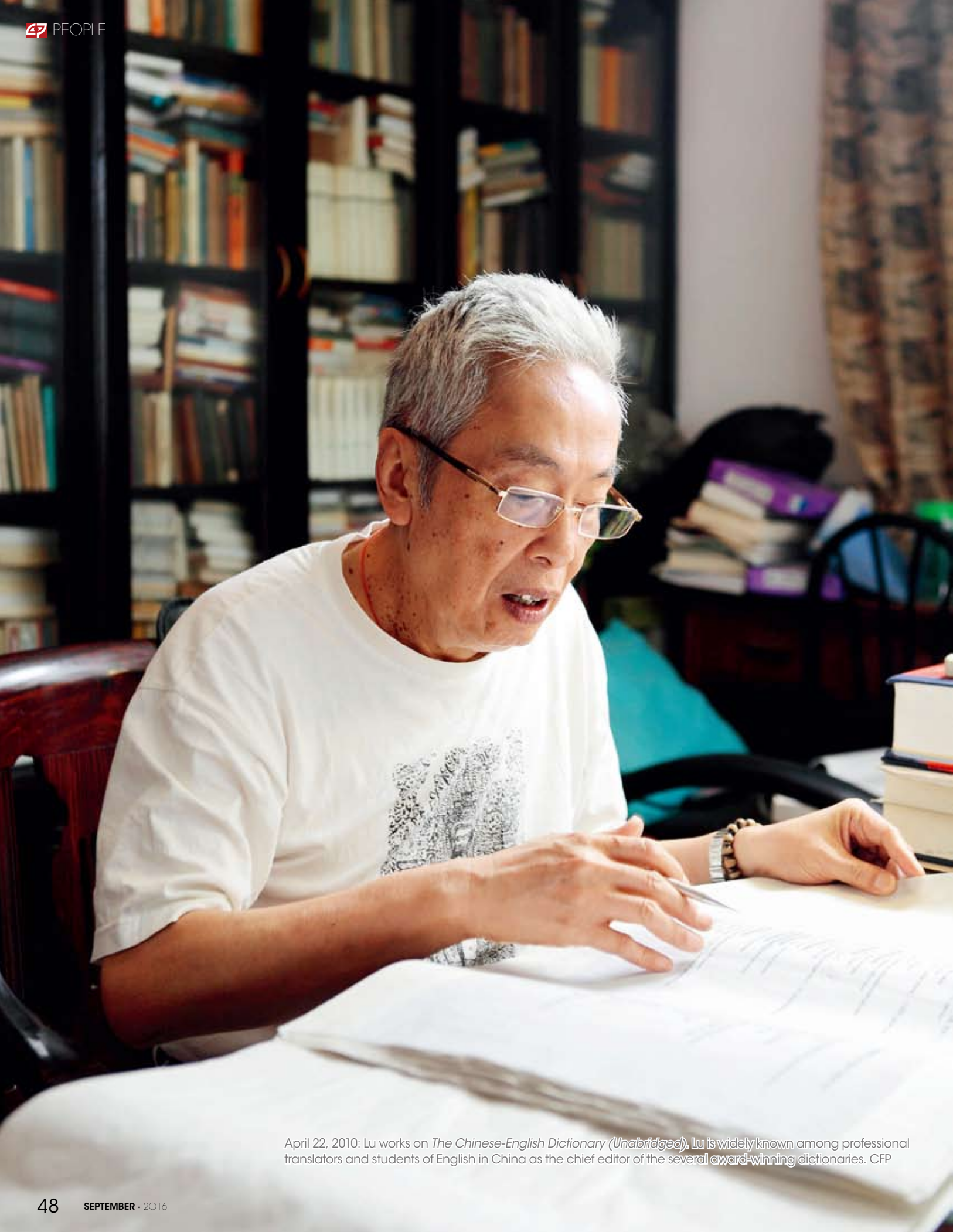
Moreover, four hospitals have been designated for the potential need of medical services during the Summit.

## Security

Hangzhou has enacted specific measures for security, including mobilizing citizen volunteers as patrollers and calling in police officers from nearby cities as additional security deployment. Actual combat drills have been carried out. Plans have been mapped out for a variety of emergencies. Tens of thousands of volunteers have been on duty for months, patrolling streets, scenic spots and residential areas to guarantee security.

Measures have also been strengthened to ensure safety in the city's water, gas, and power supplies, and communication networks. Construction has been completed for 40 backup water and natural gas supply pipelines, in addition to 77 power grids and supply facilities and 120 communication infrastructure projects. 47





April 22, 2010: Lu works on *The Chinese-English Dictionary (Unabridged)*. Lu is widely known among professional translators and students of English in China as the chief editor of the several award-winning dictionaries. CFP

# The Dictionaryist

Text by Ru Yuan

On July 28, Lu Gusun passed away in Shanghai at the age of 77. A translator, essayist, Shakespearean scholar, professor at Fudan University, and member of CPPCC National Committee, (a political advisory body in China), Lu was best known as a lexicographer.

In China, almost everyone engaged in English translation, English language studies or any other humanities has heard of Lu. Every college graduate or English learner must rely heavily on one, if not all, of Lu's dictionaries. As editor-in-chief of the widely-circulated *A New English-Chinese Dictionary*, *The English-Chinese Dictionary*, *The Chinese-English Dictionary (Unabridged)*, Lu became a lexicographer for *A New English-Chinese Dictionary* as early as 1970, when he was only 30 years old. When he died, Lu was still working on the second and final volume of *The Chinese-English Dictionary (Unabridged)*. It would be no exaggeration to say that Lu spent the vast majority of his days working on compiling dictionaries.

## Birth of A New English-Chinese Dictionary

Lu Gusun was born in Shanghai in 1940. His father, Lu Dacheng, worked as a French translator, Lu Gusun followed in his footsteps by enrolling in Fudan University's College of Foreign Languages and Literatures in 1957. The son ended up choosing the English language as the focal point of his studies and research.

In 1965, Lu began teaching English at Fudan University. In 1970, he was chosen for the editorial team tasked with drafting

*A New English-Chinese Dictionary*. Five years later, the dictionary hit bookshelves. Although the reference book was compiled during China's "cultural revolution" (1966-1976), young Lu boldly included "new words, new meanings and new usages." "Many of my views on new words, new meanings and new usages formed during my work on *A New English-Chinese Dictionary*," Lu recalled in an interview during his later years. "As the 'outerwear' of human thinking, language development isn't fettered by politics. Language has its own laws of change and development. The fundamental task for dictionaries is to showcase language objectively, and dictionaries' social function is to faithfully record language. So, the drafting group of *A New English-Chinese Dictionary* insisted on adding new words."

Thanks to their efforts, although the dictionary still had a long way to go and "political English" still could be found

in it, the 1975 edition helped the Western world notice China's changes. *The New York Times* commented that the dictionary kept up with the times and showed that China was paying close attention to the U.S. In those days, the nearly-2,000-page dictionary served as the only medium-sized bilingual reference book for English learners in China. During China's craze for going abroad in the 1980s, it was scripture and kept on-hand at all times for many students abroad.

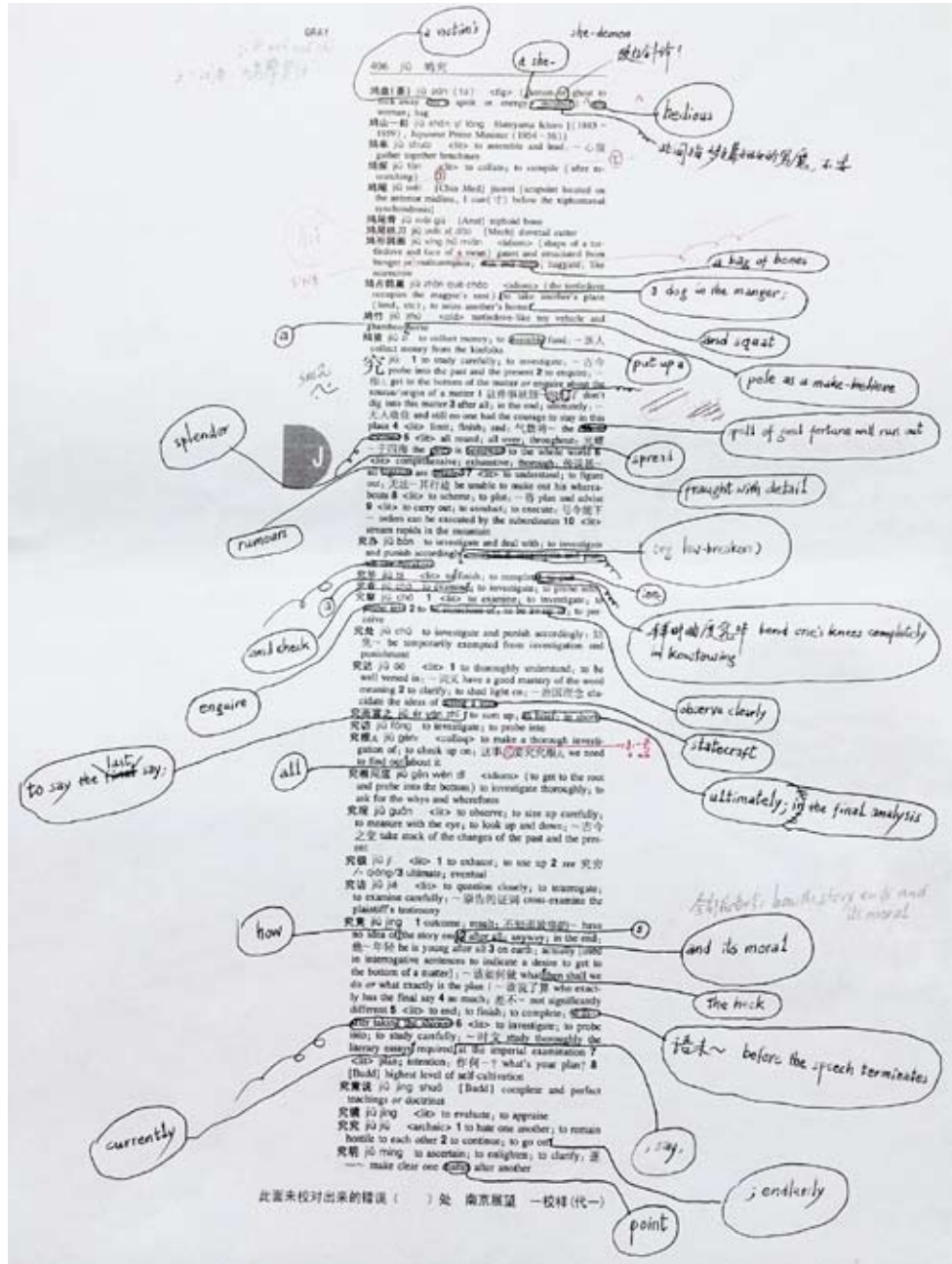
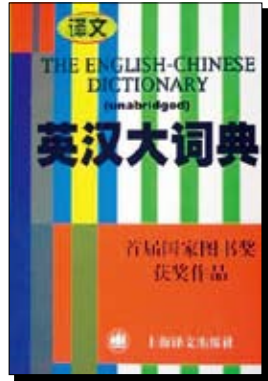
## Keeping the Soil Moving

In 1975, the same year *A New English-Chinese Dictionary* was published, Shanghai was awarded the national key scientific research project to compile *The English-Chinese Dictionary*. Lu embarked on a 15-year journey with this dictionary: Preparations began in 1976, he became editor-in-chief in 1986, and the dictionary was finally published in 1991.



Lu Gusun (center) in the 1980s. Lu became chief editor of *The English-Chinese Dictionary* in 1986. Since then, he had stayed at the frontline of lexicography until his death. IC





A page from *The Chinese-English Dictionary (Unabridged)* edited by Lu.

“If the soil keeps moving, a mountain will form,” Lu wrote in the forward of *The English-Chinese Dictionary*, quoting renowned Chinese Confucian philosopher Xun Zi (313B.C.- 238B.C.) to celebrate the tireless efforts of the editorial team.

*The English-Chinese Dictionary* is the first comprehensive English-Chinese dictionary independently researched, developed, and compiled by China. None of it draws on translations of a foreign dictionary — a common practice in compiling English-Chinese dictionaries in the past. After the dictionary was published, it soon became the most-widely used English-Chinese reference book. The dictionary also won an international reputation and served as a standard English-Chinese reference for translators working at the UN. Western dictionary experts deemed the dictionary one of the best bilingual dictionaries in the world.

In the 1980s, with China's deepened reform and opening-up, demand for China to compile a new Chinese-English dictionary that could facilitate spontaneous communication with a foreign audience became huge. *The English-Chinese Dictionary* was finally published in 1991, and then ambitious Lu began to work on *The Chinese-English Dictionary (Unabridged)*, which was even larger in scale. Over the following years, China witnessed rapid development, and the Chinese language also changed significantly alongside social development. Lu invested his heart and soul in expanding the cultural window language creates and inspiring greater numbers of people to learn about the world.

He and his team creatively proposed the “acculturation” principle when compiling this dictionary. Specifically, this principle emphasizes that a dictionary should not explain too much about a word or phrase. Instead, it should help users understand a certain word via producing different phrases

and building sentences. At the same time, this dictionary included some translations from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, and overseas Chinese communities.

The first volume, with more than 20,000 single-character entries, was first published in 2015 to great acclaim from users and the academic circles alike. In its influential commentary program “Time of Chief Editor,” Phoenix Television used “awesome” to praise the dictionary, and spoke highly of its influence in China and beyond.

## Studying Foreign Languages and Chinese

Lu had been looking at the development of linguistic phenomena, emphasizing that studying a foreign language, in a sense, is studying another way of thinking. He asserted that English as lingua franca could help China better understand the world and vice versa. He opposed putting the Chinese language in opposition to English or any other foreign languages. “In learning both Chinese and English languages, the requirements of memorization, comparison, conversion, and idioms are the same. However, when studying a foreign language, we should never forget Chinese. Chinese people must master our mother tongue, keep and pass on our traditional culture, of which our language is the carrier.”

In recent years, many newly-coined words that showcase changing Chinese society have emerged in China, drawing attention from the West. Lu believed that China's economic development and increased international exchanges are the causes of this phenomenon. For example, the internet buzzword “gelivable” which means “cool,” “awesome” or “exciting,” was reported by *The New York Times*. And the word “guanxi,” a transliteration of the Chinese word meaning networks or connections, is now widely recognized and




Lu at a lecture titled "Toward Better English." In his class, Lu emphasizes learning English with pressure and pleasure. by Zhou Wei/*China Daily*



August 19, 2015: Lu speaks at the launch ceremony for the first volume of *The Chinese-English Dictionary (Unabridged)* in Shanghai. Lu had worked on the second volume of the dictionary until his passing. CFP

even used by the Western world. Although such words face a long road before being adopted into standard English, their existence shows that Chinese culture is understood by more foreigners and is becoming more integrated with other world cultures.

After 2013, realizing each day was even more precious, Lu devoted almost all his time to *The Chinese-English Dictionary*

(Unabridged). Huang Yuning, head of the literature editorial office of Shanghai Translation Publishing House, has known Lu for years. “Many people wear different masks in life. But Mr. Lu had been consistent. His writing has a strong British and American style. If God gave him more time, I would have urged him to translate works from writers such as E.B. White.” 





# Djang San: Electric Zhongruan

Text and photographs by Laurent Hou

**D**jang San is a French musician who has been living in Beijing for years. This tireless artist has already composed 38 albums and sings in French, English and Chinese. Djang San's musical journey led him to electrify the *zhongruan* (a four-stringed Chinese instrument) and try out the traditional Chinese instrument on a variety of musical genres such as rock, jazz, blues and electronic music. He is committed to bridging cultures through his music and constantly strives to innovate.

**China Pictorial (CP):** Why did you choose to play the *zhongruan* over another Chinese instrument?

**Djang San:** The sound and overall feeling of the instrument is the biggest reason. Many traditional Chinese instruments made their ways to other East Asian countries such as Japan and Vietnam, where they were modified, but the *zhongruan* can only be found in China. I was interested in Chinese culture, which made it even more special. The *zhongruan* has a powerful sound, but can be carried easily when traveling. Such qualities make it a convenient

instrument. I have a very special relationship with the instrument. By becoming the first person to electrify it and play it at rock music festivals, I felt like I was bringing it into the 21st Century. Now, more and more musicians are interested in the instrument and have taken inspiration from my work on both the *zhongruan* and the *pipa* (an other four-stringed Chinese instrument), which I have also electrified.

**CP:** You are one of the few foreigners who can write songs in Chinese and perform them. How did you learn Chinese?

**Djang:** I started learning Chinese in France at the age of 15 by taking a class in school. I first came to China five years later for more classes, and being here allowed me to improve much faster. Before learning Chinese, I learned English through music, especially singing. I think music is a great way to combine memorization with emotions. So, I tried to do the same with Chinese. I looked for things I liked in Chinese pop music, and in the 2000s, Wang Fei (Faye Wong) was the most interesting pop singer, so I used her songs to study Chinese.

Djang San sings while playing the electric *zhongruan* at Beijing Music Day at MAO Live House in 2014.





Djang San and Peking Opera star Zheng Ziru perform together at the French Embassy in Beijing.



Djang San plays the *hulusi*.



Djang San and the crowd at 77 Theatre (Beijing).

#### 1995:

Jean-Sebastien Héry (Djang's real name) starts studying Chinese in Bordeaux.

#### 2000:

Héry arrives in Beijing for the first time, to take more Chinese classes. He writes his first song in Chinese the same year and adopts the Chinese name Zhang Si'an.

#### 2003:

Upon returning to France, Héry records his first album in Chinese, *Lotus*.

#### 2011:

Héry adopts the stage name of Djang San while keeping the written Chinese characters of Zhang Si'an upon realizing that people outside China have difficulty pronouncing it right.

#### 2000-2004:

Héry experiments heavily and travels throughout China.

#### 1996:

Héry starts playing the guitar at the age of 16. Rock music becomes his passion.

#### 2011-2012:

Djang San records three live performances in Beijing and releases them as *One Man Live Orchestra Volume 1 to 3*. This marked a new path for him: three different sets of music – one experimental, one folk, and one electronic, with styles mixed throughout.

#### 2013:

After years playing solo as Djang San (but he also led the band "The Amazing Insurance Salesmen" from 2009 to 2013, which won the Battle of the Bands in China and Hong Kong in 2010-2011), he creates Djang San + band, with a bassist and a drummer (Stefano Latorre on bass, replaced by Clancy Lethbridge and Carlo V. Fuentes of drums).

#### 2014:

The album *Electric Tofu* is released. It is considered the fruit of his experiments with the electric *zhongruan*.


#### CP: How have Chinese music and culture influenced your work?

**Djang:** Chinese folk music was a source of inspiration for me. I have used the pentatonic scale sometimes since both *pipa* and *zhongruan* are instruments based on it. You can hear the way I use the pentatonic scale on songs like "Where's Happiness," "Mad Horses," "The Other Side" and a few others. I also took inspiration from Chinese poets like Ma Zhiyuan and Liu Yuxi. Along with the *zhongruan*, I also play other Chinese instruments. You can see me playing some of them at my live shows. Others, I mostly use when recording albums. I play the *pipa*, *guzheng* (Chinese zither), *hulusi* (cucurbit flute), *xiao* (a Chinese vertical flute) and *xun* (a traditional egg-shaped, holed wind instrument). I want to bridge cultures. I have been constantly mixing Chinese music with rock, blues and elec-



Djang San plays the electric *pipa*.

tronic music. Jazz is also an increasingly important influence in my work. I already used instruments from Brazil and Peru, the country where I spent part of my childhood. I plan to keep on broadening my

musical horizons and use instruments from other cultures too. In the future, I might use Japanese and Korean instruments, and even old European instruments from the Middle Ages. 



# Nature for the Ages

Text by Zi Mei Photographs by Qian Ye

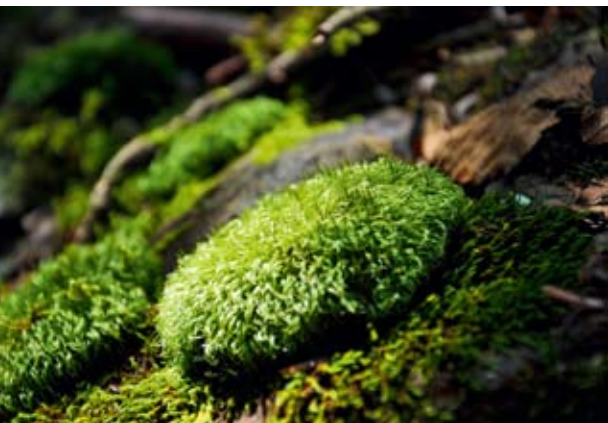
In July, the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Istanbul voted to add Shennongjia of China's Hubei Province to the prestigious World Heritage List. The committee called Shennongjia one of three centers of biodiversity in China. The site features the most intact natural vertical belts in the world and serves as habitat for many rare species of animals and plants. It is also the origin of many plants that are now popular with gardeners around the world.

At 3,105-meter-high, Shennong Peak is the watershed of the Yangtze River and the Hanjiang River and the source of many brooks at the foot of the mountain. A rocky road leads to the mountain top.





*Lilium lancifolium* grows in humid valleys or lower slopes covered by trees.



Moss at 3,000 meters above sea level in Shennongjia.



Cup lichens grows at the edge of grasslands 2,000 meters above sea level and can also be found on rocks.



A plant specimen collected by the joint scientific expedition by Chinese and American experts back in the 1980s is now housed in Shennongjia Nature Specimen Museum.



*Adiantum flabellulatum* grows in acidic red or yellow soil in sunlight and is often seen in valleys with karst topography.



Only growing at altitudes between 800 and 2,600 meters above sea level, *Paeonia obovata maxim* is the wild variety of the Chinese herbaceous peony and flourishes on slopes, grasslands and edges of forests.

## Botanical Treasury

Covering an area of 73,318 hectares, Shennongjia Reserve is divided into two sections: the western section from Shennong Peak to Baodong Mountain and the eastern section featuring the Laojun Mountain area. Its buffer zone spread 41,536 hectares. The area boasts the only well-preserved sub-tropical forest ecosystem in the world's mid-latitudes as well as rich natural forest resources.

Its complicated landforms provide habitats for a great number of rare and endangered species. Dubbed a botanic treasury, Shennongjia is home to 15 national protected animals including the golden monkey and red panda. Some places have hardly been touched by human and remain prehistoric forests.

An important water resource in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, Shennongjia serves as a large air purifier on the southern bank of the river, conserving

water and soil as well as adjusting the climate. Along with its tremendous ecological value, Shennongjia is extremely significant geologically for China and even the world.

"Shennongjia's stratigraphic column is very old, dating back 1 billion to 1.6 billion years ago," explains Li Xiaochi, a geology expert from the Office for Shennongjia's Application for World Heritage. "This kind of stratum is very rare in the world, so there is a lack of accurate records about such a layer. The further study of the stratum may help us learn more about the evolution of the earth and China's landform."

## Scientific Expeditions

Modern scientific expeditions into Shennongjia began in the early 1940s.

In 1939, Jia Wenzhi, a local official in Shennongjia region, learned about some Japanese mining activities in Shennongjia and that Ernest Wilson, a renowned

American botanist, had begun gathering plants in the area. Because Jia worried foreigners would steal China's resources, he decided to conduct his own research of Shennongjia, the first of its kind in history. From 1941 to 1943, Jia sent three groups of explorers into Shennongjia. After extensive field work, they published a 36,000-word report that documented the basic specifications of Shennongjia.

Shennongjia was said to be the last refuge of wild man. Therefore, most scientific expeditions made in the area focused on the hunt for one during the 1970s. In 1977, the largest scientific survey of Shennongjia was conducted by a team comprising more than 150 members, including experts, scholars, local officials and experienced hunters.

"Early expeditions were just for looking for aboriginals," recalled Tang Zhaozi (1948-2014), an animal specimen researcher. In the period just after the "cultural

revolution," science regained popularity across the country. The team was militarily managed with each member armed with a semi-automatic gun and determined to witness wild men. The expedition had a duty to return with a proud discovery for the country and the world.

But after six months, no trace of human activity could be found. Some continued to look for jungle people, but others began to investigate Shennongjia's flora and fauna resources instead. In 1980, a joint team of Chinese and American experts conducted a scientific expedition to Shennongjia, where they created 37 inspection stations, and later came up with *Report on Shennongjia's Plants*.

Scientific exploration of Shennongjia has never stopped since. In 2012, a large expedition aimed to investigate the root resources of the area began. The program took three years to plan and another three to complete, but the time paid off when the

ample recorded statistics pushed Shennongjia's application for world heritage over the top.


## Development and Protection

Shennongjia's designation as world heritage will pave the way to more tourists. Today, annual tourists volume is about 700,000 people. Ecologists estimate Shennongjia's full load at about 798,000 people. So Ai Yingjie, vice president of Shennongjia forest zone, declared the scenic spot would limit tourists to 798,000 to protect the natural heritage.

This May, Shennongjia became a pilot national park. A national park is designated for conservation purposes. In 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established as the first national park in the U.S., as well as the world's first. Pilot Shennongjia National Park is 1,170 square kilometers, accounting for about 36 percent of the total area of Shennongjia. The vast tract of land des-

ignated as the pilot Shennongjia National Park is protected by helicopters, watch towers, surveillance cameras and patrols.

Shennongjia has long been administered by four different departments, respectively in charge of housing, tourism, land management and water conservancy which was felt to hamper administrative efficiency. According to Shu Boyang, vice president of Wuhan Branch of China Tourism Academy, the national park management system should consolidate power and resources to improve work efficiency and attain greater focus on ecological protection and public service.

"Domestic national park pilot programs must walk a tightrope to balance interests of both environmental protection and public service," Shu adds. He believes that a national park should prioritize protection over revenues. At the same time, a national park should be an institution of public good that provides service to tourists. 



# Enduring Aftershock

Text and photographs by Wu Hao

“I would have avoided the disaster if I was in Kunming at the time,” sighs Fu Pingsheng. He props up his body with his arms and inches towards a wheelchair beside his bed at his home in a Tangshan rehabilitation village. Lacking legs that were amputated, he lifts his withered thighs into the wheelchair. The entire process takes nearly two minutes, and Fu has repeated such struggles, becoming exhausted accomplishing the simplest of tasks, almost every day for four decades.

The “disaster” to which Fu refers is the

Tangshan earthquake. At 3:42 a.m. on July 28, 1976, a catastrophic earthquake obliterated the city in northern China’s Hebei Province, claiming a total of 242,769 lives and destroying thousands of buildings. Forty years later, the scars of the disaster remain fresh for the survivors.

## Life in Rehabilitation Village

Fu, then 21, was working as an “educated youth” in the countryside of Tangshan when the earthquake struck. He once dreamed of becoming a musician. “I’ve

liked playing musical instruments since childhood,” he reveals. “At 14, I was admitted to a military art troupe in Kunming, Yunnan Province. Considering my young age, my parents forbade my joining, and it became a lifelong regret.”

July 28, 1976 marked an apocalyptic day in the memories of Fu and other survivors of the Tangshan earthquake. Fu had just fallen asleep when the ground began quivering. In a few seconds, the house in which he was living collapsed, and a gigantic concrete brick dropped on his legs.

After being rescued from the debris, Fu’s two legs were amputated below the thigh. His parents were both killed in the quake. Fu was sent to the Shijiazhuang Fourth Hospital for further treatment. Three years and eight months later, he returned to Tangshan to receive rehabilitation at a local hospital for paraplegic patients.

Fu didn’t give up his musical dream. He played the *erhu* (a traditional stringed instrument) every day to entertain himself and other patients in the hospital. One of his fans, Liu Yuhua, eventually became his wife.

“We often ate dinner and did laundry together,” Fu recalls. “Once, she was severely scalded while bathing because of lack of feeling in her lower limbs. I began to help her as much as I could. We eventually fell in love and got married.”

After the rehabilitation village was established in 1992, Fu and his wife moved there. Without hope for children, they got a dog named “Pudding.” The barking puppy injected a sense of vitality into their peaceful lives.

The rehabilitation village is hidden in a

small, nondescript street behind Tangshan People’s Hospital, featuring a variety of accessible facilities designed to offer convenience to the disabled. When it opened, 26 disaster-affected households moved in. All of them were blended families after the earthquake and were turning the page on a hopeful new chapter of their lives. As famous writer Guan Renshan, also a survivor of the Tangshan earthquake, wrote: “The earthquake shook the ground abruptly, and many families were broken up and destroyed sorrowfully. Even when survivors



A sculpture depicting the time when the Tangshan earthquake occurred at the entrance to Tangshan Earthquake Memorial Park reminds visitors of the disaster that devastated the city 40 years ago.



Fu Pingsheng and his wife, Liu Yuhua, at their home in Tangshan rehabilitation village. Both are paraplegic survivors of the 1976 Tangshan earthquake. They moved to the rehabilitation village when it was completed in 1992.



formed new families, they could still never escape the shadow of the disaster... They support and console each other in times of distress in a bid to find a new foothold for their lives and heal their wounds with humanity and love.”

The deadly earthquake left 3,817 people paraplegic after amputation. An expert from the World Health Organization had predicted that none of them would live for more than 15 years. It has been four decades after the disaster, and about 1,000 paraplegic Tangshan survivors are still alive. Of them, 34 dwell in the rehabilitation village.

Wang Xiaohui, 58, and her husband both suffer from paraplegia and have lived in the rehabilitation village together for 14 years. When the earthquake struck, 18-year-old Wang was hitting the best years of her life. It took years for her to accept the reality that she lost her legs. At first, she felt ashamed and seldom went out. Her psychological trauma gradually healed with the passage of time.

“I returned to Tangshan after receiving medical treatment in Nantong for six months,” she recalls. “I once dreamed of walking again and worked hard on rehabilitation exercises. Gradually, I accepted the reality. After all, my family survived the earthquake, and our house didn’t collapse. I should feel lucky that the disaster didn’t take everything away from me.”

**Born in 1976**

Fan Zhenling never celebrates her birthday. She was born 19 days before the Tangshan earthquake. The disaster took the lives of her three family members: her grandparents and her then 15-year-old aunt. Her birthday always reminds her of her lost family.

Many like Fan were born in 1976 and

survived the disaster. Many of their names contain the word “Zhen” (literally, “earthquake”). For them, the earthquake has become a lifelong label.

When she went away to college, Fan was frequently asked by classmates whether she came from downtown Tangshan and how many family members she had lost in the earthquake. She spilled everything she knew about the disaster once, hoping that they would never ask again. However, such questions continued bothering her for years.

Forty years have passed since the earthquake. Fan, now in her 40s, has no direct memory of the disaster. She has stopped asking her parents details about the quake and doesn’t want to share her stories with her own children.

Despite the lack of “Zhen” in his name, Wang Yang is another survivor of Tangshan earthquake born in 1976. “When outlanders asked me about the earthquake, I told them how I was rescued,” he says. He lost three members of his family, including his elder brother who was then five years old, his grandfather, and his aunt.

The 2010 feature film based on the Tangshan earthquake, *Aftershock*, received a mixed response from survivors born in 1976: Some couldn’t wait to watch the movie, in hopes of better visualizing everything they were told about the earthquake, while others refused to watch it because they didn’t want to face the sorrowful scenes that had plagued their whole lives. Fan fit the former, and Wang the latter.

Wang once thought that he had totally recovered from the disaster. “The film reminded me of the sorrow,” he explains. “The pain remains fresh even for survivors with no direct memory of the earthquake. Such a feeling is fueled by the familial void that can never be forgotten or washed away by time.”



Fu Pingsheng, a member of the Tangshan Wheelchair Basketball Team, has attended National Games of Disabled Persons several times. He once won bronze at a Hong Kong wheelchair basketball event as a member of the Hebei provincial team.



Carpenter Tang Xiaozhen works on a wooden chair in his studio. He was born in a tent on September 6, 1976, some 40 days after the Tangshan earthquake that took away the lives of his grandparents.



July 23, 2016: Local residents mourn for the family they lost in the Tangshan earthquake in front of the memorial wall in Tangshan Earthquake Memorial Park.



Liu Yuhua uses a wheelchair to deliver some cake to her husband for supper. She is comfortable taking a wheelchair for short journeys and an electric motorcycle for longer trips.



# Lessons on the Road

Text by Chu Jiwang

An old Chinese saying goes, “Travel broadens the mind and enriches the soul more than reading 10,000 books.” In a similar way, entrepreneurs won’t find success without innovation, which cannot be achieved by making plans behind closed doors. Rather, entrepreneurs must go out, talk with people and spend time in nature. Each travel is an adventure and you will never know what the next trip will bring. For these reasons, I believe that traveling can be inspirational.

This July, I was deeply impressed and inspired by what I saw during a visit to Tongren, Guizhou Province, with some entrepreneurs from Ninghai County, Zhejiang Province.

I was stunned to find a once poverty-stricken mountainous area in Guizhou, Tongren has been completely transformed. It is teeming with visitors from across China,


fashionable local young women and row after row of newly-built hotels and houses. “What happened here, in this remote, rural corner of China?” I wondered.

The answer lies in the country’s reform and opening up, a process that has changed people’s minds. Not only have the locals managed to grow grain on formerly barren terraced fields, but they have seized on emerging tourism opportunities, which has accelerated clean industry initiatives to help alleviate poverty by capitalizing on the value of green mountains and pristine rivers.

What inspiration does that bring to a business? For me, the spirit of craftsmanship is crucial. However, I cannot survive or make progress without putting in hard work to make breakthroughs – just like the local farmers in Tongren, who blazed a new path to optimally utilize their natural resources to create better living conditions. A business

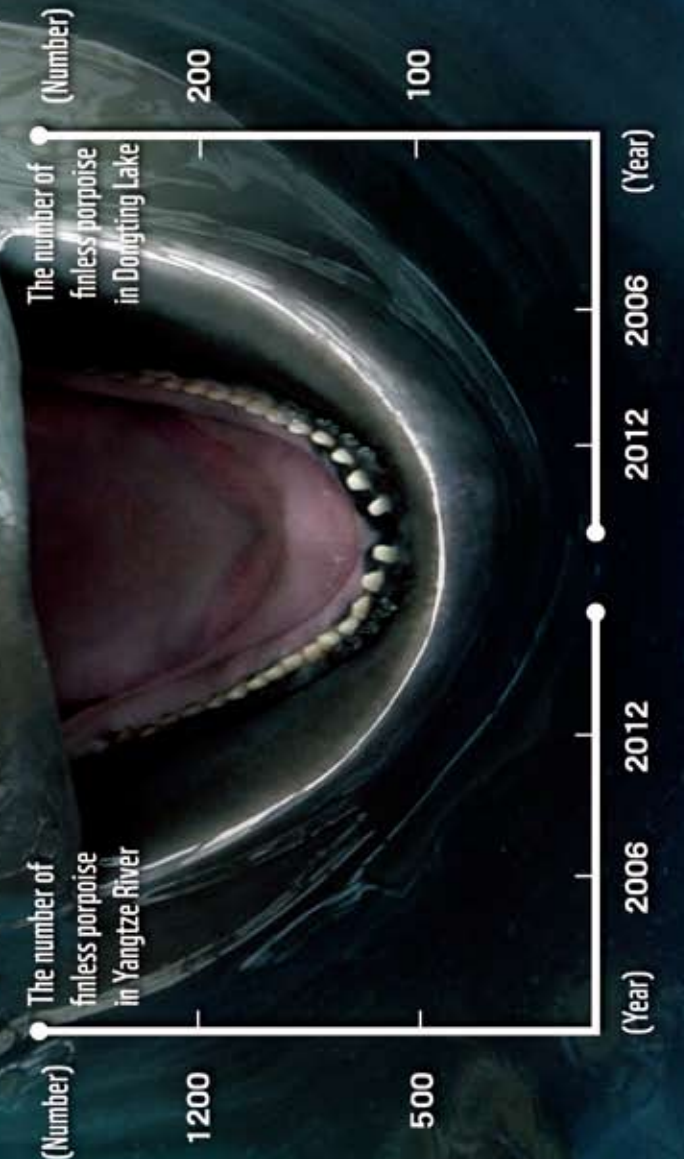
will surely decline if craftsmen and its operations do not keep pace with modern trends. Once a target for innovation is set, risk can be minimized through diversified production and access to the wider international market.

During my stay at Mt. Fanjing in Tongren, I noticed two restaurants on opposite sides of the road, one packed and the other virtually empty. I decided to try both to find out why. At the empty restaurant, the vegetables were fresh and the pricing was fair: It cost only 20 yuan for a big bowl of stewed pork with soy sauce. I was puzzled at first, but later learned that what makes the packed restaurant so attractive is its signature dish – smoked pork. “It’s delicious but not greasy,” diners say. Both restaurants use pork for their main dishes, but the busy one had simply cooked it a special way.

Such an anecdote should be inspirational for every business. Even if you sell the same product as everyone else, you can remain competitive by better meeting the demands of your customers. 

Chu Jiwang is president and founder of the Ningbo Ruyi Joint Stock Co., Ltd., a major Chinese logistics equipment manufacturer. More than just an entrepreneur, Chu is a recipient of the China Charity Award, the top philanthropic honor in the country. In each issue, he shares his business insights and inspirations gained from his life experience.

A national nature reserve, Mt. Fanjing in Tongren, Guizhou Province, is sacred to Chinese Buddhists.



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A portrait of Tang Xianzu, a renowned playwright of the Ming Dynasty. CFP

# Rediscovering Tang Xianzu

Text by Cheng Pei-kai

**T**ang Xianzu, a renowned writer and playwright of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), passed away on July 29, 1616, in the same year as both Shakespeare and Cervantes. This year marks the 400th anniversary of his, and their, death. Following the call of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), many events to commemorate these three great writers have been organized worldwide this year, placing a new spotlight on them.

On May 18, 2001, UNESCO unveiled its first list of Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in Paris. China's Kunqu Opera, represented by Tang Xianzu's *Peony Pavilion*, was inscribed on the list. Naturally, after the revival of Kunqu Opera, studies of Tang have regained popularity in China.

## Brilliance of Tang's Work in Modern Times

Four hundred years have passed since Tang's death, yet his works remain brilliant like polished jade withstanding the test of time. Just like Shakespeare's masterpieces, Tang's works are now considered timeless literary classics after four centuries of inheritance and popularization. Factors behind the phenomenon are worth studying.

Tang was born into a scholarly family, wherein four generations preceding him were all knowledgeable scholars. Tang achieved wide fame for his gift for poetry at a young age. He wrote more than 2,000 poems and over 500 essays throughout his life. His most famous works are *The Tale*

*of the Violet Hairpin*, *Peony Pavilion*, *A Dream under the Southern Bough*, and *The Dream of Handan*, which are collectively known as *The Four Dreams of Linchuan*. Of them, *Peony Pavilion* is best known.

The protagonist of *Peony Pavilion* is Du Liniang, an official's daughter. Du died and then came back to life to search for the love in her dream. Even after she had already experienced death once, she still never gave up her pursuit for true love. The play is more than a love story, as it has explored the meaning of life

through a tale of self-acknowledgement and pursuit of passion.

The play also tackles concepts seemingly far ahead of Tang's time, such as love conquering all, gender equality, self-recognition, and free thought. In fact, each of his works attempts to promote some ideal. If life is a dream, how can one maintain spiritual purity while pursuing his or her ideal? Tang endured many frustrations throughout his political career, but he never surrendered and remained calm even when facing death. He is an inspiring figure even today.



One of Tang Xianzu's *Four Dreams of Linchuan*, the play *A Dream under the Southern Bough* hadn't been performed in full for centuries until the Kunqu Opera Theater under Jiangsu Province Arts Group Co., Ltd. produced the entire play at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing on March 14, 2015. IC





May 25, 2009: The dance drama *Peony Pavilion*, adapted from Tang Xianzu's play of the same name, is staged by the Art Troupe of the Political Department of Nanjing Military Region in Nanjing. A representative masterpiece of Kunqu Opera, *Peony Pavilion* has been adapted into many other genres of art. CFP

## Shakespeare in the East

Tang was first dubbed “Shakespeare of the East” by Japanese sinologist Aoki Masaru, who believed that the two writers in the same era were comparable. In fact, different cultures vary in aesthetical pursuits, and no two geniuses are exactly alike.

Shakespeare's work is all-encompassing and demonstrates a wide array of thoughts which had already gained popularity in his day. Moreover, his plays are comparatively easier to perform than Kunqu Opera, thus becoming more easily revived and shared. Presently, Shake-



March 17, 2008: Jingsu Kunqu Opera Theater stages an act of *The Tale of the Violet Hairpin*, one of Tang Xianzu's *Four Dreams of Linchuan*. IC



July 8, 2015: Artists from the National Ballet of China perform the ballet drama *Peony Pavilion*, adapted from a Kunqu opera, at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York City. The magnum opus of Tang Xianzu, *Peony Pavilion* is a romance classic of traditional Chinese opera. CFP

speare's plays are widely performed amongst people of various social classes and ages in Western countries. They appear not only on the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Britain, but also in experimental theaters and even community and school performances.

China's Kunqu Opera was once on the brink of extinction. Representing the highest level of traditional Chinese operas, it features many strict rules. From the end of the Ming Dynasty to the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), it maintained a certain number of fans. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, however,

Kunqu Opera was almost abandoned as Empress Dowager Cixi, the then ruler of China, liked Peking Opera. As a matter of fact, Peking Opera absorbed some essences from Kunqu Opera. For instance, renowned Peking Opera artist Mei Lanfang studied Kunqu. During the 1919 New Culture Movement, intellectuals turned their backs on traditional operas including Kunqu. After two or three generations, inheritance of Kunqu Opera was almost completely gone.

Back in the 1940s, Guofeng Kunqu and Suzhou Opera Troupe, the predecessor of today's Zhejiang Kunqu Opera Theater, became the only Kunqu troupe in China. Although it faced a shortage of funds, the troupe never gave up efforts to inherit and develop Kunqu Opera. In 1956, it staged the Kunqu play *Fifteen Strings of Cash* in Beijing and received applause from then top Chinese leaders including Chairman Mao. Following this the troupe made a performance tour nationwide, which eventually “revived an opera genre with one play” (words of late Chinese playwright Tian Han).

In 2001, the UNESCO inscribed Kunqu Opera onto the list of World Intangible Cultural Heritage, resulting in the gradual revival of the traditional form of art. Although it already got rid of a life-or-death situation, many still find little chance to enjoy Kunqu Opera. The youth-oriented edition of *Peony Pavilion*, adapted and produced by Taiwan writer Pai Hsien-yung, was staged in 2004 and helped more young people fall in love with the traditional opera. The opera was even performed abroad, promoting Sino-Western cultural exchange. Nowadays, many Chinese schools offer courses on Kunqu Opera, and Kunqu Opera troupes also thrive.


## Time of Tang and Shakespeare

Both Tang and Shakespeare occupied an important position in global cultural

history. Tang was a literary genius born into the scholar culture of ancient China, and Shakespeare was a great writer who portrayed people with various social statuses when the civil society just emerged in Britain. Spanish writer Cervantes satirized the conservatism of traditional society in his work. All three made breakthroughs in their respective cultures.

It is only coincidence that they died in the same year. However, the coincidence does inspire wonder as to how three of the world's greatest writers emerged in the same era but in far-away corners of the world. Maritime explorations in the 16th Century linked the East and the West and emancipated many minds. As a result, the Renaissance began to challenge the authority of the church in the West, while in China, plebeian culture, which originated in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and went mainstream during the Yuan (1271-1368) and early Ming dynasties, was resurrected. Evidently, the three great writers were born at a time featuring fast economic and social development and philosophical expansion.

Recent commemorative events for these great writers aim not only to commemorate them, but also inspire us to rethink their important role in the development of human history and culture.

As they commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the three great writers, Chinese people may rethink how to treat traditional culture. Tang was a Chinese cultural sage. He is worth of thorough research and rediscovery for today's people. 

Cheng Pei-kai, born in Shandong Province, grew up in Taiwan and later studied in the United States. A co-founder of the Chinese Civilization Center at the City University of Hong Kong, he is committed to the research and inheritance of Kunqu Opera. He is also an art advisor for the youth edition of *Peony Pavilion*.





### ***China's Birds Observation Notes***

*By Chen Xu*  
*Science Press, June 2016*

Edited by Nancy Gong

Chen Xu, the author, has spent years using his camera to document the stories of nearly 30 species of birds in China, both common and rare, including sparrows, cuckoos, and the crested ibis. Contrasting scientific studies, his research not only records biological features of the birds but also their struggles for survival and cultural impact.

As the de facto boundary between northern and southern China, Qinling Mountains remain a vital region in the country for the conservation of global wildlife diversity. In 2004, Chen was chosen to join a China Central Television (CCTV) crew shooting the documentary *Forest China*, which focused on Qinling Mountains in Shaanxi Province. This provided him with great opportunities to observe and photograph birds. In 2006, Chen began to write stories about birds for *Chinese National Geography* and other journals.



Widely scattered across the country, *Himantopus himantopus* has maintained a healthy population.

The red-billed blue magpie, 680 millimeters in length, is a beautiful bird and the longest magpie.







In the 1980s, only seven *Nipponia nippon*s were left on earth. Today, the population has grown to over 2,000.



*Leiothrix lutea* is widely scattered across China in healthy numbers. It is one of the most famous pet birds in the world thanks to its brightly-colored feathers and pleasant voice.



The golden pheasant, unique to China, is considered the inspiration for the phoenix, an icon of traditional Chinese culture.

“I wanted to pinpoint the relationship between me and these birds as well as their roles in traditional Chinese culture,” Chen explains. “Over the past half century or so, our planet has seen the rapid extinction of many species,” commented Zhu Chunquan, China-representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A 2015 report of the IUCN assessing the 70,000-plus species showed that some 11,000 species of plants and nearly 12,000 species of animals were threatened with extinction to varying degrees, including rare species of birds such as crested ibis, sarus cranes, and mute swans. Numbers from IUCN’s Red List also agree. Chen Xu expressed his passion in his *Observation Notes* for nearly 30 species of birds by telling stories of their life, migration and reproduction, calling for love and care for these birds, greater awareness of conservation, and treasuring everything that nature offers.

“For centuries, birds and humans have interacted and communicated with each other,” asserts Shan Zhiqiang, editor-in-chief of *Chinese National Geography*. “This book utilizes photos and text to serve as a reminder of everything we have endured. The histories of birds and man have always been intertwined. Today, these familiar-but-strange neighbors continue to share sorrow and joy with us.”

Chen Xu was born in Shaanxi Province in 1974. Alongside his work depicting nature, the well-known Chinese photographer has also extensively worked on human subjects. Since 1995, he has worked and written for many Chinese media outlets and published many books, such as *My Homeland Qinling Mountains*.

After the publication of *China’s Birds Observation Notes*, Chen will publish more extensive notes on his observation of birds. “China has more than 1,300 species of birds,” he notes. “I hope to illuminate as many as possible so that more people can share their sweet stories.”



# Life on Wheels

Text by Yi Mei

The United States is considered “a nation on wheels” by many, and American lifestyles were completely transformed by automobiles nearly a century ago. Today, the ancient country of China is home to the auto market with the greatest potential in the world.

Recently, the Beijing Auto Museum presented *Life on Wheels – Photography Exhibition of Chinese and American Automobile Culture*, featuring the development

and accompanying culture of automobiles in both nations, creating a narrative involving cars, life, culture and art.

“This year marks the 130th anniversary of the invention of automobile,” declares Yang Rui, curator of the Beijing Auto Museum. “As one of the defining inventions of the 20th Century, the automobile not only shortened the distance between people and countries, but also became a new language for international cross-cultural communication.”



Wedding Caddy by Christiana Dittmann, 2004



Fortune Telling Lion by Harrod Blank, 2001





1903 Stephens-Duryea



1911 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost London to Edinburgh Tourer



1906 Cadillac Model H



1914 Ford Model T

Early cars



1958 Firebird III-rear by Michael Furman

## Auto Art

The exhibit presents the opportunity to trace the history of American automobile culture, looking back how the unique new culture spread across every aspect of public life, peaked, endured the economic and oil crisis and emerged from downturns via more innovation. One highlight of the exhibition was a photography series of “16 Cars” shot by Michael Furman, which included world-famous vintage cars and important landmarks of automobile development history since 1903. The first photograph the 62-year-old artist ever took was that of a 1963 Chevrolet Corvette, which forged his deep connection with the car as

well as with the medium of photography.

The first “horseless carriage,” or “car” for short, was modeled after wagon boxes of the 19th Century. In the 1920s, the U.S. saw its first auto boom, and by 1927, more than 70 percent of American families owned a car. The shape of vehicles evolved from being heavy and rigid to being elegant as owners’ tastes became more refined. During World War II, shortages of materials and money inspired small, energy-saving cars in Europe while Americans continued preferring large, magnificent vehicles. Up until the 1960s, Americans had considered the automobile a standard household necessity.



Car Test in a Snowfield by Zhang Xinping



A Play of Sands and Cars by Zhang Xinping is staged on the Tengger Desert section of the China Grand Rally.

In the eyes of the photographer Harrod Blank, the machine itself is a work of art. His work focuses on personalized “art cars,” including a “lost and found car” decorated with the found items, a “button car” covered with 600,000 buttons, and a “graffiti car” covered with chalk drawings. One of his photos depicts a 1971 Volkswagen Beetle covered in trash collected from southern Florida including cigarette butts, soda cans, and plastic bags, making it hear-ken even more to the car’s insect namesake. The designer used the “art car” to promote environmental protection.

Harrod Blank not only shoots art cars but also makes them. His most famous work is “Camera Van,” a vehicle covered with two video recorders and 2,750 cameras, 10 of which can take photos and send instant images to monitors installed on the passenger seats. On the top of the van, cameras compose the word “SMILE” and loudspeakers blast whatever Blank decides to play. “When people look at the van curiously, I feel happy,” he explains. “It is so beautiful to see what you’ve never seen before.” Already, the van has toured roads of the U.S., Canada, Germany and the U.K.

## Auto Culture of China

For Americans, automobiles are not simply machines but family members, friends and even platforms for values and political expressions. However, China reached the benchmark of 20 private cars for every 100 households in 2012. Fifteen years ago, when China celebrated 4-million sales volume of cars, the figure in the U.S. was 16.5 million. In 2015, China’s sales volume of automobiles hit 245.98 million and the country already is easily the largest auto market in the world.

The automobile has expanded social circles for Chinese people and promoted

interpersonal communication. In Chinese photographers’ work, the car is a tool to carry people to further off places. The scenery on the road, speed and passion brought by car depend on the respective eyes of the artists. *Chinese Pagoda* by Yang Xiaoli, a teacher in the photography department of Beijing University of Technology, shot an ancient pagoda from a car window, causing a crash between history and modernity as well as tradition and industrialization. *Racer* by Zhang Xinping, founder of carnets.cn, shows a racer ready to go, holding his breath in concentration. “In China, the automobile has already become more than a vehicle but an extension of free will,” Zhang says.

Some, however, insist that China has not yet formed its own auto culture. The Benz Velo, widely considered the first standardized automobile, went into mass production in 1894. Since then, automobile transportation gradually became more common in the U.S. and Europe. By 1930, annual sales of cars in the U.S. reached 4 million. By the end of 1970, the figure reached 15 million and has remained pretty much flat since then. The Chinese auto market took 10 years to finish the U.S.’s century rise.

“After a century of development, American urban morphology, transportation network and citizen’s mindset have all been impacted by wheels,” explains Jia Ke, editor-in-chief of *Auto Business Review* magazine. “But in China, the car is often associated with traffic jams and pollution, making it more like a problem for the city and the environment.” In 2015, each 100 households in China averaged 31 cars, still far from the 200 in the U.S. “Actually, borrowing from the American experience to establish a harmonious society for people, cars-and-life is the foundation of Chinese auto culture.”





BTG Fragrant Hill Hotel, modern building, 1982

### Design Reform: International Hotels vs. Chinese Architecture 1978-1990

During the early period of China's economic reform and opening up (namely, 1978-1990), foreign-centric hotels played a key role in accelerating the country's economic progress and trans-cultural communication.

This exhibition celebrates the legacy of seven such hotels which are now iconic in China: BTG Fragrant Hill Hotel, designed by world-famous Chinese-American architect Ieoh Ming Pei and completed in 1982, White Swan Hotel, designed by Guangzhou Design Institute and completed in 1983, and Shanghai Centre, designed by John Portman & Associates and completed in 1990.

Exhibits include architectural models, blueprints, photos, documents, and art works associated with these hotels, capturing the great endeavors of the Chinese people in realms of art, architecture, and philosophy during the early years of the reform and opening up and pondering the relationship between architecture and economic and political transformation.

August 19 – October 23  
Ullens Center for Contemporary Art

### Exhibition of Works by Yu Youhan between 1973 and 1988

Born in Shanghai in 1943, Yu Youhan was a vanguard of contemporary Chinese art during the 1980s and 90s and is considered a master abstract painter of modern China.

This exhibition showcases sketches from his early stage in five parts, separated by time and subject: Northern Rural Area, School of Arts and Crafts, Streets in Shanghai, Other Places, and Still Life, ranging from 1973 when he started his drawing life in Licun Village, Shijiazhuang of Hebei Province to the 1980s when he began sketching still life.

July 23 – September 25  
Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai



Licun Village, Shijiazhuang, paint, dead tree edition, 1973



Tri-colored Tile with Patterns of Cloud and Horse, Ming Dynasty

### Relic Zoo: Children's Theme Show

In days when man better co-existed with nature, ancient Chinese people dropped their bows and arrows in favor of shaping the animals they had seen with pottery, stone, and jade, bestowing rich overtones and making them omens of good wishes.

On display are 174 animal-themed relics including national treasures such as a depiction of a fight between an eagle and tiger carved into a dagger-axe, creating a "model zoo" for children. The exhibition consists of five parts: Land, Water, Air, Homeland, and Transformation. Organizers hope that visiting children may find the answer to questions, such as "Where have the animals gone?" More than 10 interactive exhibits have been deployed to encourage children to identify their own relationships with animals and inspire imaginations and artistic creativity.

The exhibition also features seminars and educational campaigns.

June 1 – October 8  
Guangdong Museum, Guangzhou

### 2016 Contemporary Art 20 of China and Korea

A cultural and artistic campaign to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Guangzhou, Guangdong Province in China and Gwangju City in South Korea, the exhibition displays more than 70 works of art ranging from installations and photography to video, by 10 famous modern artists from each of the two cities.

Over the past few years, the municipal governments of Guangzhou and Gwangju have conducted frequent cultural communication. Huang Yihan, a renowned Chinese calligrapher and painter, and Xiang Dingdang, an eminent Chinese artist, held exhibitions in Gwangju Museum of Art in 2002. Moreover, many works by artists from South Korea tightly align with the spirit of traditional Chinese culture, such as an installation by South Korean photographer Lee Lee Nam, based on an ancient Chinese landscape painting.

The items on display will be exhibited in Gwangju Museum of Art in South Korea next year.

June 28 – September 15  
University City Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou



The Owl, by Zhang Zikang, oil on canvas, 95x128cm, 2015





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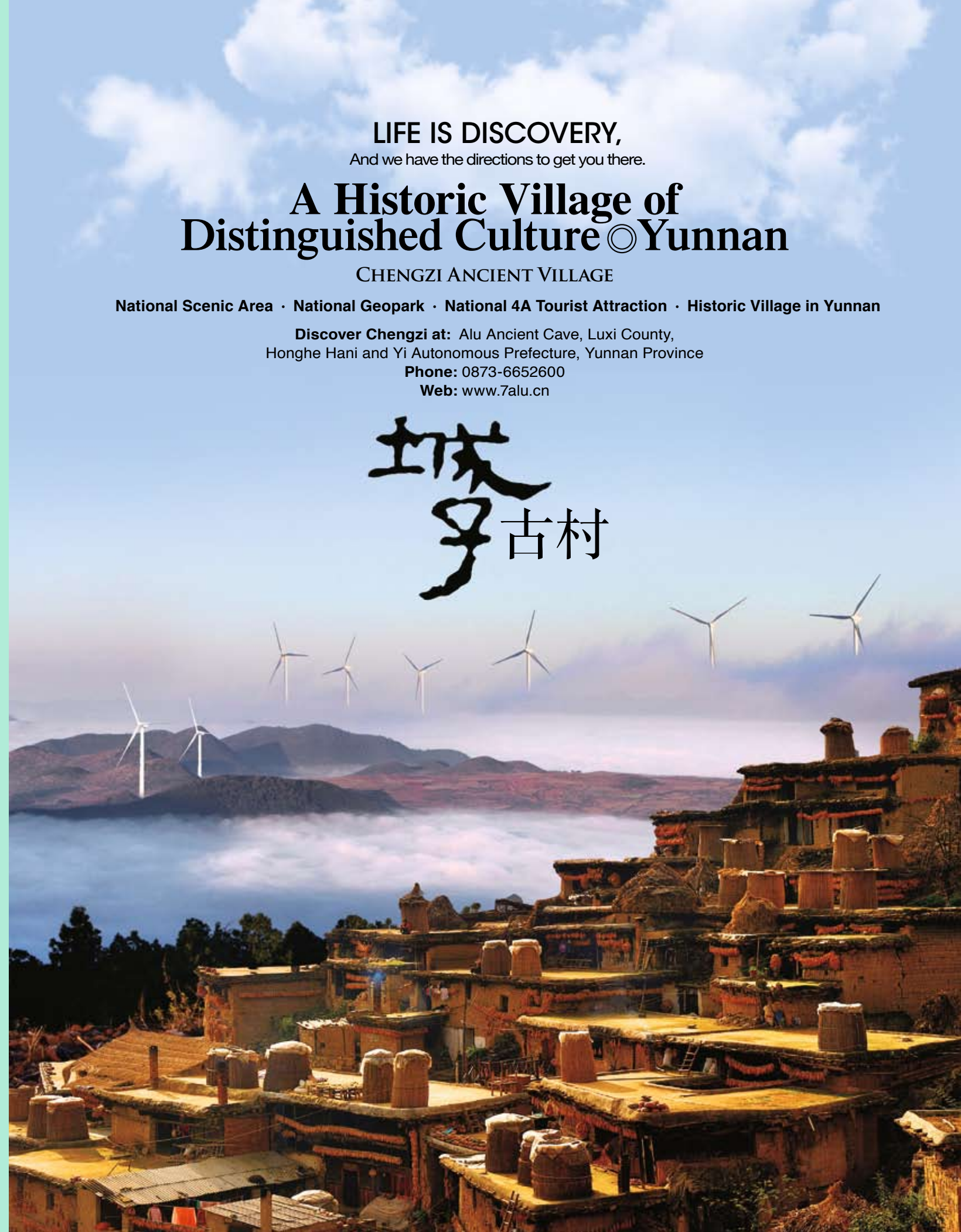
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